

TURKEY RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

11:00 am Thursday, December 14th, 2023

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

The regular and annual meeting of the Turkey River Watershed Management Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 11:00 am on December 14th, 2023 at Northeast Iowa RC&D.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rod Marlatt, Fayette County
*Jon Biederman, City of Fayette
Ray Peterson, Clayton County
Kristin Klingman, City of Volga

Jennifer Cowsert, City of Elkader
*Jon Biederman, City of West Union
*Dean Eastman, Howard County
Matt Frana, Winneshiek SWCD

Gerry Ommen, Clayton SWCD
Travis Suckow, Chickasaw County
Jack Knight, Allamakee SWCD
Bruce Lehman, City of Clermont

*Virtual

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2023**

****MOVED BY PETERSON, SECONDED BY KNIGHT, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2023 AS PRESENTED.**

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 Iowa DOT study regarding on-road structures is complete. Rod Marlatt requested getting Antonio Arenas to a WMA meeting to present the results when possible.
- Spillville Farmer to Farmer Grant – Matt Frana with Winneshiek SWCD, updated the board regarding the Iowa DNR’s Underserved Farmers and Farmer Communities program received by RC&D. The grant will help the community of Spillville investigate their source water quality and well integrity, as well as implement water quality projects in the Wonder Creek Watershed. RC&D holds the grant in partnership with the Winneshiek SWCD. Frana reported that project staff are starting conversations with the Iowa Geologic Survey to get a contract in place for them to investigate the factors and capture area influencing Spillville’s drinking water wells. Frana also reported a septic replacement project being completed in the fall.
- Luther Farmer to Farmer Grant – Ross Evelsizer reported on a second grant project from the same funding source that is in partnership with Luther College. Luther and Northeast Iowa RC&D received parallel grant awards to work toward connecting underserved producers, including women landowners, with conservation programs and practices. This work will continue over the next 3 years until 2026.
- WMA Legislative Day – Ross Evelsizer informed the board of two events coming up at the Iowa Capitol pertaining to WMAs. On January 29th, 2024 there is a legislative day for WMAs to come to the capitol and share information about the watershed and the projects they’ve completed. This is an opportunity to help garner support from legislators for funding WMAs through legislative action. This event is open to all WMA members to attend. Evelsizer will plan to attend representing the Turkey River WMA. A second event will be February 13th at the capitol for the Iowa Flood Center Legislative Breakfast. Board chair Rod Marlatt and Ross Evelsizer are planning to attend this event.
- TRWMA Coordinator Update
 - Grant applications – Ross Evelsizer reported that they are in early conversations about a potential application to the RCPP program in 2024. Further details will be discussed at the next meeting.
 - WMA Coordinator Funding – Rod Marlatt and Evelsizer reminded the board of the \$250 suggested donation for each entity to support coordinator activities for the WMA. The coordinator is available to attend meetings to explain the WMA and funding if need be. A letter was sent to each entity reminding of the annual contribution in December. Invoices are not sent with the letter as it is a voluntary donation, however they are available upon request. Checks are made payable to Northeast Iowa RC&D, who serves as the fiscal agent for the WMA.
- Schedule next meeting – **THE NEXT WMA MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 21ST AT 11AM AT THE NORTHEAST IOWA RC&D OFFICE IN POSTVILLE.**

***ADJOURNMENT AT 2:00 PM**

****MOVED BY LEHMAN, SECONDED BY PETERSON, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING AT 2:00PM**