



Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

www.GBERBA.org

DATE: May 25, 2017
NAME: Dustin Anderson
RE: Watonwan Watershed Technician Report

Upcoming Events:

May 30th – GBERBA Technical and Policy Board meeting, Mankato, MN
June 7th – BWSR Grants Workshop, Mankato, MN
June 8th – Watonwan Watershed Community Conversation, St. James, MN
June 9th – GBERBA Executive Committee Meeting, Mankato, MN
June 23rd – Soil Health Training, Marshall, MN

Watonwan Watershed Priority Management Zone

The contract with GBERBA to conduct the Watonwan Watershed Priority Management Zone project ends on June 30th. I have been working with Kim Musser of MSU-WRC and Paul Davis of MPCA to start strategizing how to best package and present the information that has been gleaned so far. The final month of the contract will focus on conducting interviews with demographics that we would like more information from. The community conversation meeting will be held in June; a larger more inclusive meeting will likely be coordinated later in the summer to begin disseminating the results of the projects.

Watonwan Watershed – Precision Targeting through Hydro-conditioning

I have been working with Marty Mollenhauer, Cottonwood County GIS Specialist, and Jessica Nelson, MSU-WRC, to define the field verification process in the Watonwan Watershed. Marty M. has been developing a software program through ArcCollector to verify locations. In order to stay on track with the contract timeline, we would need to have most of the field verifications done by September. I will work with Jessica N. and Marty M. to coordinate training on how to use ArcCollector to do the field verifications. We have also been talking with MnIT coordinators to understand how the data may be maintained in the future.

Projects

I have been working with Hannah Herzfeld, Cottonwood SWCD Technician to identify potential resource concerns in the Mountain Lake HUC12 watershed in eastern Cottonwood County. The MSU-WRC performed the ACPF on the watershed in 2014 so the analysis is not as accurate as it could be with the upcoming hydro-conditioned DEM. We performed some field verifications and have identified several areas of potential resource concerns. I will work with Hannah to begin contacting landowners and land operators of these identified locations. I have also been visiting several sites in Watonwan County with Land Management staff for landowners seeking technical assistance.