

TURKEY RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1:00 pm Thursday, January 28th, 2021

**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 January 28th, 2021 virtually via Zoom.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rod Marlatt, Fayette County	Gerry Ommen, City of Elkader	Jon Biederman, City of Fayette
Gerry Ommen, Clayton SWCD	Kristin Klingman, City of Volga*	Bart Wilson, Howard SWCD*
John Lubke, Winneshiek SWCD*	Jon Biederman, City of West Union	Barb Collins, City of Monona
Jason Byrne, City of Lawler	Jason Byrne, Chickasaw County	Steve Doeppeke, Clayton County
Bill Bennett, Fayette SWCD		

**\*APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**\*\*MOVED BY BENNETT, SECONDED BY BYRNE, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.  
TO APPROVE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**

**\*APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2020**

**\*\*MOVED BY BENNETT, SECONDED BY OMMEN, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:  
TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2020 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 September. Evelsizer provided a letter of support for and assisted with a grant application for the Clayton County Conservation Board. The project would utilize woody material collected through invasive species management to create biochar. The biochar would be used to provide water quality benefits to waterways in the TRW. Evelsizer also worked to secure funding through the Eddie Schwartz Conservation Fund to begin development of a landscape resilience plan for the Driftless Region. The TRW would be included as part of this effort.
- Water Quality Initiative – Volga Lake Planning - Ross Evelsizer (RC&D) updated the board regarding the Water Quality Initiative funding awarded to Fayette SWCD. The project focuses on recruiting landowners in the Volga Lake Watershed/Frog Hollow watershed to implement conservation practices and complete a detailed plan for the watershed.
- 2019 Regional Conservation Partnership Program – Evelsizer updated the board about the status of the RCPP application for \$3 million coming to the TRW through IDALS. The grant start is held up due to delays getting a contract in place between IDALS and NRCS. It is estimated that practices can begin in fall of 2021.

**\*NEW BUSINESS**

- Iowa DOT/Iowa Flood Center – Research on On-road Detention – Antonio Arenas with the Iowa Flood Center presented information about a research project happening in Iowa with the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Iowa Flood Center. The project will quantify the potential benefits of utilizing on-road detention structures for flood mitigation. The on-road detention structures can be more expensive to implement but may save money in flood damages in future events, making it more economical in the long term to implement on-road detention structures versus conventional structures. Arenas and the Iowa Flood Center will be able to show this potential as well as map potential on-road detention locations for the TRW and other watersheds in Iowa.
- Fishers and Farmers project – Theo Gunther (Iowa Soybean Association) presented information about a project funded by the Fishers and Farmers program and in partnership with Northeast Iowa RC&D. ISA is working with producers to implement field trials of relay-cropping and show the benefits for water quality. The project is also connecting farmers with information about fisheries to show the impact of agriculture on nearby surface waters.
- Executive Committee Member – Since the annual meeting in September, two entities appointed new representatives to the TRWMA, replacing two members of the TRW Executive Committee. **\*\*MOVED BY WILSON, SECONDED BY OMMEN, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: TO APPOINT JASON BYRNE (CITY OF LAWLER, CHICKASAW COUNTY) AND KRISTIN KLINGMAN (CITY OF VOLGA) TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**
- 2021 Regional Conservation Partnership Program NRCS – Rod Marlatt and Ross Evelsizer discussed an upcoming opportunity for an application to the RCPP alternative funding arrangement program to pursue funding for easements in flood prone areas along the TRW. Northeast Iowa RC&D will assist IDALS with the application when the program opens in 2021.
- Watershed Signage – Rod Marlatt informed the board the Fayette SWCD had approved funding for two watershed boundary signs in Fayette County. The signs will be placed on private land along the highway to inform travelers

they are now entering the TRW. Marlatt hopes to continue placing signs around the watershed as an educational effort to raise awareness about the TRW and the efforts of the TRWMA to improve watershed resiliency.

- American Flood Coalition Project – Ross Evelsizer presented information about a new project led by Northeast Iowa RC&D under Multi-Cropping Iowa. The project will research the potential flood mitigation benefits of regenerative agriculture versus conventional systems. The project site is in the Otter Creek watershed near West Union.
- Other - None

**\*ADJOURNMENT AT 2:15 PM**

**\*\*MOVED BY BYRNE, SECONDED BY BIEDERMAN, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:  
TO ADJUORN REGULAR MEETING AT 2:15PM**

**\*\*\*\*\*The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 22nd,  
2021, at 1:00 PM at a location TBD \*\*\*\*\***