



Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

www.GBERBA.org

DATE: April 12, 2019

NAME: Josh Votruba
Watonwan Watershed Resource Specialist

Topics: Past Events, Upcoming Events, Working on

Past Events:

- Mar 6 – Watonwan 1W1P Steering Committee Meeting, St. James, MN
- Mar 6 – Watonwan 1W1P Advisory Committee Meeting, St. James, MN
- Mar 8 – GBERBA Policy/Tech Meeting, Mankato, MN
- Mar 18 – Watonwan SWCD Board Meeting, St. James, MN
- Apr 3 – Watonwan 1W1P Advisory Committee Meeting, St. James, MN
- Apr 3 – Watonwan 1W1P Steering Team Meeting, St. James, MN
- Apr 4 – Water Storage Forum, Mankato, MN

Upcoming Events:

- Apr 15 – Watonwan SWCD Board Meeting, St. James, MN
- Apr 17 – Watonwan 1W1P Steering Committee Meeting, St. James, MN
- Apr 24 – GBERBA Tech Meeting, Mankato, MN
- Apr 25 – Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting, Windom, MN

Working on:

- Training:** I recently attended the MN River Basin Water Storage Forum put on by the MSU Water Resource Center. The event had many speakers from different agencies (SWCDs, Universities, Counties, State Agencies) speak about various topics in relation to water storage. With the Watonwan Watershed currently going through a One Watershed, One Plan this event seemed like a great opportunity to learn and get ideas as the lack of water storage in the watershed is a major issue.
- Watonwan County/SWCD:** In Watonwan County I have been working with the SWCD researching potential projects for the St. James Golf Course which has bank erosion problems along the South Fork Watonwan River. In addition, I have been assisting Watonwan Soil & Water Technician Chad Hildebrand with buffer site visits.
- GBERBA Cover Crop Cost Share:** In Cottonwood County we sent out post-cards in March informing landowners of the GBERBA cover crop cost-share available in the Watonwan Watershed. The cost share is for 50% and is up to 80 acres maximum per landowner. Last August we sent out a mass mailing to landowners and had a few interested landowners respond. It is our hope that this year we have even more interest from Cottonwood County landowners. The GBERBA cover crop cost-share is a great opportunity for farmers and landowners who are new to cover crops to try it out for the first time.
- Watonwan River One Watershed, One Plan:** The Advisory Committee recently had their second meeting which was April 4th. The committee went over the priority issues table which was composed of the high and medium priority issues which were based on the input from the kickoff meeting, online survey, and state and local agency expertise/comments. The committee during the April 4th meeting reviewed the 52 issues present on the table and made decisions on if certain issues that were similar could be combined. For the next meeting the Advisory Committee will finish reviewing these priority issues.

JOSH VOTRUBA
Watonwan Watershed Resource Specialist

339 9th Street, Windom, MN 56101
PHONE: (507) 831-1153 Extension 3
FAX: (507) 831-2928
Email: josh.votruba@windomnet.com

Serving the counties of Blue Earth, Brown,
Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, and
Watonwan



Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

South Central MAWQCP Certification Specialist

Serving the Counties of: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, McLeod, Nicollet, Renville, Sibley, Waseca, Watonwan



Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance



Herman Bartsch
 AREA 6 MAWQCP CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST
 April 12th, 2019

Workload:

- Working with producers and SWCDs to complete assessments and certifications
- Assisting producers with MDA Grant Applications
- Cover Crop Plans
- Program Promotion
- NRCS - RCPP Applications
- Conservation Planning Recertification
- Midwest Soil Health Summit – Gustavus 3-12-19
- LeSueur Cover Crop Meeting 3-14-19
- ACS Meeting – St. Paul 4-3-19

AREA 6	Applications	Assessments	Certifications
Blue Earth SWCD	13	12	7
Brown SWCD	9	6	3
Faribault SWCD	21	16	12
LeSueur SWCD	5	2	2
Martin SWCD	9	5	5
McLeod SWCD	9	7	4
Nicollet SWCD	1	1	1
Renville SWCD	8	7	6
Sibley SWCD	3	3	3
Waseca SWCD	9	9	2
Watonwan SWCD	10	6	5
Total	97	74	50

The application deadline for NRCS’s RCPP is April 19th. RCPP offers financial assistance to water quality certified producers to install conservation practices. This program offers a higher payment rate than general EQIP and is only available to certified producers or those seeking certification. Practices required to achieve or maintain certification are considered high priority.

