



# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

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**DATE:** AUGUST 28, 2019  
**TO:** GBERBA MEMBERS  
**FROM:** KAY GROSS and DAVID BUCKLIN, GBERBA COORDINATORS  
**SUBJECT:** COORDINATOR REPORT GBERBA TECHNICAL AND EXECUTIVE MEETING

## **MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program**

Update on progress made in areas 5 and 6 – See Certification Specialist Reports. Over 500,000 acres certified!

## **2016 MPCA – 319 Drainage Grant FULLY ENCUMBERED**

An Outreach Booklet has been printed and will be sent to Drainage staff and elected officials to see conservation opportunities and potential in drainage systems.

*319 Drainage Grant:* Side inlet structures 50% cost share. These are federal dollars matched by state or local dollars.

## **2017 MPCA 319 Grant - Cover Crops and Alternative Tile Intakes**

An Implementation Policy Paper for the grant titled "Greater Blue Earth River Basin TMDL Implementation" has been developed and reviewed at the Technical meeting. This guidance document will be posted on the GBERBA website.

Cover crops: \$50.00 dollars per acre maximum, 50% cost share maximum (\$ 25.00 ac.), 80 acre size maximum per owner. Prioritization required. Alternative intakes: Rock and pattern tile. \$500.00 maximum and 50% cost share. These are federal dollars and require state or local match. Perforated risers, broom and other water quality intakes: \$200.00 maximum and 50% cost share. These are federal dollars and require state or local match.

**The grant amendment has been completed and all remaining cost share for projects including Alternative intakes, Side inlets, and Cover crops will be at 50% cost share. New grant policy papers have been generated.**

## **2017 CWF Grant- Multipurpose Drainage Management**

Multipurpose Drainage Management - \$301,200: Projects for this Drainage Grant will need to be located in public ditch sheds. **GBERBA member entire counties are eligible.** Priority parameters are developed to identify the eligible ditches. A guidance policy sheet is online.

A grant Work Plan Revision has been approved by the BWSR to allow for CAP 130 Drainage Water Management plans and for Structures for Water Control.

## **One Watershed One Plan Planning Grants, Watonwan Watershed**

The Watonwan 1W1P Project is in full swing completing the plan language. The Steering Committee last met on August 21 to review progress made on the measurable goals, actions, and programs table. These will need to be completed for all issues in the plan.

## **2019 Clean Water Fund Grant Potential**

GBERBA staff are working on a Drinking Water Protection Grant application as well as a MDM Grant application. We will need as many potential projects in the GBE watershed to include in the applications.



# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

[www.GBERBA.org](http://www.GBERBA.org)

**DATE:** August 22, 2019

**NAME:** Josh Votruba  
Watonwan Watershed Resource Specialist

**Topics:** Past Events, Upcoming Events, Working on

## **Past Events:**

- July 30 to Aug 2 – Basic Conservation Planning Training, Morris, MN
- Aug 7 – Watonwan One Watershed, One Plan Advisory Committee Meeting, St. James, MN
- Aug 7 – Watonwan One Watershed, One Plan Steering Team Meeting, St. James, MN
- Aug 19 – Watonwan SWCD Board Meeting, St. James, MN
- Aug 21 - Watonwan One Watershed, One Plan Steering Team Meeting, St. James, MN

## **Upcoming Events:**

- Aug 27 to Aug 28 – Cover Crop Logistics Training, Lamberton, MN
- Aug 28 – GBERBA Tech Meeting, Mankato, MN
- Aug 28 – GBERBA Executive Meeting, Mankato, MN
- Sept 11 – Watonwan 1W1P Advisory Committee Meeting, St. James, MN
- Sept 11 – Watonwan 1W1P Steering Team Meeting, St. James, MN

## **Working on:**

- *Training:* I recently attended the NRCS Conservation Planning Training in Morris July 30 to August 2. This 4-day training covered the conservation planning process in great detail. August 27 to August 28 I will be attending a Cover Crop Logistics Training in Lamberton.
- *GBERBA Cover Crop Cost Share:* A Semi-Annual report for the GBERBA Cover Crop Grant was completed and submitted to the MPCA at the end of July. With the Conservation Drainage Grant 33 expiring August 31 a Final Report will need to be put together and sent to the MPCA in the coming months.
- *GBERBA Grant Applications:* I have been working with Dave Bucklin on a Drinking Water Protection Grant Application for GBERBA. The overall purpose of the grant would be to protect and improve drinking water within the Greater Blue Earth River Basin. The application is targeting Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMAs) and Source Water Protection Areas completely within the Greater Blue Earth River Basin. Groundwater contaminants will be reduced/prevented by placing recommended BMPs outlined in Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies, County Local Water Management Plans, and Wellhead Protection Plans for each DWSMA. These BMPs include cover crops, tillage practices, nutrient management, conservation cover, and urban storm water management projects. In addition, GBERBA plans to apply for another CWF Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant.
- *Watonwan River One Watershed, One Plan:* The Watonwan One Watershed One Plan Advisory Committee held a meeting August 7<sup>th</sup>. The meeting covered the topics of habitat and recreation/wetlands. During this meeting the Advisory Committee discussed the measurable goals, actions, and programs in regards to these resource concerns. The next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup> and will include the topics of groundwater and surface water (run off and flooding).



