



Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

www.GBERBA.org

DATE: September 1, 2017
NAME: Dustin Anderson
RE: Watonwan Watershed Resource Specialist Report

Upcoming Events:

September 11-15 – WCA Training, Little Falls, MN
September 27 – Watonwan 1W1P pre-planning meeting, Mankato, MN.

Watonwan Watershed Priority Management Zone

The grant period for the PMZ ended on June 30, 2017 but work is ongoing for outreach. I had the opportunity to present our process and findings to the Lifelong Learners group at the Children's Museum in Mankato. I have been working with Kim Musser and Paul Davis to develop outreach materials on perceived barriers and benefits to different best management practices. This is proving to be a challenge.

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. I have been verifying culverts in Watonwan County when I can. I emailed Watonwan Watershed partners for input on the potential for additional products or training and am awaiting feedback. We will likely amend the contract with the Water Resource Center to reflect requested changes by Watonwan Watershed partners.

TMDL Implementation Targeting

With help from Cottonwood County's GIS Specialist, we identified active feedlots within 2,000 feet of water resources impaired for fecal coliform/E. coli in the Watonwan River Watershed, operating on the assumption that manure from these feedlots is applied to cropland in the immediate area surrounding the feedlot. Research is lacking, but there is the potential to seed cover crops during leaf drop or after soybean harvest, allow green up and inject manure into cover crop. Estimates of 25-60 lb nitrogen per acre can be scavenged by a winter rye cover crop. Surface applied solid manure may be more challenging. Some interest locally is being drummed up. Alternative tile intakes have less interest; most producers I've reached out to have already covered intakes within field boundaries.

Projects

We have several CWF-Ravine & Gully projects that are under construction or nearing the start of the construction in Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties.