

TURKEY RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1:00 pm Thursday, June 22nd, 2017

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

The regular meeting of the Turkey River Watershed Management Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 1:06 pm on June 22nd, 2017 at the YMCA in Postville, Iowa.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gerry Ommen, Clayton County SWCD
John Nikolai, City of Elkader
Rhonda Dales, City of Elgin
Paul Hoeger, City of Maynard
Mark Kuhn, Winneshiek County
Dan Carolan, Chickasaw County

Bill Bennett, Fayette County SWCD
Ray Peterson, Clayton County
Dwayne Hauber, Winneshiek SWCD
Chris Hackman, City of Postville
Linda Sedlmayer, City of Farmersburg
Dustin Schott, City of Arlington

Rod Marlatt, Fayette County
Eric Boehm, City of Wadena
Kristin Klingman, City of Volga
Dan Canton, City of Monona
Dan Carolan, City of Lawler

*Phone

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

****MOVED BY KUHN, SECONDED BY OMMEN, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
TO APPROVE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 23RD, 2017**

****MOVED BY BENNETT, SECONDED BY CAROLAN, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 23RD, 2017 AS PRESENTED.**

***OLD BUSINESS**

- Grant Updates – Ross Evelsizer from Northeast Iowa RC&D updated the Board on two grants that are in progress.
 - AgSolver Profit Zone Manager Project – Northeast Iowa RC&D and the Iowa Soybean Association are working with producers to improve return of investment and conservation with producers in the TRW. A number of producers have signed up for the project and their data is currently being analyzed.
 - Conservation Innovation Grant – RLCM – RC&D also updated the board on the Conservation Innovation Grant received from NRCS. This project is a combination of land cover analysis and conservation promotion. Professional photographs were taken with many producers to demonstrate all of the many conservation practices currently being used by producers in the TRW. The land cover analysis shows high resolution land cover data derived from aerial photos. This makes it easier to track small changes to the landscape from year to year.
- SRF Sponsored Projects 2017 Letters of Support for West Union and Fayette – In February the board was asked to support two project applications for the State Revolving Loan Sponsored Projects Program from the City of Fayette and the City of West Union. The City of Fayette applied for funding to install vegetated bio-retention cells in the downtown area which would help capture runoff and improve the aesthetic quality of the downtown area. The City of West Union applied to resurface part of the West Union City Hall parking lot with permeable pavers and install a rain garden adjacent to the building. Each of these project applications were successfully funded with West Union receiving \$58,300 and Fayette receiving \$30,000 for storm water projects in their respective communities.
- County On-Road Policy Update – Rod Marlatt asked for updates from each TRW county regarding progress implementing the on-road policy. This policy states that counties will consider on-road detention structures when replacing small bridges and culverts on county roads should the structures be damaged or destroyed. The counties would work with adjacent landowners to complete any projects. Mark Kuhn of Winneshiek County reported that they have not yet installed any structures in the TRW but are currently assessing possible locations. Dan Carolan of Chickasaw County reported that they have installed two such structures and have a goal of completing one per year going forward.

***NEW BUSINESS**

- Iowa Flood Center – Breanna Shea updated the board on the status of Iowa Flood Center funding that was in jeopardy due to legislative budget cuts. Shea thanked the board for their support in contacting legislators to restore funding to the Iowa Flood Center. Antonio Arenas also spoke to the board and provided information about new data and tools available to measure existing and potential conservation best management practices. The Iowa DNR is developing a database of existing conservation practices derived from LiDAR data and aerial imagery from 2007-2010. The database identifies ponds, water and sediment control basins, grass waterways, contour farming, and terraces present during the period of record. The Iowa Flood Center has been working with a suite of ArcGIS tools called the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF). The ACPF tools use parcel data, land cover, and digital elevation models to pinpoint locations for potential conservation practices. Because these tools identify some

of the same practices, the IFC is able to cross examine the datasets and determine how many potential conservation practices are already in existence.