MAWQCP Numbers as of 4-8-19

- 720 producers certified
- 476,433 acres certified
- 1,466 new practices installed or planned to be installed
- Sediment delivery to surface waters reduced by 30,176 tons per year (60,351,420 lbs.)
- Soil loss reduced by 74,711 tons per year (149,422,993 lbs.)
- Phosphorus loss reduced by 35,902 lbs. of P per year



Greater Blue Earth River Basin

March 19, 2019



DANIELLE EVERS

AREA 5 MAWQCP CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST

Serving the Counties of: Cottonwood, Jackson, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock, & Yellow Medicine

Projects and Workload:

- Continuing to meet with producers for assessments, create maps, & upload documents for state verification
- Assisting producers in submitting MAWQCP Cost-Share Grant Applications
- Coordinating with Water Resource Specialist in Nobles, Lyon, Lincoln, Pipestone, Rock for program promotion and to reach more producers in the wellhead protection areas
- Attending/Participating in events to gain continuing education credits for CCA certification
- Homework for the Minnesota Rural Leadership Program
- Working on trying to have some Ag Water Quality Meetings in different counties & inviting producers

Events:

- **Feb 24th-March 1st** – MARL Seminar –Washington DC
- **March 8th** – Managing Phosphorous Webinar
- **March 14th** – MAWQCP Lunch Promo – Nobles County (**Rescheduled Date to Be Determined**)
- **March 20th-22nd** – MARL Seminar - Crookston, MN
- **April 3rd**- ACS Meeting St. Paul

Program Updates and Information:

- Water quality inlets are still available for interested farmers pursuing certifications (2 free for each applicant)
- **\$6,000** of Additional funding is still available through GBERBA for districts to continue working on the MAWQCP
- MAWQCP has certified over **715 farms**, including over **471,659 acres** with **1,432 new BMP's**
- Estimated benefits include: **26,937 tons** of TSS reduced per year, **67,496 tons** soil reduced per year, **31,878 lbs** Phosphorous reduced per year
- Grant applications still available for up to **\$5,000 75%** cost-share through the MDA for producers

YEAR TO DATE NUMBERS

<u>Area 5</u>	<u>Applications</u>	<u>Assessments Completed</u>	<u>Actively Pursuing Cert.</u>	<u>Certifications</u>
Cottonwood SWCD	31	29	0	13
Jackson SWCD	30	26	7	13
Lac Qui Parle SWCD	6	5	0	3
Lincoln SWCD	16	16	0	5
Lyon SWCD	14	12	1	7
Murray SWCD	12	12	0	9
Nobles SWCD	13	13	0	9
Pipestone SWCD	31	30	0	16
Redwood SWCD	31	31	1	21
Rock SWCD	18	15	1	9
Yellow Medicine SWCD	22	22	3	9
Totals	224	211	13	114

DANIELLE EVERS:
Area 5 Certification Specialist
119 2nd St SW Suite 13
Pipestone, MN 56164

PHONE: (507) 825-1199
CELL: (507) 221-0304

E-MAIL:
Danielle.Evers@co.pipestone.mn.us



Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

Agriculture and Water Outreach Corpsmember
Conservation Corps of MN & IA
Lee Tapper



Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance



April 12, 2019

Workload:

- Assisting Herman Bartsch and Danielle Evers with mapping assessed fields in the MAWQCP mapping tool and assessment tool
- Entering producer fields into Web Soil Survey to check for sensitive soils
- Assisting Herman Bartsch and Danielle Evers with filling in soil and nutrient management information for applicant's fields
- Reading through the MAWQCP binder and other information about the program
- Attended producer meetings with Herman Bartsch and Danielle Evers
- Assist Herman Bartsch and Danielle Evers with field verifications

