

TURKEY RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1:00 pm Thursday, May 18th, 2023

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 May 18th, 2023 at Northeast Iowa RC&D.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rod Marlatt, Fayette County
Jon Biederman, City of Fayette
Eric Boehm, City of Wadena
Steve Lueken, Delaware SWCD

*Jennifer Cowser, City of Elkader
Jon Biederman, City of West Union
Kristin Klingman, City of Volga
Gene Pleggenkuhl, Fayette SWCD

Eric Palas, Clayton SWCD
John Lubke, Winneshiek SWCD
Travis Suckow, Chickasaw County
Ray Peterson, Clayton County

*Virtual

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 2, 2023**

****MOVED BY PLEGGENKUH, SECONDED BY LUEKEN, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 2ND, 2023 AS PRESENTED.**

***REGULAR BUSINESS**

- o 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. Ray Peterson, Clayton County, discussed an on-road structure in the works.
- o Matt Frana, Central Turkey River Demonstration Project – Matt Frana provided an update regarding the Water Quality Initiative funding progress in four subwatersheds in the TRW, primarily in Winneshiek County. Frana also discussed a grant application in partnership with Northeast Iowa RC&D for the City of Spillville and surrounding area. The grant was successful and will help Spillville investigate their drinking water source and protect the watershed that contributes to their source water, Wonder Creek. The project will take place over the next 3 years starting fall of 2023.
- o Iowa DNR Signage Grant – Rod Marlatt and Ross Evelsizer updated the progress of funding from the Iowa DNR 319 program. The funding helped pay for 8 watershed boundary signs to be installed on county roads in Fayette County. All signs were constructed by Iowa Prison Industries and installed by Fayette County Roads Department.
- o OVPR Project – Ross Evelsizer reported progress in the OVPR project, which is in partnership with the Iowa Flood Center and the TRWMA.
 - The TRWMA received a \$5,000 honoraria for the grant and discussed ways to use the honoraria for outreach. The honoraria was used to create an educational cartoon which was created by Northeast Iowa RC&D. ‘Wally the Watershed’ is a cartoon about the ongoing battle between flooding and Iowa watersheds with a fun professional wrestling theme. The video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/fXWOn0D0aI8>
 - Workshops for landowners and residents were held on March 14th in West Union, March 22nd in Elkader, and April 3rd in Cresco. The meetings were open house for people to come learn more about the WMA and provide feedback and stories for how they value the watershed and how they’ve been impacted by flooding. The meetings had fair attendance and excellent engagement. Attendees shared stories and input regarding past and present issues in the TRW and their experiences.
 - Landowner survey – RC&D prepared and sent a survey to 1,500 TRW residents and landowners. The survey asked about flood impacts, watershed knowledge, water quality concerns, and general demographics. Recipients had the option to fill out the survey online or return the paper copy. Recipients of the survey were incentivized to respond for a chance to receive a \$100 gift card to Kwik Star. Five participants received a gift card for responding. The survey received 245 responses.
 - Flood stories – A forum is now in place to collect watershed stories from residents and board members. The goal of the stories is to learn how people use the TRW and how flooding or other impacts have changed the watershed.
- o TRWMA Coordinator Update – Ross Evelsizer updated the board on various activities of the coordinator over the past few months. Voluntary contributions are being collected for 2023. TRWMA members are reminded to request an invoice if necessary to submit the contribution. Funds received allow RC&D to coordinate the TRWMA

activities, facilitate meetings, and apply for grant funding. EVELSIZER reported working with Winneshiek SWCD and Luther College to submit two grant applications to the Iowa DNR Underserved Farmer and Farmer Community grant program. Both applications were successful. The first grant was reviewed by Matt Frana earlier in the meeting. The second grant will help provide supplemental cost share to help get underserved producers and landowners participating in conservation programs. The grant is 4 years and will start in fall of 2023. EVELSIZER also let the board know about an upcoming event called Dreaming of Fields which will be held at Pulpit Rock Brewery in Decorah, IA on June 10th. The event will showcase regenerative agriculture practices and feature beer made from locally sourced regenerative grains.

***ADJOURNMENT AT 2:00 PM**

****MOVED BY LUBKE, SECONDED BY LUEKEN, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING AT 2:15PM**