



2012 - Accelerated Implementation Grants - Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (JPB)



2012 – Accelerated Implementation Grant Funding

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|--|-------------|
| Conservation Agronomist - Position Funding | \$43,680.00 |
| Le Sueur Watershed Technician – Position Funding | \$52,000.00 |
| Watonwan Watershed Technician – Position Funding | \$39,000.00 |
| GBERBA - Administration and Coordination Funding | \$15,750.00 |

Grant Funding Total \$150,430.00

2012 – Accelerated Implementation In-Kind Match*

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|---|-------------|
| Conservation Agronomist Project Development | \$11,720.00 |
| Le Sueur Watershed Technician | |
| Federal Funds | \$3,600.00 |
| Landowner Contribution | \$3,968.56 |
| SWCD Assistance | \$7,905.00 |
| Watonwan Watershed Technician | |
| Federal Funds | \$6,000.00 |
| Landowner Contribution | \$6,177.34 |
| SWCD Assistance | \$6,020.89 |
| GBERBA Administration and Coordination | \$4,945.93 |

In-Kind Match Total *\$50,337.72

Total Project (Grant + Match) \$200,767.72

*Leveraged Funds include required 25% local match – Required Match - \$37,607.50

GBERBA Accelerated Implementation - Technical Positions

The GBERBA Conservation Agronomist, Le Sueur Watershed Technician, and Watonwan Watershed Technician positions served to reduce nonpoint source pollution in the Greater Blue Earth River Basin through elevated levels of assistance, education, and outreach. Each position worked with local counties/SWCDs to deliver conservation through demonstrations, tours, news releases, radio and TV broadcasts, presentations, brochures, letters, and face-to-face interactions with basin residents. In addition to working with the local partners, the positions worked with both state and federal professionals to help inform the public on current conservation opportunities and programs.



The Extension Educator - Conservation Agronomist discusses an upcoming Cover Crop Walk-n-Talk on the KEYC News 12 Regional Spotlight Segment.

The Le Sueur Watershed Technician rides along with basin residents on a conservation tour in Le Sueur County.



Targeted Water:

Greater Blue Earth River Basin

Project Sponsor:

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

Grant Period:

April 5, 2012 – June 30, 2015

Project Contact:

Kay Gross

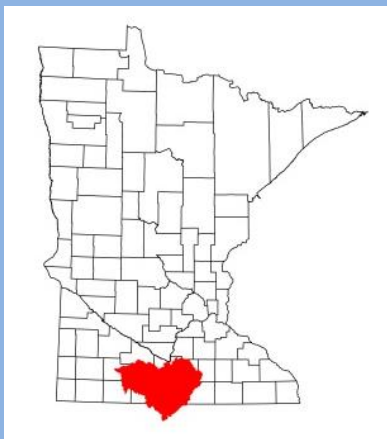
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**Conservation Agronomist**

The fiscal year of July 2012-June 2013 was the last year that GBERBA was able to co-fund the University of Minnesota Extension Educator – Conservation Agronomist. During that last year, the position was able to accomplish many things. In the summer and fall of 2012, the Extension Educator – Conservation Agronomist developed, advertised, and hosted 120 people for four Third Crop Walk-n-Talk field days. The second set of primary programming events were held during the winter of 2013 where the Conservation Agronomist developed and advertised 4 Third Crop Producer Meetings, only two of which were held due to inclement weather (55 attendees) and co-hosted the South Central Minnesota Crops Day (45 attendees).



The Extension Educator – Conservation Agronomist reached out to basin residents of all professions and ages, ranging from elementary students at the Martin County Environmental Awareness Day (above) to agriculture professionals at a Southern Minnesota Forage Field Day (top).

The Extension Educator – Conservation Agronomist worked with members of Waseca County to organize and host the annual Waseca County Farmer Forum. The Agronomist successfully facilitated the event that hosted approximately 153 interested residents. In 2013, the Conservation Agronomist developed and presented 17 presentations with topics that included cover crops, alternative crops, watersheds, and buffers. The spring of 2013 was a wet one and the Extension Educator – Conservation Agronomist was there to help with cover crop information for producers that weren't able to plant a cash crop. In addition, presentations, fact sheets, and a cover crop business directory was developed and made public. General technical assistance opportunities totaled 352 emails/phone calls/in-person meetings. The Extension Educator – Conservation Agronomist also participated in 14 GBERBA Technical or Policy Committee Meetings and represented GBERBA at a Collaboration for Sediment Source Reduction (CSSR) meeting.

Le Sueur Watershed Technician

Formerly the Cobb Watershed Technician, this position expanded to encompass all of the 114,735-acre Le Sueur Watershed. The Le Sueur Watershed Technician assisted landowners by providing them guidance on projects and programs to help improve water quality. The position also provided technical support to local County/SWCDs and the South Central Technical Service Area in designing, surveying, staking, and conducting site inspections of projects in the basin.

The Le Sueur Watershed Technician discusses alternative conservation practices with a watershed stakeholder at an outreach event (right) and assists a local SWCD technician with surveying in Blue Earth County (far right).



Watowan Watershed Technician

The Watowan Watershed Technician worked with GBERBA Watowan Watershed member counties and SWCDs to expand outreach to watershed residents and to administer conservation practice targeting programs in the Watowan River Basin. The technician targeted and identified priority areas for landscape management, reached out to landowners for BMP implementation, attended outreach events such as field days, county fairs, and workshops, and assisted technical service providers in the staking, surveying, and inspection of structural conservation practices. The technician was also involved in seeking and obtaining funding for BMPs through grant writing and reporting.

The Watowan Watershed Technician documents progress on the construction of a stormwater pond (top right) in Watowan County. The technician presented at and helped coordinate area youth environmental education events (bottom right).

