



Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

DATE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2020
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. Over 625,000 acres and over 900 certified producers statewide!

GBERBA has the Area 5 and 6 MAWQCP administrative contract approved through 2021. The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program is launching three new endorsements in addition to 10-year certification a farmer or landowner receives in the program. The endorsements are for soil health, integrated pest management, and wildlife.

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.

For 2020, the cover crop acre limits are removed. At this point the 50% cost share rate will continue. GBERBA staff has requested and received an extension of this grant due to 2019 weather conditions and the Covid-19 outbreak. The new end date of the grant will be August 31, 2021.

This grant funding is now running short. Funding will be awarded as available. Please pass this notice on to new landowners wishing to apply.

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 Amendment Agreement has been approved to extend the expiration date to 12-31-2020.

One Watershed One Plan Planning Grants, Watonwan and Le Sueur Watershed

The Watonwan 1W1P Planning Project has completed the Plan 60 day comment period. The revised plan document is complete. The next step is for the plan to have public hearings in each county. **The BWSR Board has chosen the Le Sueur Watershed for a 2021 planning grant!**

The GBERBA Policy board has agreed to revise the Joint Powers Agreement to allow inclusion of 1W1P duties. A GBERBA committee is working to assist with writing a new GBERBA Joint Powers document. The new document would allow for the Watonwan, Le Sueur, and Blue Earth Watersheds to participate if the individual watersheds 1W1P boards see a benefit to do so.

2021 Minnesota Conservation Corps Position

The Minnesota/Iowa Conservation Corps program has received the GBERBA application for a 2021, one-year position to assist GBERBA with the MAWQCP program.



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
September 15th, 2020

Workload:

- Working with producers and SWCDs to complete assessments and certifications
- Assisting producers with MDA Grant Applications
- Cover Crop Plans
- Practice Plans
- Program Reviews
- Endorsements
- Field Verifications

AREA 6	Applications	Assessments	Certifications
Blue Earth SWCD	14	13	7
Brown SWCD	13	7	3
Faribault SWCD	28	23	18
LeSueur SWCD	14	9	5
Martin SWCD	14	7	5
McLeod SWCD	9	7	4
Nicollet SWCD	2	2	1
Renville SWCD	16	11	8
Sibley SWCD	3	3	3
Waseca SWCD	12	12	5
Watonwan SWCD	13	10	7
Total	138	104	66

Certified producers will be given "high priority" for Conservation Stewardship Program funding through NRCS.

Producers continue to use the MDA \$5,000 grant to install conservation practices that will address water quality concerns and help them gain certification.

MAWQCP is beginning to offer **three new endorsements** in addition to certification. Endorsements will recognize producers who are going above and beyond in the areas of **soil health, integrated pest management, and wildlife.**

MAWQCP Numbers as of 9-7-20

- 948 producers certified
- 655,367 acres certified
- 1,948 new practices installed or planned to be installed
- Sediment delivery to surface waters reduced by 37,779 tons per year
- Soil loss reduced by 106,383 tons per year
- Phosphorus loss reduced by 46,885 lbs. of P per year
- 17 Soil Health Endorsements
- 16 IPM Endorsements
- 14 Wildlife Endorsements

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Greater Blue Earth River Basin

September 15th, 2020



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 with a flush of applications driven by the priority ranking it awards to CSP renewal and new contracts
- Only 4 program reviews to finish
- Drafted a new customizable “press release” advertisement for the MAWQCP. Contact me if you would like me to personalize it for your county.

