

TURKEY RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1:00 pm Thursday, June 30th, 2016

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

The regular meeting of the Turkey River Watershed Management Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 1:00 pm on June 30th, 2016 at Big Springs Hatchery, in Elkader, Iowa.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gerry Ommen, Clayton County SWCD
Leigh Rekow, City of Postville
Eric Boehm, City of Wadena
Rhonda Dales, City of Elgin
Bruce Lehman, City of Clermont
Mark Kuhn, Winneshiek County
Dwayne Hauber, Winneshiek SWCD

Bill Bennett, Fayette County SWCD
Jennifer Cowsert, City of Elkader
Jon Biederman, City of Fayette
Dan Canton, City of Monona
Dan Carolan, City of Lawler
Jack Knight, Allamakee SWCD
Jim Reicks, Chickasaw SWCD

Rod Marlatt, Fayette County
Ron McCartney, Clayton County
Jon Biederman, City of West Union
Dwayne Hauber, Winneshiek SWCD
Dan Carolan, Chickasaw County
Bart Wilson, Howard SWCD

*Phone

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

****MOVED BY BENNETT, SECONDED BY OMMEN, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TO APPROVE AGENDA WITH ADDITIONS OF INCOME/EXPENSE, AND WMA WPAC LETTER.

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 24TH, 2016**

****MOVED BY DALES, SECONDED BY OMMEN, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:**

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MARCH 24TH, 2016 AS PRESENTED.

***OLD BUSINESS**

- Income/Expense Report – Ron McCartney of Clayton County requested verification of total grant expenditures and a detailed report of activities from those grants by the next TRWMA meeting.
- Grant Updates – Ross Evelsizer from Northeast Iowa RC&D updated the Board on a number of grants that are in progress, past applications, or coming available
 - Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program – Northeast Iowa RC&D submitted an application to coordinate efforts to begin implementation in the TRW. This application was unsuccessful.
 - NRCS Conservation Collaboration Grant – RC&D submitted a grant in April to assist Chickasaw County NRCS and SWCD with prioritization and planning for sub-watersheds in the county.
- Otter Creek Update – Paul Berland from Northeast Iowa RC&D updated the board that construction is underway for several of the flood reduction projects in Otter Creek. Construction and modeling of results will be completed by the next TRWMA meeting at the end of September.
- Water Sampling Updates – Ross Evelsizer updated the board of water sampling plans for each county during 2016. Howard SWCD and Fayette SWCD are continuing sampling similar to previous years at the same locations. Winneshiek SWCD purchased equipment to conduct their own analysis but is still collecting samples at the same locations. The equipment measures all of the same parameters except bacteria. Clayton SWCD is considering sampling at a reduced number of locations.

***NEW BUSINESS**

- Implementation Project Updates – Several entities provided updates about projects that are happening in the TRW. These projects are all being carried out by entities of the TRWMA board and will contribute to flood reduction and water quality improvement across the watershed.
 - Winneshiek SWCD continues working on the Central Turkey River Nutrient Reduction Demonstration project. In 2015, 3,200 cropped acres were signed up for cover crops and no-till. In 2016, 1,100 acres have already been signed up but it was noted that most acres are enrolled later in the year. This project encompasses the Burr Oak, Brockamp, Rodgers, and Wonder Creek sub-watersheds.
 - Clayton County SWCD is also working on an IDALS WQI project in the Silver Creek and Upper Roberts sub-watersheds. This includes construction of terraces and waterways as well as cover crop promotion. Producers established 2,000 acres of cover crops in 2015.
 - Clayton County has also enrolled 2,150 acres of new CRP contracts in 2016. There are over 40,000 acres currently enrolled in CRP in Clayton County. Governor Branstad celebrated Soil and Water Stewardship Week with a visit to the county to plant trees on a local farm.
 - The City of Monona is installing permeable pavers on Bulldog Boulevard next to the Aquatic Center. Monona is receiving a portion of the funding for the project through SRF Clean Water Sponsored Projects

program. This project impacts the Silver Creek and Roberts Creek sub-watersheds. RC&D and Fehr Graham Engineering assisted Monona with the application.