- Iowa WMA Collective – Ross Eversizer of RC&D asked the board if they wanted to share their contact information with the Iowa WMA Collective. This group has formed to unify the message and goals of WMAs and share ideas between groups. There are now 20 WMAs in Iowa.
- Clayton County WQI Project – Eric Palas, Clayton County Watershed Coordinator, reviewed the accomplishments of the Water Quality Initiative project in Silver and Upper Roberts Creek known as “Demonstration of Targeted Nutrient Reduction Systems for Clayton County”. From January 1st 2014 through December 31st 2016, the project has helped implement nearly 7,000 acres of cover crops, over 40,000 feet of terraces, 12.8 acres of CRP buffers, and 380 feet of streambank protection. The City of Monona also installed .8 acres of permeable pavers to infiltrate rainwater. These efforts are intended to increase the adoption of conservation practices as a normal part of crop production and ultimately improve the water quality in Silver and Roberts Creeks.
- Winneshiek/Fayette WQI Project – This item was tabled
- Otter Creek Report – Rod Marlatt updated the board about the Otter Creek Flood Reduction Project. Currently, 29 detention structures have been constructed in the watershed to date. Funding was not entirely used by the constructed projects and Iowa Economic Development Authority granted an extension to allow further expenditure of the dedicated funds. Potentially eight additional projects may be constructed in 2017.

***ADJOURNMENT AT 2:10 PM**

****MOVED BY BOEHM, SECONDED BY DALES, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING AT 2:10 PM**

*******The next meeting (including the annual meeting) is
scheduled for Thursday September 28th, 2017, at 1:00 PM at
the Postville YMCA*******

DEMONSTRATION OF TARGETED NUTRIENT REDUCTION SYSTEMS FOR CLAYTON COUNTY

CLAYTON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

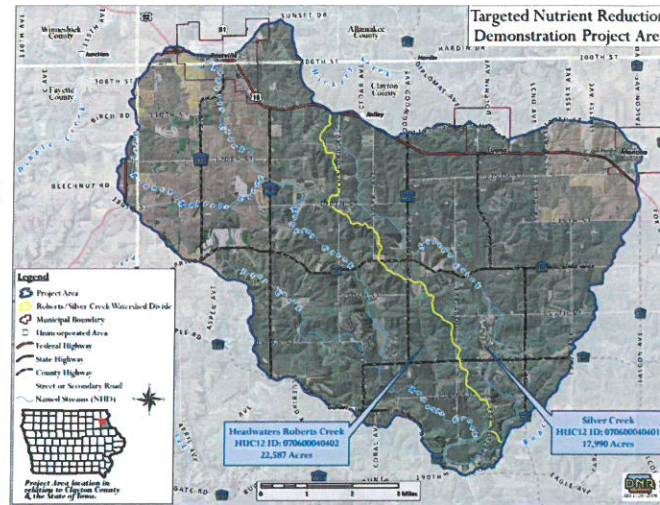
Basis of the Project

The "Demonstration of Targeted Nutrient Reduction Systems for Clayton County" project is an opportunity to protect and improve our land and water resources through the initiatives described in the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. In 2014, the project began efforts to accelerate the use of cover crop, no-till, and erosion control systems in the Upper Roberts and Silver Creek watersheds.

Watershed Background

The Upper Roberts and Silver Creek Watersheds are located in northwest Clayton County. These watersheds represent some of the most intensely cropped portions of the region. Steep cropland slopes of 5-14% are predominant. This combination of row crops and sloping land creates a need for a diverse and extensive system of conservation practices.

The watersheds were included in Iowa's initial water quality improvement project, the Big Spring Demonstration Project (1986 - 1992). Since 2007, the District has promoted stream corridor and sinkhole protection, and the targeted installation of structural practices to reduce sediment delivery through the Silver Creek Watershed Project. Structural practices and buffers that resulted from these projects have created a permanent conservation infrastructure. By adding cover crops and no-till to the existing system of practices, reductions in nutrient and sediment delivery will be multiplied. The new demonstration project continues over thirty years of water quality initiatives sponsored by the Clayton SWCD.



