

TURKEY RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1:00 pm Thursday, April 22nd, 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	Jon Biederman, City of West Union	Barb Collins, City of Monona
Jason Byrne, City of Lawler	Jason Byrne, Chickasaw County	Dustin Schott, City of Arlington
Bruce Lehman, City of Clermont	City of Elgin, Rhonda Dales	Paul Hoeger, City of Maynard
Eric Boehm, City of Wadena	Bill Bennett, Fayette SWCD	

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 28TH, 2021**

****MOVED BY BENNETT, SECONDED BY BYRNE, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 28TH, 2021 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.
- 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.
- 2021 Regional Conservation Partnership Program NRCS – Ross Evelsizer/Rod Marlatt – Evelsizer discussed the possibility of an application to the RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangement program for easement purchase in flood prone areas of the TRW. Evelsizer reported that while the idea was discussed in months leading up the deadline with IDALS, they decided not to go forward with the application.

***NEW BUSINESS**

- Water Quality Initiative Turkey River Headwaters – Hunter Slifka, Howard SWCD – Slifka presented progress on the Water Quality Initiative Project in the Turkey River Headwaters in Howard County. Slifka is leading efforts through the Howard SWCD to implement conservation practices that benefit water quality and also have flood mitigation benefits. Slifka reported over \$1 million obligated for practices in the watershed to date and that 13% of the cropped acres have cover crops implemented. TRWMA board members were excited to have this work going on in the upper parts of the watershed as it will benefit all areas downstream.
- Water Quality Initiative – Frog Hollow – Ross Evelsizer – Evelsizer reported on a newer WQI project awarded to the Fayette SWCD that includes the Frog Hollow/Volga Lake HUC-12 watershed. Northeast Iowa RC&D staff are assisting Fayette SWCD with preparing a detailed sub-watershed plan. The planning process includes utilizing the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework tools, a cover crop analysis, and other data collection to help prioritize areas and locations for conservation implementation. RC&D staff plans to survey and directly contact landowners to gauge interest in participation should incentive programs be made available for conservation practices. The planning process is expected to conclude at the end of September 2021.
- Watershed Signage – Rod Marlatt – Marlatt updated the board about plans to install signage acknowledging the boundary of the TRW in Fayette County along major highways. The Fayette SWCD provided funding for two signs to be installed along Highway 18 and Highway 150 in Fayette County on private lands.
- TRWMA Coordinator Update – Ross Evelsizer
 - Driftless Resilience Planning – Evelsizer reported that Northeast Iowa RC&D is coordinating a planning effort to complete a regional landscape resilience plan for the Driftless Region. Planning will include the TRW.
 - Clayton County CCB Grant – Evelsizer coordinated with the Clayton County CCB to submit a grant application to investigate using biochar generated from invasive species control for water quality in streams. The application is pending.
 - National Science Foundation Grant Application – Evelsizer worked with the Iowa Flood Center and IIHR and other partners to submit an application to the National Science Foundation to study the TRW. The grant would bring in resources to enhance the TRW as a watershed community. The application is pending.

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities – Fayette County is working on an application to the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program through FEMA. The application would provide funding to implement an on-road detention structure in the TRW northwest of West Union.

Iowa Water Conference – Evelsizer attended the virtual Iowa Water Conference. Information of watershed management strategies was shared by presenters from across the State of Iowa and other states.

- Other - None

***ADJOURNMENT AT 2:00 PM**

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

*******The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September
30th, 2021, at 1:00 PM at a location TBD *******