



Please complete and submit to your project manager.

Reporting Period: [] January 1 through June 30 (Due August 1)
[X] July 1 through December 31 (Due February 1)

All information is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Do not leave blanks (unless otherwise noted). This report form can be typed using your computer. Use the "tab" key to move through the fields of this form. Enter responses using text and check boxes as indicated. Keep a copy for your records.

I. General Report Information

- 1. Project title: Watonwan River Watershed Priority Management Zone Strategy
2. Project sponsor (Grantee): Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance
3. Contact name: Kay Gross
4. E-mail address: Kay.Clark@windomnet.com
5. Funding: [] 319 [] CWP [X] Clean Water Fund [] Other:
6. Contract number: 0000000000000000000077390
7. MPCA Project Manager: Paul Davis
8. Effective date (mm/dd/yyyy): 6/9/2014 Expiration date (mm/dd/yyyy): 6/30/2017

II. Semi-annual Report Information

1. Project activities completed during last six (6) months according to the program objectives or tasks (please be specific):

Objective 1, Task A, Subtask 1: The Watonwan River Engagement Team has met several times to adjust the previously reported interview structure outline for the Lake Hanska sub-watershed. The majority of the work completed in the timeframe of this semi-annual report has been to carry-out the aforementioned interview structure. Conducting the interviews on a sub-watershed basis will continue to be the strategy; discussion on which priority sub-watershed to conduct interviews next is ongoing.

Subtask 2: In the first semi-annual report of 2015, we reported that Dr. Davenport from the University of Minnesota provided a training exercise on qualitative interviewing techniques and strategies to local natural resource professionals. We applied the techniques learned from this training and conducted interviews in our first priority sub-watershed: Lake Hanska. On December 9, 2015, Dr. Amit Pradhananga of the University of Minnesota provided members of the Watonwan River Watershed Engagement Team training on processing and analyzing qualitative interview transcripts. These techniques will be used to draw conclusions from the qualitative interview data. In addition to interview analysis training, the Watonwan Watershed Technician along with Watonwan Watershed partners attended 3 trainings on civic governance put on by Lynn Kolze of the MPCA.

Subtask 3: As reported previously, the initial focus of the interviews were to target residents of the Lake Hanska sub-watershed. Five goals were presented and interview questions were developed to reach those goals. During the timeframe of July 1 - December 31, 2015, eight interviews were conducted with watershed residents, including several current and retired agricultural producers.

A specific process of initiating, conducting, and following up interviews was carried out and adjusted as needed. Initial contacts with area natural resource professionals yielded a list of potential interviewees. In addition to this list, a Summer of 2014 survey conducted by the Brown SWCD and Watonwan Watershed Technician in the Lake Hanska sub-watershed generated a targeted list of potential interviewees. An interview initiation script was developed and used to initiate interviews by phone. Willingness to participate in the interviews was supported 100% by all residents contacted; however, not all potential interviewees who agreed to the interview were able to agree on a time to complete the interview.

The Watonwan Watershed Technician initiated and conducted all 8 interviews. Once an interview was scheduled, project partners from Brown and Watonwan counties were notified and given the opportunity to attend the interview. On several occasions, members from the Brown and Watonwan SWCDs were able to attend the interviews. Interviews were conducted in a variety of locations, but typically the interviewee invited the interviewer(s) to their home residence/farm. Other interviews

took place at a local café, place of business, and the Watonwan SWCD office.

All interviewees were asked permission to have the interview audio-recorded. If this was agreed to, the interviewee was asked to review and sign a consent form granting GBERBA permission to audio-record the interview and allow GBERBA to quote them anonymously in any generated reports. Written interview notes were taken in addition to the audio-recording in case of recording failure.

Interviews ranged in duration from approximately 45 minutes to over 120 minutes. Over the course of the interview, participants were provided targeted information according to their responses (e.g. information on conservation programs). If informational materials were not present during the interview, the Watonwan Watershed Technician would make note to send the participant information at a later date. Before concluding the interview, the interviewee was asked to suggest names of other residents of the community to interview. This yielded several additional potential interviewees.

