



Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

www.GBERBA.org

DATE: August 9, 2017
NAME: Dustin Anderson
RE: Watonwan Watershed Resource Specialist Report

Upcoming Events:

August 17 – Cottonwood County Fair, Windom, MN
August 22 - Watonwan River Watershed 1W1P meeting, St. James, MN
September 11-15 – WCA Training, Little Falls, MN

Watonwan Watershed Priority Management Zone

The grant period for the PMZ ended on June 30, 2017. The final report was submitted to the MPCA in July. I have been working on content and formatting for outreach materials on perceived barriers and benefits to different best management practices.

Watonwan Watershed – Precision Targeting through Hydro-conditioning

The guidance document for the culvert field verification application as well as map of the progress is posted on the GBERBA website under the Reports > Studies tab. To date, most “low” confidence culverts have been field verified in Brown, Cottonwood, and Jackson counties. Martin SWCD reports being two-thirds complete, Watonwan SWCD reports having begun the process, and some culverts have been field verified by Blue Earth County staff. The task of field verifying culverts is proving to be more difficult and time consuming than initially anticipated. Thick and tall vegetation in the ditches that are not mowed makes it difficult to locate features, especially if you are looking for a feature that doesn’t exist. Some locations are showing that culverts are absent, but subsurface drainage inlet features are. In this situation, it is important for the technician to note the absence of a culvert AND the presence of a subsurface drainage feature.

Projects

We have several CWF-Ravine & Gully projects that are under construction or nearing the start of the construction. I have used several opportunities to provide outreach in Cottonwood County to area producers who may be interested in using living cover to tie up nutrients from manure applications. I was allowed space on the most recent Cottonwood County Feedlot newsletter as well as time on the Cottonwood USDA Farm Update radio spot.