



# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

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**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 13, 2019  
**TO:** GBERBA MEMBERS  
**FROM:** KAY GROSS and DAVID BUCKLIN, GBERBA COORDINATORS  
**SUBJECT:** COORDINATOR REPORT GBERBA POLICY 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!  
We are working with MDA to complete an extended five year budget for the Certification Program.

## **2016 MPCA – 319 Drainage Grant GRANT COMPLETED**

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. Grant End Date 8-31-2020**

## **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. **Grant End Date 12-31-2019. Requested extension to 12-31-2020.**

## **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 submitted a Drinking Water Protection Grant application as well as a MDM Grant application. We should be notified in November with the results.



# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

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

**DATE:** September 13, 2019

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

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

**Past Events:**

Aug 21 - Watonwan One Watershed, One Plan Steering Team Meeting, St. James, MN  
Aug 27 to Aug 28 – Cover Crop Logistics Training, Lamberton, MN  
Sept 11 – Watonwan 1W1P Advisory Committee Meeting, St. James, MN  
Sept 11 – Watonwan 1W1P Steering Team Meeting, St. James, MN

**Upcoming Events:**

Sept 16 - Watonwan SWCD Board Meeting, St. James, MN  
Sept 26 – Watonwan County Environmental Awareness Day, St. James, MN  
Sept 27 – GBERBA Tech Meeting, Mankato, MN  
Sept 27 – Watonwan 1W1P Steering Team Meeting, Mankato, MN  
Sept 30 – Watonwan 1W1P Policy Meeting, St. James, MN

**Working on:**

- *GBERBA CWF Grant Applications:* CWF grant applications have been submitted for Multipurpose Drainage Management and Drinking Water Protection. The drinking water grant will be targeting source water protection areas/DWSMAs within the Greater Blue Earth River Basin. In total 39 source water protection areas/DWSMAs were included in the grant application, DWSMAs/Source Water Protection Areas for Alden, Amboy, Blue Earth, Bricelyn, Comfrey, Darfur, Delavan, Eagle Lake, Easton, Elmore, Elysian, Fairmont, Frost, Good Thunder, Granada, Janesville, Kiester, La Salle, Madelia, Madison Lake, Mankato, Mapleton, Minnesota Lake, Mountain Lake, New Richland, Northrop, Red Rock Rural Water, Sherburn, St. James, Trimont, Truman, Vernon Center, Waldorf, Walters, Waseca, Welcome, Wells, Windom, and Winnebago were included in the grant. If funded, the practices we will be cost sharing or funding will include well sealing and urban stormwater projects such as tree plantings and native prairie plantings. Education/outreach and promotion of other practices such as cover crops will also be a part of this grant.
- *Watonwan River One Watershed, One Plan:* The Watonwan One Watershed One Plan Advisory Committee held a meeting September 11<sup>th</sup>. The meeting covered the topics of Groundwater and Surface Water/Flooding. 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 October 2nd and will include the topics of Surface Water Ag Drainage, River and Streams, and Lakes.



# 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

Herman Bartsch:  
 Area 6 Certification Specialist  
 422 Belgrade Ave, Suite 104  
 North Mankato, MN 56003

Office: (507) 344-3210  
 Cell: (507) 380-9134

E-MAIL:  
 hermanbartsch@outlook.com



# 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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September 13, 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 Hannah Herzfeld check RIM Easements in Cottonwood County
- Assisted Herman Bartsch design a seed mix for a waterway
- Running Rusle2 (Soil Erosion Tool) to compare fields without cover crops vs fields with cover crops [Phosphorus (lbs.yr), Sediment (TSS) T/yr, and Soil (estimated saving) T/yr]
- Attending workshops for soil health, cover crops, and other environmental topics

## **Projects and Events:**

- Assisted Taylor Letexier NRCS and Hannah Herzfeld with Rainfall Simulator at the Cottonwood County Fair 8/14-8/17
- Watonwan Watershed 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
- Watonwan Watershed 1W1P Advisory/Steering Team Meeting in St. James on 9/11
- GBERBA Policy Meeting in Mankato on 9/13
- Continue to input maps and other data into the mapping and assessment tool

## **Upcoming Events:**

- Environmental Fair by Lake Shetek on 9/24-9/25
- Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting on 9/26
- Watonwan Watershed 1W1P Steering in St. James on 10/2
- Watonwan Watershed 1W1P Policy Committee in St. James on 10/2

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

Phone:(507)832-8287

Email: leettapper@outlook.com