

TURKEY RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1:00 pm Thursday, September 24th, 2020

**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**

The regular and annual meeting of the Turkey River Watershed Management Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 1:00 pm on September 24th, 2020 at Gilbertson Park in Elgin, Iowa.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rod Marlatt, Fayette County	Linda Sedlmayer, City of Farmersburg	Gerry Ommen, City of Elkader
Gerry Ommen, Clayton SWCD	Kristin Klingman, City of Volga*	Bart Wilson, Howard SWCD*
Rhonda Dales, City of Elgin	John Lubke, Winneshiek SWCD*	Jack Knight, Allamakee SWCD

\*Virtual attendance

**\*APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**\*APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 9TH, 2020**

**\*\*MOVED BY KNIGHT, SECONDED BY DALES, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:  
TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JULY 9TH, 2020 AS PRESENTED.**

**\*ANNUAL MEETING ITEMS**

- Review members in need of reappointment – Ross Evelsizer (RC&D) provided a list of TRMWA member entities due to reappoint or appoint new a representative and alternate representative if possible. The list of entities is as follows: Jim Matt/Bruce Lehman – City of Clermont, Paul Herold/David Schneiter – City of Fort Atkinson, Liz Jaster – City of Garnavillo, Leigh Rekow/Chris Hackman – City of Postville, Michael Klimesh – City of Spillville, Kerri Langreck – City of St Lucas, Eric Boehm – City of Wadena, Rod Marlatt – Fayette County, Bart Wilson/Harlan Hickle – Howard SWCD
- Executive Committee Reappoint or Elect New Members – Executive Committee members in need of reappointment include Rod Marlatt (Fayette Co), Bill Bennett (Fayette SWCD), Mark Kuhn (Winneshiek County), and Marlene Klemp (City of Waucoma). **\*\*\*MOVED BY DALES, SECONDED BY KNIGHT, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: TO REAPPOINT MEMBERS LISTED ABOVE TO THE TRWMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.\*\*\***
- Elect officers - **\*\*\*MOVED BY OMMEN, SECONDED BY KNIGHT, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: TO ELECT ROD MARLATT (FAYETTE COUNTY) AS CHAIR, BILL BENNETT (FAYETTE SWCD) AS VICE CHAIR, AND JENNIFER COWSERT (CITY OF ELKADER) AS SECRETARY/TREASURER.\*\*\***

**\*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 July. Donations from TRWMA member entities for coordination activities totaled \$6,250 for 2020. The TRW Coordinator secured funding for a Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant through NRCS for \$3M focused on implementation of conservation practices in the Turkey River Watershed. The project will last 5 years beginning in 2021. The TRW Coordinator partnered with the Iowa Soybean Association to submit an application to the Fishers and Farmers Program for a project to study multi-cropping and provide outreach to landowners about local fisheries in the TRW. This project was successfully funded and began in July of 2020 and runs for two years. The project includes field days, multi-cropping trials, and targeted outreach to producers. The project coordinator worked with Fayette SWCD to submit an application to the IDALS Water Quality Initiative program to complete detailed watershed assessment and planning and landowner outreach for the HUC 12 subwatershed of Frog Hollow, which includes the Volga Lake watershed.
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program – Ross Evelsizer (RC&D) updated the board regarding the RCPP project awarded to IDALS for \$3M to implement conservation practices in the TRW over a five year period. At the time of the meeting, IDALS was still working out contract details with NRCS. The project is scheduled to begin toward the end of 2020.

**\*NEW BUSINESS**

- Andrea Wagner – Iowa State University graduate research – Andrea Wagner presented on her work comparing watershed organizations in Iowa. Wagner is conducting interviews with individuals in several watersheds in Iowa to compare their experiences and to learn about how watershed organizations function and the social dynamics of these

organizations. The TRW is one of the watersheds selected to participate in the study. Wagner has completed several interviews with TRWMA members and partners but is seeking further interviews from willing members.

- Water Quality Initiative – Volga Lake Planning – Ross Evelsizer (RC&D) informed the board of a newly awarded project for the Frog Hollow HUC 12 subwatershed which includes Volga Lake. RC&D assisted Fayette SWCD to submit an application to the IDALS Water Quality Initiative Program to complete detailed planning and assessment of the watershed. The project also includes time for landowner outreach. Project staff will meet with landowners in the Frog Hollow subwatershed to plan specific conservation projects for implementation.
- Multi-Cropping Iowa Update – Ross Evelsizer (RC&D) updated the board about the Multi-Cropping Iowa project which started in 2018. Evelsizer informed the board of a new project within the TRW that will be studying the impacts of multi-cropping as a flood mitigation tool. The project was awarded through the American Flood Coalition and includes partnership with the Iowa Flood Center. The research will take place at a farm near West Union in the Otter Creek subwatershed.
- Other - None

**\*ADJOURNMENT AT 2:00 PM**

**\*\*MOVED BY OMMEN, SECONDED BY DALES, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:  
TO ADJUORN REGULAR MEETING AT 2:10PM**

**\*\*\*\*\*The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 28th,  
2020, at 1:00 PM at a location TBD \*\*\*\*\***