

## 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, September 14, 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 September 10<sup>th</sup> at Nekoosa Pt. Edwards State Bank, Pritzls, Rome Town Hall and the website.

**3. Roll call** Members present: Don Ystad, Scott Bordeau, Dave Trudeau, John Endrizzi, Karen Knotek, Carson Heinecke, Phil Rockenbach, Rick Georgeson, Gary Gross and Jerry Wiessinger. Also present: Rachael Whitehair, Tracy Hames, Ex. Dir of Wis. Wetlands, Kason Morley, Taylor Hasz, Pat Oldenberg, Scott Provost and Sarah Bojarski.

**4. Review/discuss minutes for August 10, 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) Rachael provided information on an upcoming program on Regenerative Farming scheduled for Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm. Due to interest of attendees, she will set up a watch party; and 2) John Endrizzi shared information on two studies of interest: Professor Groves is doing an ongoing study of neonitnoids using the Leola Ditch; the study will help determine how neonics get into waters and whether it is through surface or groundwater. UW-SP is also doing a study of neonics and whether they are affecting micro invertebrates in the soil.

**6. Status of 9 Key Element Plan** - Kason reported that the final form of the report has been submitted and he is awaiting final approval from Andrew Craig. Once received, grant applications can be submitted. His department will be submitting a grant request to fund a 3-year position and he is also requesting partial staff support from the other counties in the watershed. He is eager to begin the educational process; in the meantime, milestones are already being completed. Karen suggested a mail-out piece and Carson asked that we receive written reports of accomplishments and progress in the future.

**7. Discuss content for (9 Key) 14 Mile video #3** - Kason led discussion to get input and direction for the 3<sup>rd</sup> video. Suggestions included a length of approximately 5 minutes with a short introduction and then move on to an explanation of key details provided in laymen terms. What can the viewer do to help or get involved? A copy of the plan should be available on a website as well as at Rome and other local libraries. Karen suggested a brochure that provides an overview and John E. suggested that a series of future videos could highlight one or two aspects of the plan at a time. Should we get a YouTube Channel? Karen, Scott and Don to look into this further; Rachael will also help as she has experience.

**8. Discuss DNR water test funding through 6/30/21 & grant for 7/1/21 through 12/31/23** - Don reported that DNR will handle testing costs through 6/30/21, saving Tri-Lakes expenses for upper watershed, in-lake monitoring and e coli testing. USDA in Marshfield has agreed to provide DNA testing of positive e coli tests at no cost. A \$57,000 grant request is being submitted to cover the testing program from 7/1/21 through 12/31/23. If successful, Tri-Lakes will only need to fund approximately \$2,500 over the next three years because of the impact of in-kind funding of volunteer time. Dave Trudeau is seeking support letters to include in the grant application. Scott Provost advised that a resolution from either Tri-Lakes or the Rome Town Board will also be needed.

**9. Discuss Tri-Lakes 9/5/20 annual meeting** – Don suggested that we focus on doing more outreach in the coming year such as the videos, a mailer and working with other organizations to broaden our scope.

**10. Discuss outreach opportunities** – After discussing our website, consensus agreement is that we should get our own website rather than continuing to be buried in the Tri-Lakes' website. Additionally, Scott Bordeau suggested that we review our mission statement and goals and update them as appropriate. Don will send out an email with the current verbiage and ask for feedback and suggestions. Carson suggested getting more involvement from the other counties.

**11. Upstream water testing** – John reported that he has tested twice since the DNR transducers were installed and that he will be doing four more tests before winter. He is working with Taylor to set up an aquatic survey to identify micro invertebrates.

**12. In-lake water testing** – Phil reported that the testing is completed for the season; they were able to test in June, July and August and results have been posted on our website. He will also be testing for Nitrogen in Sept and Oct.

**13. Healthy Lakes** – Dave reported that for the 2021 grant cycle, he has 6 projects lined up but could add up to 19 additional before the deadline at the end of the month. Kason has a Sherwood beach club to add. Karen will advertise on Facebook and Phil will get an E-Alert sent via Tri-Lakes. Kason suggested a good way to promote in the future is through using some of the projects as demonstration sites. Scott Provost will check on getting signs that could be placed at each of the projects. Don suggested we do the same for the Clean Water Cooperators. Other suggestions included placemats, grocery bags or coasters.

**14. Other 14 Mile committee activities** – None reported.

**15. Lake reports** - Rick Georgeson advised that the Wood County Conservation Department will be buying a roller/crimper that is used to flatten a cover crop instead of spraying chemicals – this can be rented by a farmer to try out “planting green” before investing in the equipment himself; PACRS donated \$2,000 towards this effort. Dave Trudeau has recently added another ‘hat’ as he became Sherwood’s facilitator for the Firewise program. Scott Bordeau helped to stock 550 muskies on Lake Petenwell.

**16. Town, county, Tri-Lakes updates** – Nothing additional reported.

**17. Set next agenda date, tentatively October 12<sup>th</sup>, and topics** – October 12<sup>th</sup> will be the next meeting date. Motion made by Karen Knotek, seconded by Scott Bordeau to adjourn; motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 pm.