



GBERBA

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

www.GBERBA.org

DATE: June 14, 2019

NAME: Josh Votruba
Watonwan Watershed Resource Specialist

Topics: Past Events, Upcoming Events, Working on

Past Events:

- May 10 – GBERBA Policy Meeting, Mankato, MN
- May 15 – Watonwan 1W1P Steering Meeting, St. James, MN
- May 15 – Watonwan 1W1P Policy Meeting, St. James, MN
- May 23 – Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting, Windom, MN
- June 5 – Watonwan 1W1P Advisory Committee Meeting, St. James, MN
- June 5 – Watonwan 1W1P Steering Team Meeting, St. James, MN

Upcoming Events:

- June 17 - Watonwan SWCD Board Meeting, St. James, MN
- June 19 – Watonwan 1W1P Steering Meeting, St. James, MN
- June 19 – Watonwan 1W1P Policy Meeting, St. James, MN
- June 27 & 28 - Soil Health and Sustainability Training, Marshall, MN
- July 3 – Watonwan 1W1P Steering, St. James, MN
- July 30 to Aug 2 – Basic Conservation Planning Training, Morris, MN

Working on:

- *Training:* I have been working towards achieving conservation planner certification. June 27 & 28 I will be attending a Soil Health and Sustainability training in Marshall. In addition, I am planning to attend a basic conservation planning training July 30-Aug 2.
- *Watonwan County/SWCD:* In Watonwan County I have been working with the SWCD researching potential projects and options for the South Fork Golf Club east of St. James. This golf course has severe bank erosion problems along the South Fork Watonwan River. I have also been assisting Watonwan Soil & Water Technician Chad Hildebrand with buffer site visits throughout Watonwan County. In addition, with there still being large amounts of money available for the GBERBA cover crop cost share we are looking to try and push cover crops hard in Watonwan County. We are looking to do some outreach and some field days/meetings for farmers and landowners this summer and possibly fall.
- *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. In addition, June 24th Brown SWCD is a hosting a cover crop meeting for landowners looking to try out cover crops. The meeting is from 1-3 at the Brown SWCD office in Sleepy Eye.
- *Watonwan River One Watershed, One Plan:* The Watonwan 1W1P Advisory Committee recently had their third meeting which was June 5th. During this meeting the Advisory Committee reviewed the draft issues table that was put together by the Steering Team. This table was composed of various issues relating to surface water, groundwater, land stewardship, and habitat. The Advisory Committee reviewed all the issues present and the members of the Advisory Committee were given the opportunity to voice any concerns or recommendations for the issues table. The next step for the Issues table is approval by the Policy Committee.



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
May 22nd, 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	7	3	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	99	75	50

MDA has developed an MAWQCP Story Map. This is an interactive online map of the state where producers can pin their general location and include some information about their farm, why they chose to get certified and a picture. This is an opportunity for farmers to share their story, and will help promote the program. Farmers who are interested in getting on the map should contact their Area Certification Specialist.

LeSueur SWCD is using the additional \$6,000 funding to do some active promotion. They have generated three new applications in the last month.

MAWQCP radio ads will be airing on the Linder Farm Network and Brownfield Ag News during the weeks of May 20th and June 3rd.

MAWQCP Numbers as of 5-20-19

- 744 producers certified
- 499,063 acres certified
- 1,501 new practices installed or planned to be installed (including 51,699 acres of new cover crops)
- Sediment delivery to surface waters reduced by 32,802 tons per year (65,604,390 lbs.)
- Soil loss reduced by 80,313 tons per year (160,626,953 lbs.)
- Phosphorus loss reduced by 39,051 lbs. of P per year

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Greater Blue Earth River Basin

May 21, 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, mapping, & uploading documents for state verification
- Assisting producers in submitting MAWQCP Cost-Share Grant Applications
- Working on Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water MAWQCP incentive applications/assessments.
- Homework for the Minnesota Rural Leadership Program
- Currently doing field verifications in between wet spells. Making maps/plans.
- Coordinating with local NRCS offices for RCPP ranking and screening.
- Calling and completing the first year of program audits. Need to do one more field verification.

Events:

- **April 19th** – RCPP EQIP Application Ranking Deadline
- **May 1st** – Ag in the Classroom Event – Pipestone, MN
- **May 17th** – RCPP EQIP Screening Deadline
- **May 22nd** – Ag in the Classroom Event – Pipestone, MN

Program Updates and Information:

- **Limited number** of 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 **744 farms**, including over **499,063 acres** with **1,501 new BMP's**
- Estimated benefits include: **32,802 tons** of TSS reduced per year, **80,313 tons** soil reduced per year, **39,051 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	2	13
Jackson SWCD	30	27	2	16
Lac Qui Parle SWCD	6	6	1	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	38	34	1	18
Redwood SWCD	33	31	1	22
Rock SWCD	18	15	1	9
Yellow Medicine SWCD	23	22	4	9
Totals	233	217	13	120

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Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

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



Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance



June 14, 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
- Attended producer meetings with Herman Bartsch and Danielle Evers
- Assist Herman Bartsch and Danielle Evers with field verifications
- Assisted David Bucklin plant trees in Cottonwood County
- Assisted Hannah Herzfeld check RIM Easements in Cottonwood County

Projects and Events:

- Conservation Corp 5/28-5/31 to assist Dave plant trees
- Webinar NRCS Soil Heath Training 6/4 & 6/6
- Attended the GBERBA Executive Meeting in Mankato on 6/14
- Continue to input maps and other data into the mapping and assessment tool

Upcoming Events:

- Pow Wow Parade in Mountain Lake on 6/17
- 1W1P Policy Meeting in St. James on 6/19
- Area 5 Meeting in Lake Benton on 6/21
- NRCS Soil Heath Training in Marshall on 6/27-6/28
- 1W1P Steering Team Meeting in St. James on 7/3

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