



# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

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**DATE:** MAY 29, 2019  
**TO:** GBERBA MEMBERS  
**FROM:** KAY GROSS and DAVID BUCKLIN, GBERBA COORDINATORS  
**SUBJECT:** COORDINATOR REPORT GBERBA TECHNICAL MEETING

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

Update on progress made in areas 5 and 6 – See Certification Specialist Reports.

## **2016 MPCA – 319 Drainage Grant THIS GRANT IS NOW 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. **We are in the process of adding the Cap 130 Drainage Water Management Plan and the 587 Structure for Water Control to the work plan to facilitate using these practices.**

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

The Watonwan 1W1P Project is in full swing completing the plan language. The Advisory Committee has now met two times. A draft issues table is now being distributed.



# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

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

**DATE:** May 29, 2019  
**NAME:** Josh Votruba  
Watonwan Watershed Resource Specialist  
**Topics:** Past Events, Upcoming Events, Working on

## Past Events:

Apr 12 – GBERBA Executive Meeting, Mankato, MN  
Apr 15 – Watonwan SWCD Board Meeting, St. James, MN  
Apr 17 – Watonwan 1W1P Steering Committee Meeting, St. James, MN  
Apr 23 – Soil Health Team Meeting, Sleepy Eye, MN  
Apr 25 – Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting, Windom, MN  
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

## Upcoming Events:

June 5 – Watonwan 1W1P Advisory Committee Meeting, St. James, MN  
June 5 – Watonwan 1W1P Steering Team Meeting, St. James, MN  
June 14 – GBERBA Executive Meeting, Mankato, MN  
June 27 & 28 - Soil Health and Sustainability Training, Marshall, MN  
July 30-Aug 2 – Basic Conservation Planning Training, Morris, MN

## Working on:

- *Training:* 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. These trainings will go towards achieving conservation planner certification.
- *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.
- *Watonwan River One Watershed, One Plan:* The next Advisory Committee meeting for the Watonwan One Watershed One Plan is scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup>. During the May 15<sup>th</sup> Steering meeting the Steering Team finished the priority issues table. The group took the draft priority issues table and reduced it from 52 issues down to 28. Many similar issues were combined and many issues were reworded. On the June 5<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting the committee will review the final issues table and be given the opportunity to voice any concerns regarding any changes made and whether there are any priority issues absent that should be on table.



# 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              |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>99</b>    | <b>75</b>   | <b>50</b>      |

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 20<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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

| <b>Area 5</b>        | <b>Applications</b> | <b>Assessments Completed</b> | <b>Actively Pursuing Cert.</b> | <b>Certifications</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 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                     |
| <b>Totals</b>        | <b>233</b>          | <b>217</b>                   | <b>13</b>                      | <b>120</b>            |

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**Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality  
Certification Program**  
Agriculture and Water Outreach Corpsmember  
Conservation Corps of MN & IA  
Lee Tapper



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May 23th, 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 Mountain Lake
- Assisted Hannah Herzefeld check RIM Easements
- Assisted Danielle Evers inspect producers fields in Cottonwood County

**Projects and Events:**

- Assisted David Bucklin with Tree Pick Up 4/26
- Attended the 1W1P Steering Team Meeting on 5/1
- Continue to input maps and other data into the mapping and assessment tool

**Upcoming Events:**

- Cottonwood County SWCD Board Meeting 5/23
- Conservation Corp 5/28-5/31 to assist Dave plant trees
- GBERBA Tech Meeting in Mankato on 5/29
- Webinar NRCS Soil Heath Training 6/4 & 6/6
- Riverfest Parade in Windom on 6/8
- GBERBA Executive Meeting in Mankato on 6/14
- Pow Wow Parade in Mountain Lake on 6/17
- 2w2P 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

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