

TURKEY RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1:00 pm Thursday, July 9th, 2020

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 July 9th, 2020 at Northeast Iowa RC&D in Postville, Iowa.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rod Marlatt, Fayette County
Jason Byrne, Chickasaw County
Gerry Ommen, Clayton SWCD
Jon Biederman, City of West Union
Rhonda Dales, City of Elgin

Bill Bennett, Fayette SWCD
Ray Peterson, Clayton County
Bruce Lehman, City of Clermont
Kristin Klingman, City of Volga*

Jason Byrne, City of Lawler
Jennifer Cowser, City of Elkader
Jon Biederman, City of Fayette
Bart Wilson, Howard SWCD*

*Virtual attendance

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 21ST, 2019**

****MOVED BY BENNETT, SECONDED BY BYRNE, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 21ST, 2019 AS PRESENTED.**

***OLD BUSINESS**

- County On-Road Policy Update – Rod Marlatt briefly reminded the board to continue to utilize on-road detention projects as a way to reduce flooding problems in the TRW.
- TRWMA Coordinator Update – Ross Evelsizer (RC&D) updated the board about coordinator activities since the last board meeting in November. Evelsizer has been working on grant applications for the TRW, updating the TRW website turkeyriver.org, and representing the TRWMA at meetings with potential project partners. In November of 2019, the board approved solicitation of volunteer donations to support coordinator activities in 2020. Letters were sent to each TRWMA member entity. Many entities contributed donations of \$250. Any entity that approved the donation but requires an invoice should contact Northeast Iowa RC&D.
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program – Ross Evelsizer (RC&D) discussed an opportunity for funding through the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program. In March, NRCS announced awards and the application for the TRW was awarded \$3 million. The Iowa Department of Ag and Land Stewardship (IDALS) is the primary applicant and will funnel funding to SWCDs and NRCS offices in the TRW beginning in fall of 2020. Projects eligible for funding are practices eligible for funding under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program or EQIP. More details will come when contracts between NRCS and IDALS are finalized.

***NEW BUSINESS**

- Fayette County Hazard Mitigation Project – Northeast Iowa RC&D is assisting Fayette County with an application to the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Funding Program through Homeland Security and Emergency Management for the State of Iowa. The project includes a large on-road detention structure that will help mitigate flooding in the TRW and is located northwest of the City of West Union. RC&D is collecting data from past flood events to help justify the cost of the project.
- North Carolina/IFC Partnership – The Iowa Flood Center (IFC) invited Ross Evelsizer as a representative to the TRW to travel with IFC staff and other state partners to North Carolina in March of 2020 to meet with officials there to discuss watershed resiliency strategies. The TRW is recognized as a leader in flood mitigation actions in the State of Iowa. Unfortunately, the trip was cancelled due to COVID-19 measures. A zoom meeting with representatives from both states was held in place of the in person meetings and ideas were shared from both sides. Evelsizer shared a summary of the meeting.
- Multi-Cropping Iowa Update – Ross Evelsizer (RC&D) updated the board about the Multi-Cropping Iowa project which started in 2018. The project is working to expand the use of relay cropping and other regenerative cropping methods that promote soil health. Producers participating in the project in 2019 found that relay-cropping was three to five times more profitable than mono-crop soybeans. While at the same time, soil testing showed that multi-cropping fields had higher organic matter and better structure than control fields. Continued soil health improvement will help infiltrate rainwater more quickly and reduce the need for chemical inputs in production. RC&D has received two new grants to expand the project to include IDNR fisheries staff and the Iowa Flood Center on different aspects of multi-cropping research.
- TRW Rain Gauges – Breanna Shea (Iowa Flood Center) provided an update via email regarding the rain gauges and soil probes in the TRW. The gauges were collected in 2019 for maintenance or replacement and were to be redeployed in the TRW in 2020. Because of shut downs related to COVID-19 and funding concerns have prevented the gauges from being deployed as scheduled. The TRW will remain a priority for gauging and research for the IFC.

- Other

***ADJOURNMENT AT 2:00 PM**

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

*******The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September
24th, 2020, at 1:00 PM at a location TBD *******