



Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

www.GBERBA.org

DATE: February 17, 2017
NAME: Dustin Anderson
RE: Watonwan Watershed Technician Report

Upcoming Events:

February 21 – Watonwan SWCD Board meeting, St. James, MN
February 21 – Watonwan Watershed 1W1P meeting, St. James, MN
February 22 – Watonwan Watershed Cities meeting, St. James, MN
March 1 – PCA Waters & Watersheds Conference, St. Paul, MN
March 7 – Collaborative for Sediment Source Reduction (CSSR) meeting, Mankato, MN
March 8 – Children’s Water Festival, North Mankato, MN
March 9 – Waseca Farmer Forum, Waseca, MN
March 10 – GBERBA Policy Board meeting, Mankato, MN

Watonwan Watershed Priority Management Zone

To date, 28 citizens have been interviewed. Kim Musser and I have the opportunity to present our progress to agency personnel at the MPCA Waters & Watersheds Conference on March 1st in St. Paul. We have also solicited the assistance of Mae Davenport to help frame our findings in a more usable way. The second citizen meeting was held on January 26th and went very well. Following a presentation on water quality by Pat Baskfield, the group generated some great discussion about water quality and quantity issues and the differences in water concerns across the watershed. I will be assisting Kim Musser of the WRC with a meeting on municipal issues in the Watershed on February 22nd and we’re working on planning the third citizens meeting.

Soil Health Workshop

I have been assisting Cottonwood SWCD and NRCS with the planning and coordination of a soil health workshop planned for March 28th in Comfrey, MN. We have made arrangements for David Brandt, a soil health pioneer from Ohio, to come up and speak to producers in the region. We are also planning to have a rainfall simulation and farmer-led panel. Funding for the event is provided through the Middle Minnesota WRAPS civic engagement.

Projects

I have been working with Brown SWCD and County staff to gather information about the 5,000-acre CD-33 ditch watershed that empties into Lake Hanska. The GBERBA Technical Coordinator and I also met with engineers from ISG for partnership development and conservation practice targeting on 103E systems in the GBERB. We will work with ISG and local drainage authority staff to encumber funds for side-inlet control projects. I have also been working through the MAWQCP with a local producer; their certification is currently pending approval.