



# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

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**DATE:** JUNE 26, 2019  
**TO:** GBERBA MEMBERS  
**FROM:** KAY GROSS and DAVID BUCKLIN, GBERBA COORDINATORS  
**SUBJECT:** COORDINATOR REPORT GBERBA EXECUTIVE 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 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 submitted to 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 Advisory Committee and the Steering Committee met on June 5 to review progress made on the issues table.

## **2019 Clean Water Fund Grant Ideas**

We will discuss at the June 26, 2019 Technical meeting, ideas for a possible application.



# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

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

**DATE:** June 27, 2019

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

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

## Past Events:

- June 5 – Watonwan 1W1P Advisory Committee Meeting, St. James, MN
- June 5 – Watonwan 1W1P Steering Team Meeting, St. James, MN
- 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 24 – Brown SWCD Cover Crop Meeting, Sleepy Eye, MN
- June 26 – GBERBA Tech Meeting, Mankato, MN

## Upcoming Events:

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

## Working on:

- *Training:* I have been working towards achieving conservation planner certification. I have been taking the required online trainings, webinars, and in person trainings. 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.
- *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 Watonwan 1W1P Advisory Committee recently had their third meeting which was June 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 final version of the issues table was approved at the June 19<sup>th</sup> Policy Committee Meeting. The next Advisory Committee Meeting will be in August; no Advisory Committee Meeting will take place in July. The topic planned for the August Advisory Committee meeting will be Habitat Recreation and Surface Water (Wetlands).



# 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  
June 24th, 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
- Field Verifications
- Soil Health Training 6/17-6/18
- Brown County Cover Crop Meeting 6/24

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>

### MAWQCP Numbers as of 6-17-19

- 757 producers certified
- 506,399 acres certified
- 1,519 new practices installed or planned to be installed (including 52,424 acres of new cover crops)
- Sediment delivery to surface waters reduced by 33,792 tons per year
- Soil loss reduced by 82,339 tons per year
- Phosphorus loss reduced by 40,232 lbs. of P per year

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# Greater Blue Earth River Basin

June 24, 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
- Almost finished doing field verifications in between wet spells. Making maps/plans.
- Completed the first year of program audits.

### Events:

- **May 17<sup>th</sup>** – RCPP EQIP Screening Deadline
- **May 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Ag in the Classroom Event – Pipestone, MN
- **June 21<sup>st</sup>** – Area 5 Meeting – Lake Benton
- **June 26-28<sup>th</sup>** – MARL Seminar 6 – Duluth 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 **757 farms**, including over **506,399 acres** with **1,519 new BMP's**
- Estimated benefits include: **33,792 tons** of TSS reduced per year, **82,339 tons** soil reduced per year, **40,232 lbs** Phosphorous reduced per year
- Grant applications still available for up to **\$5,000 75%** cost-share through the MDA for producers
- 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	31	29	2	13
Jackson SWCD	30	27	2	16
Lac Qui Parle SWCD	6	6	0	4
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	0	10
Yellow Medicine SWCD	23	22	4	9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>122</b>

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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



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June 27, 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
- Attended the Pow Wow Parade in Mountain Lake on 6/17
- Attended the 1W1P Policy Meeting in St. James on 6/19
- Attended the Area 5 Meeting in Lake Benton on 6/21
- Continue to input maps and other data into the mapping and assessment tool

### **Upcoming Events:**

- NRCS Soil Heath Training in Marshall on 6/27-6/28
- 1W1P Steering Team Meeting in St. James on 7/3
- Conservation Corps Midterm Retreat at St. Croix State Park at St. John's Landing on July 1-3

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