

TURKEY RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1:00 pm Thursday, September 28th, 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 September 28th, 2023 at Northeast Iowa RC&D.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

*Jennifer Cowsert, City of Elkader
*Jon Biederman, City of West Union
Travis Suckow, Chickasaw County
Paul Hoeger, City of Maynard

Gerry Ommen, Clayton SWCD
Eric Boehm, City of Wadena
Gene Pleggenkuhl, Fayette SWCD
Dean Eastman, Howard County

*Virtual

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 18TH, 2023**

****MOVED BY KNIGHT, SECONDED BY PETERSON, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MAY 18TH, 2023 AS PRESENTED.**

ANNUAL MEETING

- o Review members in need of appointment – Dean Eastman – Howard County, Randy Boedker – Chickasaw SWCD, Gerry Ommen/Eric Palas – Clayton SWCD, Gene Pleggenkuhl/Bill Bennett – Fayette SWCD, Steve Lueken – Delaware SWCD, John Lubke – Winneshiek SWCD (Those recently appointed do not need to seek reappointment again)
- o Executive Committee Reappoint or Elect new members – Existing members up for reelection: Bart Wilson (Howard SWCD), John Lubke (Winneshiek SWCD), Jennifer Cowsert (City of Elkader) ****MOVED BY PETERSON, SECONDED BY VICK, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: TO REAPPOINT BART WILSON, JOHN LUBKE, AND JENNIFER COWSERT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**
- o Elect Officers – Existing officers: Rod Marlatt (Fayette County), Bill Bennett (Vice Chair), Jennifer Cowsert (Secretary/Treasurer). ***MOVED BY KNIGHT, SECONDED BY HOEGER, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: TO REAPPOINT ROD MARLATT AS BOARD CHAIR.
**MOVED BY VICK, SECONDED BY HOEGER, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: TO APPOINT JACK KNIGHT AS VICE CHAIR.
MOVED BY KNIGHT, SECONDED BY VICK, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: TO REAPPOINT JENNIFER COWSERT AS SECRETARY TREASURER.

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 Spillville Grant Application – Underserved Farmers and Farmer Communities – Ross Evelsizer provided informed of a successful grant application to the Iowa DNR’s Underserved Farmers and Farmer Communities program to help the community of Spillville investigate their source water quality and well integrity. RC&D holds the grant in partnership with the Winneshiek SWCD. Matt Frana will be the primary investigator on the grant. The grant activities parallel efforts already in action through the IDALS WQI project in the Wonder Creek HUC-12 watershed. The grant will also provide cost share to rural residents in the Wonder Creek Watershed for septic replacement or upgrades.
- o Grant Applications – Ross Evelsizer informed the board of several upcoming grant application opportunities. The Regional Conservation Partnership Program funding through NRCS will be available in the near future. The Urban Water Quality Initiative funding through IDALS is open for applications and closes November 17th, 2023.
- o TRWMA Coordinator Update – Ross Evelsizer reported progress in the OVPR project, which is in partnership with the Iowa Flood Center and the TRWMA.
 - OVPR Report - 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/fXWOn0D0a18> 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.

- Water Conference Report – Ross Evelsizer attended the Iowa Water Conference in Altoona and heard presentations about different water projects across the state. There was also a tour of practices in and around Des Moines.
- WMA Coordinator Funding – Voluntary donations are will be sought again by the TRWMA of \$250 per member for 2024. A letter will be sent out to each entity requesting donations. Donations are made to Northeast Iowa RC&D. Entities needing an invoice need to request one from the coordinator and it will be sent out.
- Dreaming of Fields – RC&D partnered with Pulpit Rock Brewing and the Decorah Chamber of Commerce to host an event at Pulpit Rock Brewery in June. The event corresponded with the brewery's release of a beer made from regenerative grains and showcased regenerative practices that benefit water quality and flood reduction. The event also showcased several local producers who are practicing regenerative agriculture. It is estimated over 400 people attended throughout the day.

***ADJOURNMENT AT 2:15 PM**

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