Events:

- August 27th – RCPP Conference Call
- September – New Employee Training – Ivanhoe, MN
- September 10th – Soil Health School - Marshall, MN
- September 17th – Cover Crop Study Field Day – Lakefield, MN

Program Updates and Information:

- MAWQCP RCPP EQIP applications will likely be ranked in the spring of 2021
- Grant applications still available for up to **\$5,000 75%** cost-share through the MDA for producers
- MAWQCP has certified over **949 farms**, including over **657,310 acres** with **1,954 new BMP's**
- Estimated benefits include: **37,784 tons** of TSS reduced per year, **106,421 tons** soil reduced per year, **46,896 lbs** Phosphorous reduced per year, **38,526 CO₂-e tons** per year
- **17** Soil Health Endorsements, **16** Integrated Pest Management Endorsements, **14** Wildlife Endorsements

TO DATE NUMBERS

Area 5	Applications	Assessments Completed	Actively Pursuing Cert.	Certifications	Endorsements		
					IPM	Soil Health	Wildlife
Cottonwood	35	33	0	15	0	0	0
Jackson	33	32	0	18	2	2	0
Lac Qui Parle	6	6	0	4	0	0	0
Lincoln	21	20	0	7	1	0	1
Lyon	16	15	0	8	0	0	0
Murray	17	17	3	10	0	0	0
Nobles	16	15	0	10	0	0	0
Pipestone	44	43	0	21	0	0	0
Redwood	35	34	1	22	1	1	0
Rock	23	20	2	12	0	0	0
Yellow Med.	29	29	0	17	0	0	0
Totals	275	263	6	144	3	2	1

DANIELLE EVERS:
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Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

Agriculture and Water Outreach Corpsmember
Conservation Corps of MN & IA
Ashley Broussard



Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance



September 14th 2020

Workload:

- Assisting Herman and Danielle with mapping assessed fields in the MAWQCP mapping tool and assessment tool
- Run P-index on MAWQCP farms
- Blogging for the Conservation Corps
 - [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)
- RIM, ditch, and CRP inspections with Hannah and Becky

Projects and Events:

- Work with MAWQCP and contacting newly certified producers
- Attend producer meetings with Herman and Danielle
- Attend 1W1P, GBERBA, and SWCD meetings
- MN Soil Health Coalition Soil Health School (9/10-9/11)
- Work on educational outreach videos for Cottonwood SWCD Facebook

Upcoming Events:

- Continue work with MAWQCP mapping and assessment tool and running the P-index
- *(Tentative date)* MAWQCP filming for Conservation Corps

