



Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

DATE: October 25th, 2017

REPORT PERIOD: September 27th – October 25th 2017

FROM: Blue Earth SWCD Staff: Derek Denisen, John Billings, and Jerad Bach

SUBJECT: Le Sueur Watershed Report

Le Sueur Watershed Priority Areas:

From a survey and water tests conducted by the Madison Lake Watershed and Lake Association (MLWLA) phosphorus pollution has become a concern for the lake. In the Le Sueur River WRAPS report the Beauford Ditch Watershed is high in field sediments and drains into the Le Sueur River. To help increase water quality I have created a contact list with addresses and phone numbers of the Madison Lake Watershed and Beauford Ditch Watershed landowners. When harvest season is over I'm going to contact these landowners, and promote GBERBA's cost share for conservation programs.

Madison Lake Watershed and Lake Association Meeting:

On October 5th 2017 I attended the MLWLA meeting. At the meeting I had an opportunity to present our goals on reducing pollution into Madison Lake. To reduce pollution and increase water quality in Madison Lake I am going to be working with agricultural landowners on implementing conservation programs through GBERBA. The members of the MLWLA helped identify areas of concern that will benefit from these conservation programs. Also, the members agreed to update me on any more areas of concern that are found and to also help promote the cost share available to local landowners.

Le Sueur Watershed Projects:

- I've been working on 23 NRCS CP21 filter strip contracts in Waseca and Blue Earth County. These filter strips will increase water quality and provide beneficial native habitat.
- I met with a landowner from Byron Township in Waseca County who is interested in implementing a denitrifying bioreactor. I provided him with cost and size estimates that the TSA Engineer created and answered a couple of his questions. The landowner stated that he will talk with his partners about the estimates and plans to install the bioreactor in 2018.
- I followed up with Lucas Bunde who planted cover crops on two of his fields in Shelby Township. One of his fields is growing well, and the other field was recently planted and just started growing.
- I talked to four landowners in the office about available conservation programs that can help fix some of their field problems. I also assisted an estimated 32 landowners that called the office with habitat and buffer questions.
- I've also prepared our UTV and tractor that will be used for installing native habitat and buffer strips this fall.