



# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

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**DATE:** March 30, 2017  
**NAME:** Dustin Anderson  
**RE:** Watonwan Watershed Technician Report

## **Upcoming Events:**

April 5 – Watonwan Cities Meeting number 2, St. James, MN  
April 10 – Watonwan 1W1P meeting, St. James, MN  
April 14 – GBERBA Executive Board meeting, Mankato, MN  
April 17 – Watonwan SWCD Board meeting, St. James, MN  
April 18 – May 4 – Conservation Planning Boot Camp, Lincoln, NE

## **Watonwan Watershed Priority Management Zone**

To date, 28 citizens have been interviewed. Kim Musser and I had the opportunity to present our progress to agency personnel at the MPCA Waters & Watersheds Conference on March 1<sup>st</sup> in St. Paul. This was a great opportunity to reach out to non-farm policy and procedure decision makers and share what we've learned about rural community life and farming in our region. We have also solicited the assistance of Mae Davenport to help frame our findings in a more usable way. The third citizen meeting was held on March 16th and went very well. Kim Musser talked about the structure of other citizen-led events in the area and Jessica Nelson spoke about the structure and process that it took to build the Le Sueur River Watershed Network. I will be assisting Kim Musser of the WRC with the second municipal meeting in the Watershed on April 5<sup>th</sup> which will focus on funding opportunities for infrastructure updating.

## **Soil Health Workshop**

The soil health workshop in Comfrey, MN on March 28<sup>th</sup> went extremely well. We were able to host David Brandt for several days in which we were able to utilize him to provide some outreach and education to some of our local ag producers. The event in Comfrey attracted about 120 people and many were very engaged in the demonstrations and question-answer sessions. Feedback from the event in the form of post-event surveys will be tallied and provide more feedback for conducting future events.

## **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. Staff from Brown SWCD and myself met with Brown County Drainage staff to discuss the project. According to the drainage staff, a nearby sub-surface tile drainage system may be a larger contributor of sediment to Lake Hanska. More information needs to be collected.