

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, February 8, 2021 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 February 3 at Nekoosa Pt. Edwards State Bank, Pritzls and the Town Hall as well as on the website.

3. Roll call/confirm quorum Members present: Don Ystad, Dave Trudeau, John Endrizzi, Phil Rockenbach, Jerry Wiessinger, Scott Bordeau, Karen Knotek and Barb Herreid. Also present: Rachael Whitehair, Anna James and Greg Sager of J&J Cranberries.

4. Review and approve minutes for January 11, 2021: Motion made by Scott Bordeau and seconded by Dave Trudeau to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2021 meeting; motion approved.

5. Announcements –

a. March 12th WI Lakes local event: Don reported that the 14 Mile Watershed had been invited to present a virtual local event on Friday of Water Week at 1 pm.

b. Feb 25th “reducing the health impacts of the nitrogen problem” - Rachael shared information on this program which is scheduled for 2:30 to 5:00 on Feb 25. To attend, follow this link:

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/reducing-health-impacts-of-reactive-nitrogen-in-ground-and-surface-water-from-agricultural-sources-an-environmental-health-matters-workshop-to-identify-opportunities-for-leadership> Similar presentations are available each Thursday.

c. other: 1) Dave Trimner of Miltrim Farms in Marathon County will be speaking to the Central WI Farm Profitability group on Feb 10 from 10:00 to 11:00. Miltrim Farms is the first clean water certified farm in North America. To watch his presentation, follow this link:

<https://uwmadison.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAqdeqgqD4tG9ECJA4pNleDV9Fq2z2zhK6D> Dave will also be our guest speaker at next month’s meeting. 2) Phil reported on progress in creating our new website with the help of Karen and Barb; the group is shooting to have it ready by Water Week.

6. 9 Key Element Plan status –

a. video – Kason Morley – tabled until March

b. flyer/mailer – Karen/Don – tabled until March

7. Create you tube channel – Karen/Rachael: Karen and Rachael are meeting tomorrow

8. Future videos/Zoom sessions - tabled

9. Clean Water Now campaign - Scott explained this campaign sponsored by the River Alliance of Wisconsin. Their mission is to get a clean water referendum on ballots across the state throughout the next few years. Wood, Portage and Marquette Counties have approved placing the proposal on the April ballot. Don will contact Paul Pisellini again to find out status in Adams County.

10. Status of Grants – Dave Trudeau reported that grant awards will be announced around February 15. He also contacted DNR and found out how we could apply to be approved to submit grant applications without having to go through a different organization. Form 8700-380 needs to be submitted by May 1 and he will pursue that.

11. Status of DNR wetlands parcels conversion – Taylor: Taylor no longer present, so no report. John shared that he had received information from Scott Provost concerning groundwater and surface water and he will share it with our group. Don also reminded us of the presentation by Todd Weik last month on using blast furnace slag for phosphorus and nitrates removal.

12. Committee direction: Don shared current efforts to further the committee’s efforts to improve the watershed. Now that the 9 Key Element Plan has been approved and will begin a 10-year plus effort, our committee needs to re-structure. We need to broaden out from the Town of Rome to include parties from

throughout the entire watershed. Additionally, funds will be required to provide a 25% match to grants that will be available. A workgroup met to consider and rewrote our mission statement and goals and is pursuing organizing as a 501(c)(3) non-profit. This would allow us to obtain tax-deductible donations and gain access to private grant sources. A nine-member board is being planned and will include representatives from the other parties involved in the watershed. At this point, all the paperwork has been submitted by Nick Flanagan and we are just awaiting approval by the IRS. The group continues to meet weekly to plan the transition and feels that the Water Week event on March 12 will be a 'soft' launch opportunity for us. Phil explained the structure as written in the By-Laws consisting of three types of membership: committee member, advisor/stakeholder member and donor/sponsor member.

13. Upstream water testing : John Endrizzi welcomed Greg Sager, owner of J&J Cranberries to the meeting and explained that they met while John was water testing. While our water tests are now being submitted to the State Lab of Hygiene instead of UW-SP, the testing and analysis process remains the same.

14. In-lake water testing: Phil reported that testing will resume in May. Anna confirmed that she had submitted his request for equipment and is awaiting delivery.

15. Healthy Lakes: 1) Dave repeated that we should hear on the new grant applications in the next 7-10 days. 2) The ice depth on Sherwood is now at 10" and he's hoping for 14-16" so the fish sticks project can proceed. Harvesting of the trees may begin on Feb 15 and it will take 3-4 days to drop 80 trees. Then, they will be transported to Sherwood and towed out onto the ice where they will be positioned in bundles of 4 and anchored to the shoreline. Anna and Kason would like to help and additional help will be recruited via MailChimp and Facebook.

16. Outreach: Don indicated that he'll be in touch with Tamas Houlihan of WPVGA as well as Tom Lochner of Wis. Cranberry Association to plan for a future meeting.

17. Lake reports: Dave reported that the Fisheree generated \$3,800 in profit that will go to their conservation fund. John shared that he had noticed low groundwater flows this past month and that it seems to be the lowest in the past three years. Anna offered that an anticipated dam project on Arrowhead may have contributed to low levels in that area. Greg Sager agreed that levels are low at the 'S' curve but he had been surprised to see higher flows at Arrowhead.

18. Town, County, Tri-Lakes updates: Jerry Wiessinger reported that the Town and Plan Commission are dealing with development plans; also that the Town plans to expand the camping/septic requirements from just the Lake District to the entire town. Don shared that he's been communicating with Tri-Lakes about our future organizational structure and financing and our intent to continue to work together.

19. Set next agenda date, tentatively March 8th, topics and speaker David Trimner of Miltrim Farms

20. Adjourn: Motion by Jerry Wiessinger, seconded by John Endrizzi; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:00.