

14 Mile Joint Rome/TriLakes Watershed Committee

Held remotely as a video conference meeting, open to the public through a Zoom link
Agenda/Minutes for Monday, November 9, 2020 at 2:00 PM

1. Confirm Zoom setup Established

2. Call to order & confirm posting Don Ystad called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm; Barb confirmed that the agendas were posted on November 5th at Nekoosa Pt. Edwards State Bank, Pritzls, the Rome Town Hall and on the website.

3. Roll call Members present: Don Ystad, Scott Bordeau, Dave Trudeau, John Endrizzi, Karen Knotek, Phil Rockenbach, Jerry Wiessinger and Rick Georgeson. Also present: Rachael Whitehair, Pat Oldenberg, Scott Provost, Taylor Hasz, Anna James (new Lakes Specialist for Adams County) and Heidi Keuler of US Fish & Wildlife and the Fishers and Farmers group.

4. Review/discuss minutes for October 12, 2020 (approval at next live mtg) There were no questions or suggestions for the minutes; they will be approved at the next live meeting.

5. Announcements **1)** March 8-12 will be Wisconsin Water Week (replacing Wis. Lakes and Rivers Convention). Don Ystad will follow up with them about making a presentation on Thursday. **2)** Scott Bordeau shared the PACRS 'Outstanding Land & Water Conservation award that was presented to Bill and Tom Roth in recognition of their commitment of 800 acres in no-till and their intention to also add cover crops to their farm operation.

6. Status of 9 Key Element Plan & video - no report.

7. Status of 9 Key flyer/mailer - Karen/Don: Karen reported she will continue work on this project after the video is completed and she receives an outline of the 9 Key Plan.

8. Status of you tube channel – Karen/Rachael: no new news

9. Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo – Rachael Formerly known as Healthy Soil, Healthy Water, this event is being rebranded and will offer ag topics virtually including how to be successful/profitable when dealing with crazy weather and droughts. It will be held December 2 and Rick Clark, a well-known Indiana farmer will be the keynote speaker. Karen will add a poster to our Facebook page and Scott will add to PACRS.

10. Review viewing/Zoom discussion “Kiss The Ground” – Rachael: The movie was shown on November 5 with 14 known attendees plus some additional who went directly to the video link. Don noted that there was a good discussion afterwards and Karen suggested that we offer it again. The film is also available on Netflix.

11. Status of Grants – a. Water test funding 7/1/21 through 12/31/23: Dave Trudeau reported that the grant was submitted and receipt has been confirmed; the amount requested after revisions was \$43,600. **B. Adams County 9 Key staffing grant 2021 – 2023:** Anna reported that Kason has submitted the grant application. **c. Healthy Lakes grants for 2021:** Dave reported that the grant has been submitted and came to a total of \$23,700 for 25 projects. Scott Provost commented that this is a very competitive process and that there are usually twice as many applications as funding is available. If not approved, ranking feedback will be provided to help us improve in the future.

12. Collaboration with WI Wetlands and Little Plover Partnership – Don reported on the recent tour that was held to familiarize these 2 groups with our watershed. John Endrizzi was instrumental in getting this set up.

a. Investigate conversion of DNR wetlands parcels – Taylor Subsequent to the item #12 tour, the DNR is investigating changes that could be made by plugging parts of the drainage ditch to raise the groundwater level by approximately 6” to help reduce the amount of nitrogen flowing to the Tri-Lakes. If successful, it could serve as a demonstration site in the future. The concept behind it is ‘using organic soils to denitrify’. **b. Tour Little Plover Restoration project – Dave, Don** Both met with Tracy Hames for the tour. Dave was impressed by how they were able to engage farmers who wanted to understand the problem and then offered to help solve the problem. The restoration project also resulted in improved trout habitat. John Endrizzi noted that right here in Rome, a landowner has received approval for stream improvements on the Chester Creek that runs along his property.

13. Upstream water testing – John related a conversation he had with a cranberry farmer while testing and that he'll be meeting further with him. John, working with DNR, may make some location changes for testing next year.

14. In-lake water testing – Phil reported that he is waiting for October's nitrogen results and that he's been working with Anna to get supplies and kits ordered for next year's testing program.

15. Healthy Lakes – Dave reported that he's currently working on a reimbursement for a 2018 project.

16. Other 14 Mile committee activities - a. Nov 16th Citizens (Wood County) Water Quality Group presentation – Don will be speaking to this group via WebEx.

17. Lake reports –Petenwell: Scott reported that PACRS is working with Golden Sands to develop topics for Thursday of the Wisconsin Water Week event. Topics are being organized by major watersheds in the state and there will be many to choose from. All sessions will be recorded.

18. Town, County, Tri-Lakes updates – nothing pertaining to the watershed.

19. Set next agenda date, tentatively December 14th, and topics – December 14th will be the next meeting date. Motion made by John Endrizzi, seconded by Karen Knotek to adjourn; motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.