- The City of Postville is incorporating several storm water management practices in the next year thanks to SRF Clean Water Sponsored Projects program funding. These projects include installing permeable pavers in a city parking lot across from the YMCA, purchasing property to do a stream restoration project along Williams Creek, and storm water management demonstration site in the RC&D parking lot and adjacent city parking spaces. These projects will impact both the TRW (Roberts Creek) and the Yellow River Watershed. RC&D and Fehr Graham Engineering assisted Monona with the application.
 - The City of Fayette is eligible to apply for funding from the SRF Clean Water Sponsored Projects program and is putting in an application for the current funding cycle. If successful, the funding would be used for 8 retention cells in the downtown area. RC&D and Fehr Graham Engineering are assisting with the application.
 - The City of Strawberry Point is also eligible for the SRF Clean Water Sponsored Projects program funding and is putting in an application as well. They are looking to do a detention basin. Fehr Graham is assisting with the application.
- WMA WPAC Board Letter of Support – WMAs from around the state are pushing to be represented on the Watershed Planning Advisory Council. The WPAC board is made up of representatives from business, public, agricultural, and conservation organizations to provide an annual report of recommendations to the Iowa Legislature. Currently, WMA's are not represented on this board. The TRWMA Board discussed signing a letter and to provide a letter of support with all members signatures to give WMAs representation on the WPAC board.
*****MOVED BY BENNETT, SECONDED BY CAROLAN, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: TO PROVIDE SIGNATURES AND A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE IOWA LEGISLATURE TO CREATE REPRESENTATION FOR WMAS ON THE WATERSHED PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL BOARD.**
 - Watershed Connections – Gary Siegwarth presented to the attendees about the land-water connection within the TRW. Big Springs Fish Hatchery relies on the largest spring in Iowa, Big Spring, to provide clean water to raise trout which are stocked in local streams to provide angling opportunities. Big Spring has a large 'spring-shed' and is very closely tied to surface water. Big Spring will see the effects of heavy rainfall almost as quickly as surface streams. Siegwarth showed how quickly the raceways silt in after a significant rainfall by shoveling some silt off the bottom of the raceway. The silt was approximately 2 inches thick after about 2.25 inches of rain fell around the area. Siegwarth also talked about the importance of conservation practices for protecting surface AND ground waters from erosion and nutrient loading. These problems are closely tied to flooding and many of the same practices treat all of the problems. Siegwarth talked about the importance of teaching kids and adults about the land water connection and how important raising awareness is to working toward a solution.
 - Rainfall Simulator – Neil Sass of NRCS brought the rainfall simulator to demonstrate to attendees. The simulator shows the impact of heavy rain on 3 types of soil surface cover. CRP grass, no-till soil with corn residue, and traditional tillage soils were the 3 selected surface cover types. The simulator added about one inch of rainfall to the 3 soil types. The results showed that grass and no-till soil surfaces infiltrated nearly 100% of the rainfall with almost no runoff or erosion. The traditional tillage soil infiltrated only down to about ½ inch into the soil while nearly 100% of the water ran off. There was also a significant amount of soil splattered around from the impact of the rain drops. Pictures of the simulator are attached for reference.

***ADJOURNMENT AT 2:00 PM**

****MOVED BY BOEHM, SECONDED BY BIEDERMAN, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO ADJUORN REGULAR MEETING AT 2:00 PM**

*******The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September
29th, 2016, at 1:00 PM at the Postville YMCA*******





Big Spring Trout Hatchery



The **Big Spring Rearing Station** is located along the Turkey River 10 miles northwest of Elkader in Clayton County. Approximately 150,000 rainbow and brook trout are reared at Big Spring and stocked by hatchery personnel into 15 different coldwater streams. All trout reared at Big Spring are obtained from the Manchester Hatchery when they are 2-3 inches in size and then grown to catchable size (10-12 inches). In total it takes approximately 15 months to grow a trout to catchable size.



The water supply for Big Spring is fed by the **largest coldwater spring in Iowa**. Flows from the spring usually range from 20,000 to 30,000 gallons per minute (GPM), but can exceed 150,000 GPM. The **Big Spring Watershed** is one of the most well known and studied sites in the nation when it comes to information on groundwater in a karst (limestone) dominated landscape. The Big Spring Basin is a showcase for large sinkhole, losing streams, and caves.



The **Turkey River at Big Spring is open for public fishing**. Recently completed renovations include an improved **angler access trail** along the river, a **trout pond** at the entrance that is open for public fishing, and a **kids fishing pond** for young anglers 15 and under (kids must be accompanied by a licensed adult). Trout are stocked in the Turkey River 3 times a week including most Saturdays from April 1 through the end of October. The hatchery grounds and Turkey River are open to the public 7 days a week year round. A **primitive campground** is located along the river at Big Spring & within walking distance of the hatchery.



Kids Fishing Pond



Angler Access Trail Along the Turkey River

How To Get Here: The best way to get to Big Spring is by taking county road X16 (Gunder Road) north of Elkader past the golf course and then going west on Big Spring Road. **Phone: 563-245-2446**

What you need to fish for trout: Any angler 16 or older needs to have a fishing license and trout privilege to fish for trout. Anglers younger than 16 can fish for trout if they are with a licensed adult or they can purchase their own trout privilege if they want to keep their own **daily limit of 5 trout**.