Project Goals

This effort showcases a system of conservation practices tailored to produce quality waters, profitable crops, and healthy soils. The Clayton SWCD supports farmers that are willing to demonstrate, promote, and prove the effectiveness of cover crops, no-till, and terraces. This system serves as a local model for nitrogen and phosphorous loading reductions. This effort is centered on targeted, voluntary conservation measures and showcases how landowners, farm operators, agency staff, and service providers can build upon their past efforts, intensify their conservation ethic, and voluntarily work together to create water quality improvements.



From "Integrated Farm Management Notes", Volume 5, September 1989



Landowner Recognition



Aerial Seeding



Oats & Radishes



Drilled Cereal Rye

Project Objectives

January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019

- Establish 9,000 acres of cover crops.
- Expand demonstrations that quantify the benefits of no-till and cover crops.
- Target structural and buffer practices to cropland slopes in the watersheds.
- Conduct a series of field days, workshops, and demonstrations that will increase public understanding of nutrient management issues and encourage greater involvement and participation in these programs.

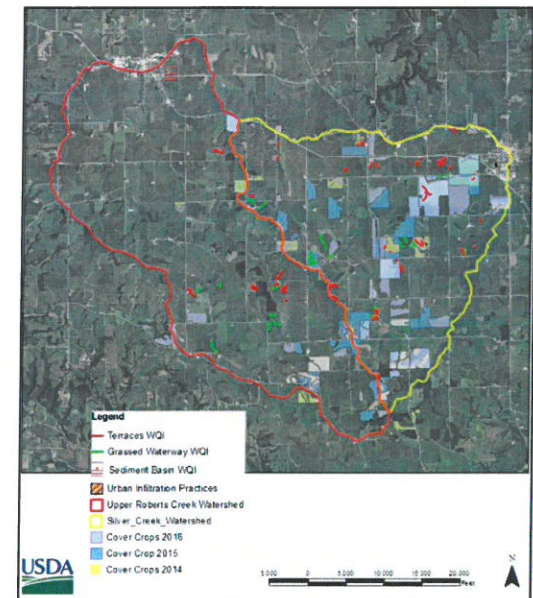
Progress

Landowners have implemented a variety of practices.:

Conservation Practice	Total Complete 1/1/14 to 12/31/16
Cover Crops	6,696 acres
Terraces	40,815 feet
Water & Sediment Control Basins	1 basin
Grassed Waterways	21.6 acres
Urban Infiltration Practices	0.8 acres
CRP Buffers (New & Re-enrolled)	12.8 acres
Streambank Protection	380 feet



No-till Planting Into a Cereal Rye Cover Crop



Goals for 2017

Goal #1:

Continue to assist landowners as they put the practices described in the Iowa Nutrient Reductions Strategy to work on their farms.

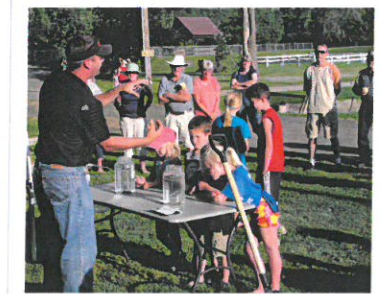
Continued support will allow the District to build upon the early successes of the project, to further address nutrient loading, and to assist landowners that are interested in conservation improvements for their farms.

Goal #2:

Evaluate progress and renew priorities for project activities:

Interest in cover crops is growing across Clayton County. The Iowa Water Quality Initiative Demonstration Grant supports project activities through December 31, 2019.

For More Information, Contact:
Eric Palas, Project Coordinator
eric.palas@ia.nacdn.net



August 2015 Field Day



Terrace Construction



Monona's Permeable Roadway