



# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

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DATE: September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017

REPORT PERIOD: August 23<sup>rd</sup> – September 27<sup>th</sup>

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

SUBJECT: Le Sueur Watershed Report

### **Le Sueur Watershed Network:**

I attended the Le Sueur Watershed Network meeting on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Network discussed topics that include The Le Sueur River bank erosion, New Richland flooding, agricultural field drainage, and the Governor's 25x25 town hall meeting.

### **Le Sueur Priority Areas in Blue Earth County:**

Water monitoring data has shown that the Madison Lake Watershed is having a phosphorus pollution problem. I have been analyzing this data to pinpoint areas of concern that may be contributing to the pollution. Also, I have been in contact with Tom Dougan and Steve Schoeb who are members of the Madison Lake Watershed and Lake Association (MLWLA) to gather more information about the area. Tom Dougan and I will be meeting to discuss areas of concern and priority around Madison Lake that may benefit from implementing conservation practices. Steve Schoeb and I have talked over the phone about farm erosion concerns that is directly entering the lake. We will be meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup> at the MLWLA monthly meeting at the Madison Lake town hall to discuss more details.

### **Le Sueur Priority Areas in Waseca County:**

Through the Le Sueur WRAPS report I have selected a priority area that was high for sediment from field sources. This priority area is located on the west side of St. Mary's Township sect. 17-20,29 &30. In these sections I have mailed an informational packet to the landowners on September 20th promoting cover crops and GBERBA's one-year cover crop cost share. Tyler Polster, Waseca County District Technician, and I have been in contact and he has agreed that this cover crop informational packet will be beneficial for the targeted area. I will be following up with landowners that reply to the packet and help them get signed up for cover crop cost share.

### **Projects:**

Ryan Jones, South Central TSA Engineer, and I met with Dennis Byron from Byron Township in Waseca County. Dennis Byron wants to implement a denitrifying bioreactor which reduces the number of nitrates draining into the ditch from his tile system. Dennis provided us with detailed information about his tile systems so Ryan can create an accurate size and cost estimate for the bioreactor. When Ryan finishes the estimates, I am going to meet with Dennis and provide him the details.