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Grant Balances and Projects

GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting - 9-23-2020

		Grant 37		Grant 39	
		Grant Crops/Intakes	Multi Purpose DIM		
		8/31/2021	12/31/2020		
County	Code	Project Dev. & T/E			
Blue Earth	7		\$300,000.00	\$240,320.50	
Brown	8		\$56,941.24	\$86,325.00	
Cottonwood	17		\$2,350.24		
Faribault	22		\$20,795.23		
Freeborn	24		\$178,668.72	\$4,575.00	
Jackson	32		\$6,510.00		
LeSueur	40			\$50,000.00	
Martin	46		\$19,141.17		
Waseca	81		\$23,539.73	\$85,625.00	
Watonwan	83		\$7,351.20		
Encumbered and/or Paid Totals			\$315,297.53	\$226,525.00	
Funds Remaining			-\$15,297.53	\$13,795.50	
319-TMDL	22-33	J-Ace Farms, Inc - J.Erdahl	\$1,119.20	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	22-34	Scott Volz	\$1,180.00	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	22-35	Tim Murray	\$557.37	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	22-36	Daryl Murray	\$627.48	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	17-07	Darby Harder	\$2,000.00	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	07-07	Roger Hubmer	\$1,620.00	cover crops	2/14/2020
319-TMDL	07-08	John Rollings	\$500.00	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	81-04	Tom Klug	\$1,306.70	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	81-05	Dan Roemhildt	\$681.40	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	22-37	Mark Yokiel	\$1,572.90	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	22-38	Nathan Carr	\$1,165.25	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	22-39	Clint Eastman	\$1,446.53	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	22-40	Ryan Hagedorn	\$1,180.00	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	22-41	Eric Volsen	\$1,506.25	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	22-42	Roger Iliff	\$1,165.50	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	81-06	Mark Byron	\$1,430.00	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	22-43	Shawn Hassing	\$1,125.00	cover crops	11/1/2019
319-TMDL	22-44	Schimek Enterprises	\$1,725.00	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	17-08	Tony Dick	\$914.34	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	22-45	Jared Mensing	\$1,368.00	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	22-46	Neal Mensing	\$1,440.00	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	81-07	Terry Groskreutz	\$0.00	cover crops	11/1/2019
319-TMDL	22-47	Douglas Meyer	\$500.00	alternative tile intakes	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	22-48	Jared Mensing	\$665.63	cover crops	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	22-49	Neal Mensing	\$702.10	cover crops	8/25/2020
319-TMDL	22-50	Neal Mensing	\$935.48	cover crops	8/25/2020
319-TMDL	22-51	Neal Mensing	\$1,035.32	cover crops	8/25/2020
319-TMDL	22-52	Neal Mensing	\$755.58	cover crops	8/25/2020
319-TMDL	22-53	Neal Mensing	\$1,277.29	cover crops	8/25/2020
319-TMDL	22-54	Faribault Co. D.A.	\$45,981.00	Grade Stabilizations	8/1/2020
319-TMDL	22-55	Andy Linder	\$6,325.00	cover crops	8/25/2020
319-TMDL	22-56	Bill Rauenhorst	\$4,220.00	cover crops	8/25/2020
319-TMDL	22-57	Trails End Farms	\$6,020.00	cover crops	8/25/2020
319-TMDL	22-58	J-Ace Farms	\$17,400.00	cover crops	8/25/2020
319-TMDL	22-59	Eric Volsen	\$10,462.50	cover crops	8/25/2020
319-TMDL	22-60	Don Linder	\$6,322.50	cover crops	8/25/2020
319-TMDL	81-08	Terry Groskreutz	\$315.50	cover crops	8/25/2020
319-TMDL	81-09	Curt Russell	\$675.00	cover crops	8/31/2020
319-TMDL	17-09	Ramont Schrock	\$3,875.00	cover crops	8/25/2020
319-TMDL	07-09	Blue Earth Co. D.A.	\$24,500.00	Alternative Side Inlets	8/27/2020
319-TMDL	07-10	Karson Duncanson	\$18,375.00	cover crops	8/25/2020
319-TMDL	17-10	Darby Harder	\$1,550.00	cover crops	8/20/2021
319-TMDL	17-11	Tom Muller	\$2,778.75	cover crops	8/30/2020
319-TMDL	46-07	Andrew Krusemark	\$11,250.00	cover crops	8/30/2021
319-TMDL	07-11	Roger Hubmer	\$6,700.00	cover crops	8/30/2021
319-TMDL	22-61	Scott Volz	\$4,240.00	cover crops	8/30/2021
319-TMDL	81-10	Dan Roemhildt	\$5,230.00	cover crops	8/30/2021
319-TMDL	22-62	Doug Meyer	\$500.00	alternative tile intakes	8/30/2021
319-TMDL	81-11	Karl Swenson	\$3,000.00	cover crops	8/30/2021
319-TMDL	22-63	Tim Perrizo	\$2,700.00	cover crops	8/30/2021
319-TMDL	46-08	Larry Cowing	\$3,500.00	cover crops	8/30/2021
319-TMDL	22-64	Ron Volsen	\$3,767.50	cover crops	8/30/2021
319-TMDL	81-12	Mark Byron	\$1,900.00	cover crops	8/30/2021
319-TMDL	81-13	Dan Gossman	\$2,618.00	cover crops	8/30/2021
319-TMDL	81-14	Scott Gossman	\$3,634.00	cover crops	8/30/2021
TOTAL			\$315,297.53		

Month Ending 8/31/2020
GBERBA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - 9/11/2020

Checking /Savings Beginning Balance - 7/31/2020 \$ 109,663.87
 Total Receipts 24,956.62
 Total Disbursements (29,689.57)
Checking/Savings Balance - 8/31/2020 \$ 104,930.92

