

TURKEY RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1:00 pm Thursday, July 31st, 2014

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

The regular meeting of the Turkey River Watershed Management Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 1:11 pm on July 31st, 2014 at the Postville YMCA, in Postville, Iowa.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bart Wilson, Howard SWCD	Ron Hyberger, City of Cresco	Terry Buenzow, City of Hawkeye
Rhonda Dales, City of Elgin	Jennifer Cowser, City of Elkader	Jason Byrne, City of Lawler
Jon Biederman, City of Fayette	Jon Biederman, City of West Union	Gerry Ommen, Clayton County SWCD
Dan Canton, City of Monona	Bill Bennett, Fayette County SWCD	Marlene Klemp, City of Waucoma
Paul Hoeger, Maynard	Elizabeth Jaster, City of Strawberry Pt	Jason Byrne, Chickasaw County
Rod Marlatt, Fayette County	Dwayne Hauber, Winneshiek SWCD	Jan McGovern, Howard County
Gary Bowden, Clayton County		

*** APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

****MOVED BY HOEGER, SECONDED BY WILSON, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
TO APPROVE AGENDA AS PRESENTED**

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 27TH, 2014**

****MOVED BY WILSON, SECONDED BY KLEMP, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MARCH 27TH, 2014 AS PRESENTED.**

***NEW BUSINESS**

• **BYLAW CHANGE REGARDING ANNUAL MEETING DATE**

****MOVED BY OMMEN, SECONDED BY BIEDERMAN, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

TO CHANGE THE REQUIRED TIME FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING FROM JULY TO THE THIRD QUARTER OF THE CALENDAR YEAR (after a final reading of this change at the next regular meeting)

• **REPORT FROM MEMBERS ON THE DAMAGE AND FINANCIAL COSTS OF 2014 SPRING FLOODING**

Although all were in agreement that the 2014 flooding was not as severe as 2008 flooding, several TRWMA members reported property damage and financial costs associated with the 2014 spring flooding including the following: Fayette County Engineer reported over \$750,000 in damage, 550 road locations impacted by flooding, 30 to 40 sections of road closed due to scour and damage including 1 bridge that must be replaced. Fayette County Conservation Board reported park damage and dramatic river course changes. City of Elkader reported up to \$75,000 in damage. Clayton County Supervisors reported mild damage. Howard County Supervisors reported approximately \$30,000 in damage. Chickasaw County Supervisors reported approximately \$80,000 in damage. Winneshiek County reported approximately \$75,000 on one culvert alone but also extensive damage in the Yellow River Watershed. Three counties were declared federal disaster areas including Fayette, Winneshiek and Chickasaw.

• **UPDATE FROM LARRY WEBER WITH THE IOWA FLOOD CENTER**

Larry Weber demonstrated a comparative time lapse analysis of rainfall and surface water response in the Turkey River Watershed in 2008 and 2014. He also demonstrated accumulation of rainfall and peak stream flows for 2008 and 2014. 2014 had a 25% lower volume of flow, which was attributed to several factors including rainfall distribution, intensity and timing. Movement of nitrogen as relevant to rainfall and runoff was also presented. Information regarding the Otter Creek Project including water quality sensors and the relationship of corn acres and other land use in Otter as compared to the TRW were presented noting that smaller watersheds typically have higher N and watersheds typically have higher N upstream compared to downstream. However, the Weber reported that there are lower concentrations of N in Otter than in the Turkey River at the mouth of Otter Creek, indicating that landowners in Otter Creek are "doing something right". Weber showed graphs of N concentrations that demonstrated rainfall events initially lowering N by dilution but that over time the N rebounded to higher levels. Weber reported the Hydrologic Assessment of the TRW was complete and made the final copies available. Extras to be distributed by request by Northeast Iowa RC&D. The Assessment included recommendations from TRWMA partners such as smaller pond sizes. It models impact of installation of 402 ponds in 250 sub-basins, controlling 23% of the watershed runoff. These ponds were modeled to decrease flow at Garber by 4% and by a much larger percentage in smaller subwatersheds such as a 28% reduction of flow in Otter Creek. Weber reported that they have installed shallow groundwater wells and that the IFC and IIHR hope to work in the TRW beyond the Phase II project period. IFC is working on improving their on-line floodplain mapping interface to make it more user friendly and invites users to provide input.

