



Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

www.GBERBA.org

DATE: July 13, 2017
NAME: Dustin Anderson
RE: Watonwan Watershed Resource Specialist Report

Upcoming Events:

July 27th – RUSLE II Training, Rochester, MN
August 22nd - Watonwan River Watershed 1W1P meeting, TBD

Watonwan Watershed Priority Management Zone

The grant period for the PMZ ended on June 30, 2017. I have been working on the final report which is due July 30, 2017. Work on the project will continue. The Watonwan Engagement Team has identified some topics that could be enriched with additional interviews. I will work with Kim Musser and Paul Davis to conduct additional strategic interviews and develop outreach materials that document our findings.

Watonwan Watershed – Precision Targeting through Hydro-conditioning

The guidance document for the culvert field verification application has been updated and posted to the GBERBA website under the Reports > Studies tab. Cottonwood County staff have been actively reviewing culvert locations. This task is proving more difficult and time consuming than initially anticipated. Thick and tall vegetation in the ditches makes it difficult to locate culverts. Furthermore, it can take several minutes at a single location to ensure that no culvert is present. In many situations, a surface drainage feature, such as a metal culvert, will be absent, but a subsurface drain tile inlet will be located in the road ditch or a few rows into a farm field.

Projects

I have been working with several landowners and land operators in Watonwan and Cottonwood counties. There are a few Ravine and Gully-funded projects that need to be constructed this fall. I am working with Chad Hildebrand in Watonwan on an MAWQCP certification for a landowner who would like to use the program to obtain Buffer Law compliance. I have done several stream erosion site visits and working on cost estimates. Outreach is ongoing for producers interested in implementing cover crops this summer/fall.