Once the interview was complete, the Watonwan Watershed Technician would send the interviewee a copy of the signed consent form, pertinent targeted informational materials, and a thank-you letter for their voluntary participation. The audio-recorded interview file was then digitally downloaded and assigned a random, four-number identification code to preserve the identity of the respondent. A free audio-transcription software program was then utilized to convert the audio to a Microsoft Word document for future analysis.

The transcribed interview documents will be analyzed according to the methodology presented by Dr. Amit Pradhananga at the December 9, 2015 training.

Objective 1; Task B: This is the third semi-annual report for this project. Along with this report, the GBERBA coordinators will be submitting a request for reimbursement for staff time, mileage, and grant administration.

2. List all products (documents, pamphlets, videos, maps, etc.) produced in this reporting period:

Project partner Kim Musser and her team developed a Watonwan Watershed orientation handout. This handout was provided to each interviewee, typically at the beginning of the interview. The handout orients the participant to the location of various watershed resources as well as the Watonwan watershed's position in the Minnesota River basin and the Mississippi River basin. The handout also contains the names and contact information for conservation professionals in the Watershed, including SWCD, County, and NRCS employees in Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Martin, and Watonwan counties.

3. Challenges faced (optional):

In the previous semi-annual report, we reported the challenge of which of the proposed 30 or so interview questions to ask during the interview. This didn't turn out to be a challenge at all. In most cases, we were able to ask all interview questions outlined in the interview guide. However, a future challenge will be to analyze the growing amount of interview data. The amount of effort to put in to analysis will be determined by reviewing our expected outcomes; it may not be feasible to do an in-depth analysis based on the time and funding constraints of the project partners.

4. Summary of monitoring data collected (if applicable):

N/A

4a. Have all monitoring stations been established in EQUIS? Yes No N/A

4b. Are the data being routinely submitted for storage into EQUIS? Yes No NA

If yes, last submittal date (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

5. Are the Best Management Practices data being annually entered into eLINK)? Yes No N/A

If yes, date last entered (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

6. Describe specific (quantifiable, if possible) results achieved during this period:

During this period, 8 interviews were conducted with watershed residents yielding over 13 hours of face-to-face contact with local natural resource professionals and 115 pages of text transcribed from audio recordings of the interviews.

Phosphorus Load Reduction: _____ lbs./year

Nitrogen Load Reduction: _____ lbs./year

Sediment Load Reduction: _____ lbs./year

7. Did the MPCA execute a change order or amendment for this project during this reporting period? No Yes

If yes, summarize those changes:

8 List anticipated program objectives or tasks to be completed during the next six (6) months please be specific):

Objective 1; Task A; Subtask 1: Involvement in the Watonwan River Watershed Engagement Team will be continued as the need to develop and adjust the strategy arises. Local SWCD/County/NRCS partners will continue to be involved in the planning and interview process.

Objective 1; Task A; Subtask 2: We will continue to evaluate our needs for specialized training and call upon the necessary partners to schedule and carry-out the requests. Further training on qualitative data analysis is likely to be needed. Involvement in Civic Governance training with Lynne Kolze of the MPCA will be ongoing.

Objective 1; Task A; Subtask 3: In the Lake Hanska sub-watershed, the goal of 12 interviews, interview analysis, and a report of findings will be completed. We hope to generate an interview framework for an additional priority sub-watershed and begin interviews in the sub-watershed while maintaining contact and furthering involvement in the Lake Hanska sub-watershed.

Objective 1; Task B: Reporting duties will continue as the project progresses.

III. Expenditure Information for this Period

Provide a copy of your work plan budget showing cumulative expenditures and budget balances by work plan objective and task. Also, fill out the summary below.

Expenditure Report attached

Complete the table below:	Amount
Total Grant Amount	\$58,638.00
Total Match Amount (if applicable)	N/A
Total Project Amount	\$58,638.00
Grant Expenditures this period	\$6,819.50
Match Expenditures this period (if applicable)	N/A
Cumulative Grant Expenditures to date	\$9,602.00
Cumulative Match Expenditures to date (if applicable)	N/A
Total Cumulative Expenditures to date	\$9,602.00

Date form completed (mm/dd/yyyy): 1/25/2016