Cowser reported that the floodplain mapping interface has been especially helpful for Elkader and Clayton County users.

The IFC provided a draft of the report. This draft will be made available at www.turkeyriver.org.

• **APPLIED PLANNING**

Friest reported that several grants has be developed based on the input from TRWMA and TRWMA committees. These grants would help advance the planning effort as well as help the groups with implementation of priority components of the TRWMA plans, thus they are considered 'applied planning'. The grant development process was particularly helpful in motivating TRWMA committees to be more specific in their planning and once completed the grants will be presented to the TRWMA Board so that the Board can decide which, if any components will be included in their TRWMA plans. The following grants were discussed.

- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program** – Friest reported that in response to the recommendations made by the County Infrastructure Committee and the Commissioners Committee, a \$20 Million pre-proposal was submitted to USDA's Regional Conservation Partnership Program in collaboration with partners from throughout the four state Driftless Area of Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin. The Turkey River Watershed was listed as a priority watershed in the proposal, which includes 150 structures and numerous other conservation practices for the TRW as well as technical assistance. Friest noted that

the would be for practices, engineering and technical assistance (RC&D would not receive funds from this proposal.) Funding would be mainly in the form of EQIP dollars and although prioritized to four HUC 8 watersheds in the Driftless Area, the funding could be used anywhere in the Driftless Area watersheds including the Upper Iowa River etc. USDA is supposed to notify applicants about whether or not they are able to submit final proposals by August 1st.

- **McKnight Foundation** – Friest reported that this grant was awarded. Northeast Iowa RC&D in collaboration with the Iowa Flood Center submitted a proposal to the McKnight Foundation to replace the rain gauge and soil moisture probes (that NASA removed) throughout the watershed. The proposal also requested funding to pay for 6 volunteer producers to monitor tile line runoff at a total of 12 sites in the TRW. The Iowa Soybean Association will assist with producer recruitment for the tile-line monitoring and has expressed interest in working more in the TRW. McKnight’s final award included some funding for Northeast Iowa RC&D to coordinate the distribution of the rain gauges and work with the Soybean Association on the tile-line monitoring.
- **Conservation Innovation Grants** –
 - IIHR National and State** – Weber reported that IIHR had submitted a national CIG, “A New Tool to Assess Nutrient Reduction from the Hillslope to the Watershed Scale”. This grant proposes to use INRS modeling in the Turkey River Watershed. The modeling would help us understand the lag time in nitrogen fluxes and help program managers better understand how long after a conservation practices are put on the ground before nitrogen levels could be expected to be reduced in streams and rivers. The SWCD’s and the RC&D partnered on this proposal. These grants are pending.
 - Northeast Iowa RC&D State** – Friest reported that an Iowa CIG, Demonstration of the Rapid Land Cover Mapper as a Method of Systematically Quantifying the Engagement of Landowners and Adoption of Conservation Practices”, was submitted by the RC&D with two main goals, 1) to use the RLCM tool to better understand the impact of the TRW project in terms of quantitative shifts in land cover. i.e. what is our net gain or net loss 2) identify and work with “Champion Producers” to promote conservation practices in the TRW. This grant is pending.

***ADJOURNMENT AT 2:50 PM**

****MOVED BY BOWDEN, SECONDED BY HOEGER, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO ADJUORN REGULAR MEETING AT 2:04 PM**

*******The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday
SEPTEMBER 25, 2014, at 1:00 PM at the Postville
YMCA*******