

TURKEY RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1:00 pm Thursday, June 25th, 2015

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 25th, 2015 at Postville YMCA, in Postville, Iowa.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Knight, Allamakee SWCD
Dustin Schott, City of Arlington
Paul Hoeger, City of Maynard
Chris Hackman, City of Postville
Marlene Klemp, City of Waucoma
Ron McCartney, Clayton County
Rhonda Dales, City of Elgin
Kristin Klingman, City of Volga

Jennifer Cowser, City of Elkader
Dan Carolan, Chickasaw County
Dan Carolan, City of Lawler
Kristin Klingman, City of Volga
Jon Biederman, West Union
Eric Boehm, City of Wadena
Dan Canton, City of Monona
Mark Kuhn, Winneshiek County

Gerry Ommen, Clayton County SWCD
Bill Bennett, Fayette County SWCD
Rod Marlatt, Fayette County
Jim Reicks, Chickasaw SWCD
Jon Biederman, Fayette
Ron Hyberger, City of Cresco
Bart Wilson, Howard SWCD

*Phone

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

****MOVED BY KNIGHT, SECONDED BY KLEMP, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
TO APPROVE AGENDA AS PRESENTED**

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 16TH, 2015**

****MOVED BY BENNETT, SECONDED BY HOEGER, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 16TH, 2015 AS PRESENTED.**

***OLD BUSINESS**

- Distribute completed TRW Flood Reduction Plan – Northeast Iowa RC&D staff distributed copies of the TRWMA Flood Reduction plan. Additional copies of the printed plan are available from RC&D or for download from turkeyriver.org.
- Discussion of Water Quality Monitoring – Lora Friest discussed the intention of organizing sampling to resume in 2015. Previously, water samples were sent to the State Hygienic Lab but due to funding restrictions, this option was too expensive. Coe College, which can do the analysis for a much lower cost, was selected for samples going forward in 2015. SWCDs were asked to contribute enough to cover 50% of the cost for the sites in their respective counties and RC&D will match funds contributed. Water monitoring will take place the final Tuesday of each month starting in June and concluding in October.
- Grant Updates – Lora Friest updated the Board on a number of grants that are in progress, past applications, or coming available
 - RC&D is working with the Iowa Soybean Association and producers in the TRW to monitor tile outlets for Nitrates. Monitoring at 13 sites with 7 producers started in May of 2015 and will continue through October. Results from the sampling efforts will be shared with the public and the TRWMA at the conclusion of the project but the producers and locations for sampling will not be included to protect those participating.
 - An NRCS State Conservation Innovation Grant taking place in the TRW is also under way. RC&D is working with Jessica Rilling to photograph producers and the conservation practices they incorporate. This conservation promotion project is taking place over the next three years.
 - RCPP – The RFP is out for 2016 RCPP pre-applications.
****MOVED BY KUHN, SECONDED BY OMMEN, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO SUPPORT A PRE-PROPOSAL APPLICATION FOR THE 2016 RCPP RFP.**
 - RC&D submitted a preproposal and were invited to submit a full proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for a grant to work with producers in the TRW to increase conservation on their lands. RC&D partnered with the Iowa Soybean Association. The final grant application is due August 18th, 2015.

***NEW BUSINESS**

- Iowa Flood Center Update – Antonio Arenas presented information about data analysis being completed at the Iowa Flood Center (IFC). Mr. Arenas presented a new tool available to the public called the Iowa Water Quality Information System. This tool is similar to the Iowa Flood Information System but shows near real-time monitoring gauges across the state. It includes many of the same tools as IFIS as well including current weather conditions, etc. The IWQIS will show how Nitrate levels vary across the state, across watersheds, and through different seasons.

- Otter Creek Update - Paul Berland and Adam Grim updated the board about the flood detention structures being completed in Otter Creek. Bids are being let in July with construction on the first round of structures set to begin in 2015. A second round of structures is slated for review and construction in 2015-2016.
- Field Day with Iowa Corn Growers Association – Lora Friest discussed partnering with the Iowa Corn Growers Association to host a field day in the TRW in mid-August. The field day would include a number of different speakers and activities to get producers engaged in efforts in the TRW. RC&D is coordinating with Northeast Iowa District Field Manager John Finley to put together the field day.
- Presentation – Rebecca Ohrtman with the Iowa DNR’s Source Water Protection Program presented to the TRWMA Board. Ms. Ohrtman is the program coordinator and has extensive experience helping communities protect their drinking source water. Protection involves determining the capture zone draining to the source and working with local partners to protect the source from contamination. Ms. Ohrtman emphasized that many solutions are available for protecting source water and that local partnerships are the key to implementing protection practices.

***ADJOURNMENT AT 2:30 PM**

****MOVED BY OMMEN, SECONDED BY DALES, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO ADJUORN REGULAR MEETING AT 2:30 PM**

*******The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September
17th, 2015, at 1:00 PM at the Postville YMCA*******