Projects and Events:

- Attended Midwest Soil Heath Summit with Herman in St. Peter on 3/12
- Attended a County Commissioner Meeting in Windom on 3/19
- Attended the 1W1P in St. James on 3/20
- Met with Producer with Herman Bartsch in Blue Earth on 3/25
- Attended the 1W1P Steering/Advisory Committee Meeting on 4/3
- Attended the Minnesota River Basin Water Storage Forum in Mankato on 4/4
- Met with a Producer with Danielle Evers in Windom on 4/8
- Continue to input maps and other data into the mapping and assessment tool

Upcoming Events:

- Filter Strip Training in New Ulm on 4/10 (Postponed)
- Attending the 1W1P Steering Team Meeting on 4/17
- Attending the GBERBA Tech Meeting on 4/24

Lee Tapper
Agriculture and Water Outreach Corpsmember
339 9th Street
Windom MN 56101

Cell:(712)551-6574

Email: leettapper@outlook.com

Kay Clark

From: Sackett Eberhart, Jill (BWSR) <jill.sackett.eberhart@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 10:09 AM
To: kay. clark (kay.clark@windomnet.com); Dave Bucklin (david.bucklin@windomnet.com)
Subject: 4/12/19 GBERBA Executive Committee Meeting - BWSR Update

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

- 2019 SWCD Local Capacity Services grant amendments and work plan amendments – Due May 15, 2019
 - At the last GBERBA meeting, I said that Board Conservationists hadn't been given a deadline so to assume it was April 9th like the 2019 Competitive Clean Water Fund grants. These grant amendments, however, are being allowed extra time.
 - Only for those SWCDs whose counties were able to allocate them extra funds in 2019.
- 2019 Buffer Law grant amendments and work plan amendments – Due May 15, 2019
 - At the last GBERBA meeting, I said that Board Conservationists hadn't been given a deadline so to assume it was April 9th like the 2019 Competitive Clean Water Fund grants. These grant amendments, however, are being allowed extra time.
 - Only a hand-full of these extra funds were allocated. The BWSR Buffer Office made the decision to send additional funds to those SWCDs that still have a large workload for tracking compliance.

Counties

- Reminder that the next allocation (sometime after July 1) of Natural Resource Block Grants (FY2020) will require a new grant agreement. It is encouraged that Board's review this and sign as the official signatory.

Legislative Update

- BWSR has had no internal Legislative Update since the last GBERBA Meeting in March. I will share pertinent information when the next one is sent (likely in a few weeks).
- Hopefully AMC and MASWCD are keeping you all regularly updated.

Clean Water Fund Update

- Competitive Clean Water Fund Grants
 - Will not know grant programs or allocation amounts until after the legislative session is completed.
 - Assumed that the application process will be summer 2019 (similar to the last few years).
- Competitive One Watershed One Plan Planning Grants
 - The Request For Proposals opened April 9
 - Up to \$1 Million is available
 - Deadline for applications is June 6

Technical Training Opportunities

- The Training Calendar can be found on the BWSR website. It is regularly updated so please check often to see if pertinent training is coming up.
- Encourage SWCD staff to complete and regularly update the Individual Development Plans (IDPs). This is a way to keep track of current and future training needs and who in your office has JAA for which practices/BMPs.
- Recently have heard of some Boards discouraging staff from attending professional development and/or technical training (job approval authority). Please realize that your LGUs are only as good as your least experienced and trained staff person. Encourage them to attend workshops and JAA trainings to improve their knowledge and skillset. This will result in individual improvement, but also result in your constituents being better served.

BWSR Website

- The new website will be rolled out this spring. An internal training and review will occur first in order for staff to better answer any LGU questions when the site goes public.

Jill Sackett Eberhart

Board Conservationist
MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

11 Civic Center Plaza, Ste. 300 | Mankato, MN 56001

Office: 507-344-2825 | Cell: 507-317-1680

Jill.Sackett.Eberhart@state.mn.us | www.bwsr.state.mn.us