



# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

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**DATE:** FEBRUARY 14, 2020  
**TO:** GBERBA MEMBERS  
**FROM:** KAY GROSS and DAVID BUCKLIN, GBERBA COORDINATORS  
**SUBJECT:** COORDINATOR REPORT GBERBA TECHNICAL AND EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

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

Update on progress made in areas 5 and 6 – See Certification Specialist Reports. Over 500,000 acres certified! GBERBA has the Area 5 and 6 MAWQCP administrative contract approved through 2021.

## **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. **Grant End Date 8-31-2020**

**For 2020 the cover crop acre limits are removed. At this point the 50% cost share rate will be continued.**

## **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 Watershed**

The Watonwan 1W1P Project is in full swing completing the plan language and reviewing plan sections. The Policy and Steering Committee met on February 5 to fine tune parts of the budget and plan. Discussion as to what type of organizational structure the group will use is moving forward.

## **2020 Grant Applications**

GBERBA staff submitted a Drinking Water Protection Grant application as well as a MDM Grant application for the 2020 Clean Water Fund. **GBERBA did not receive funding. Congratulations to Faribault County for the Cover Crop Grant Award!**

## **2020 MAWQCP Conservation Corps Position**

Introducing Ashley Broussard as the 2020 MAWQCP Conservation Corps position. Welcome aboard Ashley!



# 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  
January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

### Workload:

- Working with producers and SWCDs to complete assessments and certifications
- Assisting producers with MDA Grant Applications
- Cover Crop Plans
- Practice Plans
- Program Promotion
- Conservation Tillage Conference – St. Cloud
- AgExpo – Mankato Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>
- SW MN Wastewater Operators Association Meeting – Fairmont Feb 5<sup>th</sup>
- I-90 Soil Health Tour – Waseca Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, Fairmont

AREA 6	Applications	Assessments	Certifications
Blue Earth SWCD	13	12	7
Brown SWCD	10	6	3
Faribault SWCD	21	16	13
LeSueur SWCD	11	6	3
Martin SWCD	9	5	5
McLeod SWCD	9	7	4
Nicollet SWCD	1	1	1
Renville SWCD	10	7	7
Sibley SWCD	3	3	3
Waseca SWCD	11	10	4
Watonwan SWCD	11	6	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>55</b>

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.**

The **Regional Conservation Partnership Program** with NRCS has been renewed for another **five years and nine million dollars.** This program offers a pot of EQIP money that producers can use to install conservation practices to help them become certified. Only certified producers, or those seeking certification have access to these funds.

### MAWQCP Numbers as of 1-13-20

- 823 producers certified
- 560,940 acres certified
- 1,747 new practices installed or planned to be installed
- Sediment delivery to surface waters reduced by 37,281 tons per year
- Soil loss reduced by 103,954 tons per year
- Phosphorus loss reduced by 46,099 lbs. of P per year

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# Greater Blue Earth River Basin

January 27, 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 Pipestone county on Soil Health Assessment project analyzing data & organizing a winter meeting. Goal is to target potential new applicants and/or continue contact/provide services with previously certified producers
- Working on program promotion, and story map participation
- Contacting producers about endorsements

**Events:**

- Jan 9<sup>th</sup> – Research Update Meeting – Lamberton, MN
- Jan 10<sup>th</sup> – Training and Meetings - Madison, MN
- Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> – MARL Seminar – Perham, MN
- Jan 28<sup>th</sup> – We Are Water Meeting – Pipestone, MN
- Feb 5<sup>th</sup> – Soil Health Assessment Results Meeting – Pipestone, MN
- Feb 11<sup>th</sup>-March 1<sup>st</sup> – Vacation and International Trip MARL

**Program Updates and Information:**

- Endorsements for Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Wildlife Habitat & Soil Health available for certified producers.
- **WRE dollars available** for 30 year & permanent easements. Please contact me if you know of an interested producer.
- The MAWQCP RCPP EQIP has been renewed!!!
- Grant applications still available for up to \$5,000 75% cost-share through the MDA for producers
- MAWQCP has certified over **826 farms**, including over **564,482 acres** with **1,754 new BMP's**
- Estimated benefits include: **37,308 tons** of TSS reduced per year, **104,048 tons** soil reduced per year, **46,128 lbs** Phosphorous reduced per year, **37,054 CO<sub>2-e</sub> tons** per year

### YEAR TO DATE NUMBERS

<b><u>Area 5</u></b>	<b><u>Applications</u></b>	<b><u>Assessments Completed</u></b>	<b><u>Actively Pursuing Cert.</u></b>	<b><u>Certifications</u></b>
Cottonwood SWCD	32	31	2	13
Jackson SWCD	30	27	1	17
Lac Qui Parle SWCD	6	6	0	4
Lincoln SWCD	18	17	0	6
Lyon SWCD	15	14	1	7
Murray SWCD	13	13	0	10
Nobles SWCD	14	14	0	10
Pipestone SWCD	42	38	2	18
Redwood SWCD	34	34	1	22
Rock SWCD	20	16	2	10
Yellow Medicine SWCD	27	23	2	11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>128</b>

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# Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

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**DATE:** January 22, 2020

**NAME:** Josh Votruba  
Cottonwood SWCD Watershed Technician

**Working on:**

- *Watonwan River One Watershed, One Plan:* The Watonwan 1W1P Advisory Committee has begun the process of reviewing and commenting on draft sections of the Watonwan River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The Watonwan Advisory Committee has sent me comments to be consolidated for draft sections 2 (Introduction), 3 (Land and Water Resources Narrative), and 4 (Identification and Prioritization of Resource Categories, Concerns, and Issues). Comments for draft sections 7 (Implementation Programs) & 8 (Plan Administration & Coordination) are due to me January 24. The comments for sections 2,3,4,7 & 8 will be consolidated and sent back to the Steering Team for review Jan 29. During the February 5 Steering Team Meeting the Steering Team will go over the comments for sections 2,3,4,7 & 8.
- *GBERBA ELINK Grant Reporting:* Continue the process of entering GBERBA project information into Elink for GBERBA Grant 37 (cover crops/alternative tile intakes).
- *Grant 37 Semi-Annual Report:* Have been assisting Kay and Dave with the MPCA semi-annual report for GBERBA Grant 37 (Cover Crops/Alternative Intakes), this report is due February 1.



## Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

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



Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance



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January 22, 2020

### **Introduction:**

- Hello, my name is Ashley Broussard and I am the Agriculture and Water Outreach Americorps member serving with the Conservation Corps of MN & IA. I will be working with Cottonwood SWCD this year.
- I am originally from Plainfield, IL, a suburb of Chicago. I graduated from Northern Illinois University this past December with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies and an Emphasis in Water Science.
- I have a wide variety of field experience gained through student volunteering, upper division field courses, and an internship with Kane County Division of Environmental and Water Resources.
- I am looking forward to learning more about MAWQCP and am excited to be a part of this amazing team.

### **Projects:**

- Attended Conservation Corps individual placement orientation in St. Paul.
- Visit to Minnesota History Center with Conservation Corps.
- Introductions/orientation at Cottonwood SWCD.
- Introduction to MAWQCP and GBERBA.

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