

TURKEY RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1:00 pm Thursday, February 10th, 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 February 10th, 2022 at Northeast Iowa RC&D.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rod Marlatt, Fayette County
Barb Collins, City of Monona
Ray Peterson, Clayton County
Jack Knight, Allamakee SWCD

Jennifer Cowsert, City of Elkader
Paul Hoeger, City of Maynard
Jon Biederman, City of Fayette

Gerry Ommen, Clayton SWCD
Kristin Klingman, City of Volga
Jon Biederman, City of West Union

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2021**

****MOVED BY PETERSON, SECONDED BY KNIGHT, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2021 WITH EDITS.**

***REGULAR BUSINESS**

- County On-Road Policy Update – Rod Marlatt discussed the need for counties to continue to push to get on-road structures installed in the watershed. Ross Evelsizer updated the board that the IDNR and Iowa Flood Center are working on an analysis of the economic impact of on-road structures and mapping out potential locations. The project is slated to be completed in 2022.
- Driftless Region Conservation Funding – Kristina McBurney from US Representative Ashley Hinson’s office spoke to the board about legislation the Representative is co-sponsoring with three other representatives from Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois to establish conservation funding for the Driftless Region. The proposed legislation will also help to reestablish the Driftless Area Land Conservation Initiative (DALCI) to help organize conservation partners from around the region. The Driftless Region is an environmentally and economically important area that has many unique natural features and ecosystems.
- WMA Funding through the Iowa Legislature – Ross Evelsizer discussed with the board that WMA Coordinators from around the State of Iowa, along with the Iowa Flood Center and Center for Rural Affairs, organized information about the impact WMAs have had on the state since the formation of the first WMAs in 2012. The information was organized into a handout to give to the Iowa legislature to recommend allocating funds for WMAs in the future to help sustain coordination and implementation of resilience plans. No action has been taken by the legislature to fund WMAs since the initial legislation to allow them to form.
- 2019 Regional Conservation Partnership Program – Hunter Slifka with Howard SWCD passed along that they are signing up landowners to participate in EQIP programs funded through the 2019 RCPP program. This will help bolster conservation practices in the TRW. This year will be the first year practices are implemented with funding up to five years.
- Water Quality Initiative: Frog Hollow/Volga Lake – Planning is complete in the Frog Hollow/Volga Lake watershed and RC&D and the Fayette SWCD will work together to develop an application to IDALS to continue funding to the implementation phase of the project.
- TRWMA Coordinator Update – Ross Evelsizer

Updating board representatives – A request was sent out to entities with board representatives thought to have been replaced or in need of replacement to update the board roster. The project coordinator is tracking updated contact lists to make sure all is up to date.

Upcoming grant opportunities – Ross Evelsizer mentioned a number of project opportunities upcoming for the board if anyone had projects ready and was interested in developing an application.

Coordinator donation – Ross Evelsizer reviewed the coordinator donation process. Each TRWMA entity is asked to voluntarily contribute \$250 annually to support RC&D as the coordinator/facilitator of the TRWMA board activities. The board has contributed between \$5,000-7,000 annually over three years for this request. RC&D has continued to act as coordinator in that time and has helped secure over \$3M in project funds for watershed conservation.

- Other – Ross Evelsizer mentioned that the Winneshiek SWCD Water Quality Initiative project has a new project coordinator, Matt Frana, who worked with the Upper Iowa WMA previously.

***ADJOURNMENT AT 2:05 PM**

****MOVED BY OMMEN, SECONDED BY KNIGHT, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO ADJUORN REGULAR MEETING AT 2:05PM**

*******The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 12th,
2022, at 1:00 PM at a location TBD *******