# 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  
 August 20th, 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
- Field Verifications
- FarmFest - 8/8/19
- 4R Field Day - 8/14/19
- Soil Health Coalition Kickoff - 8/16/19
- Farm BMP Showcase and Certification Presentation - LeSueur County - 8/28/19

AREA 6	Applications	Assessments	Certifications
Blue Earth SWCD	13	12	7
Brown SWCD	9	6	3
Faribault SWCD	21	16	12
LeSueur SWCD	7	4	3
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>51</b>

**MAWQCP Numbers as of 8-19-19**

- 780 producers certified
- 522,432 acres certified
- 1,626 new practices installed or planned to be installed
- Sediment delivery to surface waters reduced by 34,967 tons per year
- Soil loss reduced by 91,429 tons per year
- Phosphorus loss reduced by 42,390 lbs. of P per year



# Greater Blue Earth River Basin

August 20, 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.

### Events:

- **Aug 1<sup>st</sup>** – Cover Crop/Soil Health Field Day – Luverne
- **Aug 6<sup>th</sup>** – SWMACDE Employees Meeting - Slayton
- **Aug 7<sup>th</sup>** – Farmfest helping Minnesota Soil Health Coalition (MNSHC)
- **Aug 16<sup>th</sup>**- Soil Health Kickoff – Redwood Falls
- **Aug 20<sup>th</sup>** – Cover Crop Field Day – Lamberton
- **Aug 27<sup>th</sup>** – Lincoln SWCD Cover Crop Field Day – Lincoln Co.

### Program Updates and Information:

- MAWQCP has certified over **780 farms**, including over **522,432 acres** with **1,626 new BMP's**
- Estimated benefits include: **34,967 tons** of TSS reduced per year, **91,429 tons** soil reduced per year, **42,390 lbs** Phosphorous reduced per year
- Grant applications still available for up to **\$5,000 75%** cost-share through the MDA for producers
- The MAWQCP has signed a MOU with the MNSHC to provide support, promote, & work toward sustainable ag production.
- A Story Map has been launched on the MAWQCP website. You can view it here:

<https://mnag.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Shortlist/index.html?appid=f5f1c86e75cd48bf9a79b5eccb51d36e>

### YEAR TO DATE NUMBERS

<b>Area 5</b>	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Assessments Completed</b>	<b>Actively Pursuing Cert.</b>	<b>Certifications</b>
Cottonwood SWCD	32	30	1	13
Jackson SWCD	30	27	1	17
Lac Qui Parle SWCD	6	6	0	4
Lincoln SWCD	16	16	0	5
Lyon SWCD	14	12	2	7
Murray SWCD	13	13	1	9
Nobles SWCD	14	13	0	9
Pipestone SWCD	39	37	1	18
Redwood SWCD	33	33	0	22
Rock SWCD	18	15	0	10
Yellow Medicine SWCD	23	23	2	11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>125</b>

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

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

E-MAIL:  
[Danielle.Evers@co.pipestone.mn.us](mailto: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



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August 22, 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
- Assisted 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
- Assisted Herman Bartsch design a seed mix for a waterway

## **Projects and Events:**

- Cottonwood SWCD Open House in Windom on 7/29
- Attended Cover Crop "How To" Event in Luverne on 8/1
- Farm Fest in Redwood Falls on 8/7
- Assisted Taylor Letexier NRCS and Hannah Herzfeld with Rainfall Simulator at the Cottonwood County Fair 8/14-8/17
- Continue to input maps and other data into the mapping and assessment tool

## **Upcoming Events:**

- 1W1P Steering Team in St. James on 8/21
- Cover Crop Logistics Training at the U of MN Lamberton Research Center on 8/27-8/28
- Conservation Corps Fall Retreat at Whitewater State Park on 9/9-9/11
- 1W1P Advisory Meeting in St. James on 9/11
- GBERBA Policy Meeting in Mankato on 9/13

Lee Tapper  
Agriculture and Water Outreach Corpsmember  
210 10th Street  
Windom MN 56101

Cell:(712)551-6574

Email: leettapper@outlook.com