

TURKEY RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
11:00 am Thursday, April 3rd, 2025

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

The regular of the Turkey River Watershed Management Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 1:00 PM on April 3rd, 2025 at Northeast Iowa RC&D.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rod Marlatt, Fayette County	Ray Peterson, Clayton County	Jack Knight, Allamakee SWCD
Kristin Klingman, City of Volga	Jon Lubke, Winneshiek SWCD	Eric Boehm, City of Wadena
Steve Lueken, Delaware SWCD	Sue Kuennen, Fayette SWCD	Barb Collins, City of Monona*
Eric Palas, Clayton SWCD*	Travis Suckow, Chickasaw County*	

*Virtual

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 15TH, 2024**

****MOVED BY KNIGHT, SECONDED BY FRANA, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 15TH, 2024 AS PRESENTED.**

REGULAR BUSINESS

- Spillville Farmer to Farmer Grant Update – Matt Frana updated the board about the Spillville Source water project. The City of Spillville is doing a number of investigations and tests to determine the viability of their drinking water, particularly one of their two wells that has tested higher for Nitrates at times. Iowa Geologic Survey completed an assessment of the city's source water capture area and determined there is likely a fault with the well that is allowing nutrients to leak into the system. The city is going to complete some additional testing to help narrow down the source of the contamination. There are also active projects in the Wonder Creek HUC-12 watershed. A rain garden is being completed near the Bily Clocks museum. Several landowners are considering septic and other conservation projects that would benefit the watershed.
- Regenerating Soil and Communities – Ross Evlaiser updated the board regarding an active project with Luther College. The project focuses on assisting underserved landowners within a 25 mile radius of Luther College. The first group of participating landowners were all women landowners. The project helped them understand their soil health, conservation options, succession planning, and confidence building through strengths assessments. The group is in the process of recruiting a second cohort of landowners for year 2 of the project.
- RCPP Status Update – Ross Evlaiser shared that Northeast Iowa RC&D had been awarded an RCPP grant for \$25M beginning in 2025. The project funding would be used to purchase conservation easements in floodplains in Dubuque County and the Turkey River Watershed. Floodplain easements are important for protecting areas along the river that are prone to flooding and are currently in agricultural production. The funding is currently frozen due to changes in the federal administration.
- Communities for AFC Membership – Rod Marlatt discussed an opportunity for communities in the TRW to join membership with the American Flood Coalition. There is no cost to join and membership gives communities a voice directly to national legislators regarding flood mitigation decisions at a national level.
- Multi-Cropping as a Flood Mitigation Tool – Ross Evlaiser shared the results of a study completed by RC&D, the American Flood Coalition, and the Iowa Flood Center to assess regenerative practices like relay cropping. The study looked at real data collected through

hydrostations at two locations in Iowa, one at Guthrie Center and one near West Union, to contrast how regenerative fields handled rainfall compared to conventional fields. The real data was combined with previous research to expand the study to the watershed scale. The GHOST model was used to model the 2008 and 2016 floods with conventional and regenerative ag practices in the Cedar River Watershed. The results show that flood impacts could have been between 5-8% less had regenerative practices been used throughout the watershed instead of conventional agricultural practices. This study is the first time flood mitigation has been tied to in field management practices and shows the importance of soil health practices.

- TRWMA Coordinator Update – Ross Evelsizer shared some updates of his activities since the previous meeting.
 - Water Loop –Evelsizer reported an upcoming podcast/video feature of the multi-cropping Iowa Project by the Water Loop Podcast. The release date is early 2025 and will feature video and interviews from the area.
 - Iowa Flood Center Breakfast – Evelsizer recapped the Iowa Flood Center Legislative Breakfast at the capital. A good number of legislators showed up for the event and the group emphasized an increase in funding for the Iowa Flood Center. Please contact local legislators regarding additional funding for IFC to help continue to understand flooding in the TRW and Iowa.
 - WMA Coordinator Funding – Evelsizer reminded the group of the \$250 donation to have RC&D continue coordinating WMA day to day items. Because the donation is voluntary, invoices must be requested.
- Schedule next meeting – **THE NEXT WMA MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 26TH AT 1PM AT THE NORTHEAST IOWA RC&D OFFICE IN POSTVILLE.**

***ADJOURNMENT AT 2:20 PM**

****MOVED BY KNIGHT, SECONDED BY BOEHM, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
TO ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING AT 2:20PM**