



Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

DATE: JULY 19, 2019
TO: GBERBA MEMBERS
FROM: KAY GROSS and DAVID BUCKLIN, GBERBA COORDINATORS
SUBJECT: COORDINATOR REPORT GBERBA POLICY/ 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 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 END DATE AUGUST 31, 2020

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 END DATE DECEMBER 31, 2019

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 have completed the issues table. The next task is to set goals for the watershed.

2019 Clean Water Fund Grant Ideas

At the June 26, 2019 Technical meeting, ideas for 2020 Clean Water Fund applications were discussed. There was interest in a new Multipurpose Drainage Management grant and some interest in a Projects & Practices grant focused on drinking water protection (cover crops, tillage management, etc.). We are expecting further discussion at this meeting today.



GBERBA

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

www.GBERBA.org

DATE: July 19, 2019

NAME: Josh Votruba
Watonwan Watershed Resource Specialist

Topics: Past Events, Upcoming Events, Working on

Past Events:

- June 24 – Brown SWCD Cover Crop Meeting, Sleepy Eye, MN
- June 26 – GBERBA Tech Meeting, Mankato, MN
- June 27 & 28 - Soil Health and Sustainability Training, Marshall, MN
- July 3 – Watonwan 1W1P Steering, St. James, MN
- July 15 – Watonwan SWCD Board Meeting, St. James, MN

Upcoming Events:

- July 23 – Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting, Windom, MN
- 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 21 - Watonwan One Watershed, One Plan Steering Team Meeting, St. James, MN
- Aug 21 - Watonwan One Watershed, One Plan Policy Meeting, St. James, MN
- Aug 27 to Aug 28 – Cover Crop Logistics Training, Lamberton, 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. I will be attending a NRCS conservation planning course July 30-Aug 2.
- *GBERBA Cover Crop Cost Share:* Have been assisting Kay and Dave with the MPCA semi-annual report for the GBERBA Cover Crop Grant 37 which is due August 1. In addition, I have been helping with the MPCA final report for the Conservation Drainage Grant 33 which expires August 31. In regards to the cover crop cost share we are looking to plan a cover crop field day possibly this August or September in Cottonwood County to target landowners and farmers in both Cottonwood and Watonwan counties. The goal is to generate more interest and enthusiasm for cover crops in both counties.
- *Watonwan River One Watershed, One Plan:* The Watonwan 1W1P Advisory Committee had their third meeting 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 final version of the issues table was approved at the June 19th Policy Committee Meeting. The next Advisory Committee Meeting will be August 7th; no Advisory Committee Meeting took place in July. The topic planned for the August Advisory Committee meeting is 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
July 19th, 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	4	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	76	50

MAWQCP Numbers as of 7-15-19

- 772 producers certified
- 516,281 acres certified
- 1,553 new practices installed or planned to be installed
- Sediment delivery to surface waters reduced by 34,152 tons per year
- Soil loss reduced by 86,254 tons per year
- Phosphorus loss reduced by 40,842 lbs. of P per year

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Greater Blue Earth River Basin

July 17, 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:

- **June 21st** – Area 5 Meeting – Lake Benton
- **June 26-28th** – MARL Seminar 6 – Duluth
- **July 17th** – We Are Water Interview Meeting - Pipestone
- **July 19th** – GBERBA Joint Meeting – Blue Earth
- **July 29th** – 1W1P meeting Yellow Med. - Canby
- **July 30th** - Soil Health Endorsement Workgroup – North Mankato
- **Aug 1st** – Cover Crop/Soil Health Field Day – Luverne
- **Aug 7th** – Farmfest helping Minnesota Soil Health Coalition (MNSHC)

Program Updates and Information:

- MAWQCP has certified over **772 farms**, including over **516,281 acres** with **1,553 new BMP's**
- Estimated benefits include: **34,152 tons** of TSS reduced per year, **86,254 tons** soil reduced per year, **40,942 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

Area 5	Applications	Assessments Completed	Actively Pursuing Cert.	Certifications
Cottonwood SWCD	31	29	1	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	2	7
Murray SWCD	13	13	1	9
Nobles SWCD	13	13	0	9
Pipestone SWCD	38	37	1	18
Redwood SWCD	33	33	0	22
Rock SWCD	18	15	0	10
Yellow Medicine SWCD	23	23	2	11
Totals	235	224	9	124

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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



July 19, 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

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
- Attended the NRCS Soil Heath Training in Marshall on 6/27-6/28
- Attended Conservation Corps Midterm Retreat at St. Croix State Park at St. John's Landing on July 1-3
- Continue to input maps and other data into the mapping and assessment tool

Upcoming Events:

- Cottonwood SWCD Open House in Windom on 7/29
- Cover Crop "How To" Event in Luverne on 8/1
- Farm Fest in Redwood Falls on 8/7
- Cottonwood County Fair 8/14-8/17

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