Receipts 8/1/2020 to 8/31/2020
 Minnesota Pollution Control - January - June 2020 - 319 Grant Reimbursement \$ 24,952.26
 Interest 4.36
\$ 24,956.62

Disbursements - 8/1/2020-8/31/2020
 3935 VOID \$ -
 3936 Pipestone SWCD - MAWQCP Area 5 Specialist 6,774.80
 3937 Cottonwood SWCD - MAWQCP Area 6 Specialist 9,562.61
 3938 Yellow Medicine SWCD - MAWQCP - TS-87-5-06 - Additional Technical Assistance 6,000.00
 3939 Dale Hesemann - MAWQCP - 32-5-21 - Worksheet/Certification Incentive 300.00
 3940 Ken Lucht - MAWQCP - 32-5-22 - Worksheet Incentive 100.00
 3941 Gary Carlson - MAWQCP - 51-5-14 - Worksheet Incentive 100.00
 3942 Keith Carlson - MAWQCP - 51-5-15 - Worksheet Incentive 100.00
 3943 Stephen Schreier - MAWQCP - 51-5-16 - Worksheet Incentive 100.00
 3944 Brian and Gloria Greenslit - MAWQCP - 65-6-08 - Worksheet Incentive 100.00
 3945 Brian and Gloria Greenslit - MAWQCP - 65-6-08 - Worksheet Incentive 100.00
 3945 Richard Enger - MAWQCP - 83-6-09 - Worksheet/Certification Incentive 300.00
 3946 Jason Wayne Smith - MAWQCP - 83-6-10 - Worksheet Incentive 100.00
 3947 Jeremy Smidt - MAWQCP - 59-5-30 - Worksheet Incentive 100.00
 3948 Cottonwood SWCD - GBERBA Coordinators 6,052.16
\$ 29,689.57

Accounts Payable - 9/11/2020
 3949 Cottonwood SWCD - GBERBA Coordinators \$ 4,588.15
 3950 Pipestone SWCD - MAWQCP Area 5 Specialist 6,934.34
 3951 Cottonwood SWCD - MAWQCP Area 6 Specialist 6,822.03
 3952 Tony Dick - 319-TMDL-16-17-08 - Cover Crop Cost-Share - CHECK REISSUED 914.34
 3953 Doug Meyer - 319-TMDL-16-22-62 - Alternative Tile Intakes - Cost-Share 500.00
 3954 Redwood SWCD - MAWQCP - TS-64-5-06 - Additional Technical Assistance 6,000.00
 3955 Brian Etrheim - MAWQCP - 59-5-31 - Worksheet Incentive 100.00
 3956 Craig Rollag - MAWQCP - 67-5-17 - Worksheet Incentive 100.00
 3957 Thomas Balfany - MAWQCP - 87-5-20 - Worksheet/Certification Incentive 100.00
 3958 Todd Balfany - MAWQCP - 87-5-21 - Worksheet/Certification Incentive 300.00
 3959 William Balfany - MAWQCP - 87-5-22 - Worksheet/Certification Incentive 300.00
 3960 Chris Balfany - MAWQCP - 87-5-19 - Certification Incentive 200.00
 3961 Loran Haas - MAWQCP - 87-5-23 - Worksheet/Certification Incentive 300.00
 3962 Randy Kraus - MAWQCP - 87-5-24 - Worksheet Incentive 100.00
 3963 Darryl Schwartz - MAWQCP - 08-6-05 - Worksheet Incentive 100.00
 3964 Clinton Benz - MAWQCP - 22-6-22 - Worksheet Incentive 100.00
 3965 VOID -
\$ 27,658.86

Accounts Receivable
 Minnesota Department of Ag. - July - **Received** \$ 18,697.54
 Minnesota Department of Ag. - August - **Requested** \$ 22,575.38
\$ 41,272.92

Bank Account Balances
 GBERBA Checking - #1839 \$ 39,996.34
 GBERBA CWL Savings - #3367 34,888.83
 GBERBA Operating Savings - regulated funds - #1871 30,045.75
\$ 104,930.92