

**14 Mile Joint Rome/TriLakes Watershed Committee**  
**Held at Rome Town Hall 1156 Alpine Drive, Rome, WI**  
**Agenda/Minutes for Monday, March 11th, 2019 at 2:00 PM**

Notification of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Laws of the State of Wisconsin. The 14 Mile watershed Committee may take action on any item on the agenda. It is possible that the members of and possibly a quorum of members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above-stated meeting to gather information; no action will be taken by any governmental body at the above-stated meeting other than the 14 Mile Watershed Committee

1. **Establish remote call in, Call to order & confirm posting** John Endrizzi called the meeting to order after establishing remote call in at 2 pm; Barb confirmed posting done on March 7<sup>th</sup>.
2. **Pledge** The Pledge was recited.
3. **Roll call** Present: Steve Oberle, Scott Bordeau, Dave Trudeau, John Endrizzi, John Haugen, Jerry Wiessinger, Rick Georgeson, Carson Heinecke and Kason Morley. Via phone: Karen Knotek, Don Ystad and Ron Foster.
4. **Review and approve minutes for Feb 11, 2019** Motion by John Haugen, second by Jerry Wiessinger to approve the minutes of the Feb 11, 2019 meeting. Motion approved. Prior to agenda item #5, Jamie Gebert of Town of Rome updated us on the pending press release and addition to the Town's website of the preferred fertilizer applicators with disclaimer. There will also be a link to the association websites.
5. **Presentation –Wisconsin Cranberry Growers - Tom Lochner**, Executive Director of Wisconsin Cranberry Growers (WSCGA) gave a presentation of the industry including growing process, water management systems, IPM(Integrated Pest Management) practices, Nutrient Management and partnerships that they've established with different groups. Most of the water used is maintained in a retention pond and recycled throughout the season rather than being released downstream. Limited amounts of both nitrogen and phosphorus are used in the growing process.\*
6. **Review the 5 minute rule** Dave Trudeau volunteered to be timekeeper.
7. **Adams County LWCD update – Kason Morley** Kason will report on items as they appear on the agenda.
8. **Steve Oberle activity update** Steve reported that he had met last week with the County Cons and DNR and the progress continues on the 9 Key Element Plan. Additionally, he's been collecting watershed information and sharing it with our committee members. He advised that we need to decide what our role will be as we move forward with the 9 Key Plan; John Endrizzi added that we can't sit back but need to renew our participation commitment. Steve suggested we initiate an annual program of water well testing in the future.
9. **Setup initial mtg with county conservationists – Don, Carson & John – Kason** Consensus that this process has been met with the ongoing meetings for the 9 Key Element Plan and that a further meeting is not needed at this time.
  - a. **Possible 14 Mile funded lunch mtg w/Steve, county cons, Pat Oldenburg, 2 committee members**
  - b. **Review Jan agenda item 6.3.c & g for content**
10. **Nine Key Element Plan**
  - a. **April 15 mtg status – Don reconfirm w/ Andrew** the plan probably won't be approved by then but that we can probably have an overview meeting; this will be determined at the Mar 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - b. **Area county con pre-review – Kason** Consensus that this is not needed as all are already part of the process.
    - i. **Include Steve & Carson**
11. **Determine future alternate meeting dates/times** John asked for date change suggestions with none offered.
  - a. **Consider an evening meeting to accommodate those who work**
  - b. **Consider a Saturday during the summer to attract weekenders**

- 12. Schedule nutrient management view overtraining session with Sue Porter of DATCP – Kason** To be done in future after the 9 Key Element Planning meetings are further along.
- 13. Schedule social media training with Megan – Kason** Kason informed us that the County is organizing these sessions and he'll advise us when they are scheduled.
- 14. Schedule mtg with Rachel of DATCP to discuss producer led councils – Kason/Don** To be done in future after the 9 Key Element Planning meetings are further along.
- 15. Discuss June 8<sup>th</sup> Spring Property Owners mtg**
  - a. Review Jan minutes item 10 for content**
- 16. Setup discussion regarding validity of 35' buffer & enforcement (DNR, P&Z, Kason, Goggins, et al) Don** Phil McLaughlin, Adams Co. P&Z Manager, explained current status of NR115 and how many of the provisions previously established were stripped or made unenforceable in recent years by the State Legislature. It still is illegal to remove a 35' buffer but his department needs complaints so that it can be caught while in process. As a group, we can inform property owners of the benefits/importance and encourage them to comply. John suggested that we include a module on this at the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- 17. Status of Leola Ditch management – John** John attended the Adams County Drainage Board meeting and learned that the Leola Ditch is unfunded and any changes there are initiated by the few farmers along the ditch. John has applied to serve on the Drainage Board. He also said it would be unlikely that Portage County would be able to encompass Leola since it crosses county lines.
- 18. Evaluate Land & Water Plans of upstream resources** Kason reported that Portage County just started process of updating their plan; Adams County will be updating in 2020.
  - a. Need volunteers to ID other partners, sponsors/advisors**
  - b. Distribute large scale watershed map –John** Completed
- 19. Outreach - other projects, experts and any other avenues that provide direction**
  - a. When do we invite Beaver Dam Lake group to visit?**
  - b. Political representatives – Antin**
  - c. NRCS, Farm Service & others to understand funding sources – who?** Steve suggested that we don't wait too long to pursue this. Setting up a workgroup can be an agenda item for the next meeting.
  - d. Invite WPVGA (Tamas Houlihan) & WSCGA (Tom Lochner) Exec Directors to future mtg – Carson & Don** A presentation from WSCGA was part of today's meeting; WPVGA will be contacted for a future meeting.
    - i. Relationship building - Synergy, conservation programs, who in our watershed, etc**
  - e. Sign up for WI Lakes Conference April 10 – 12<sup>th</sup> – Don, John, Karen, Dave & Bob** Completed
    - i. Annual sponsorship of student for Lakes Conference**
  - f. Consider also, 1 or 2 members attend Red Cedar Watershed Conference UW Stout March 14** John is unable to attend but encouraged others to consider; Rick reinforced the value of the meeting based on his past participation. Rick also shared that he had spoken to a small, but energized group in Decorah and shared the PACRS story.
- 20. Lakes/Associations updates** The Central Wis. Land & Water Conference is being held in Lake Geneva this week; PACRS is a sponsor.
  - a. Arrowhead/LAPOA – Bob**
  - b. Camelot/LCPOA- Dan**
  - c. Petenwell/PACRS update – Rick G**
  - d. Sherwood/LSPOA-Jerry**
- 21. County & town meeting reports**
  - a. County lake alliance – Ystad** John attended Saturday's meeting; Kason and Sam made a presentation on the County's support for lakes.

- b. **LWCD committee – Endrizzi & Wiessinger** Meeting is tomorrow.
- c. **County Board – Benkowski & Wiessinger** Jerry reported that there was nothing pertaining to this committee.
- d. **County P & Z – Antin**
- e. **Town P & Z - Wiessinger** Jerry reported that there was nothing pertaining to this committee.
- f. **Town Board – Endrizzi & Wiessinger** Report on 1,000 acres of wetlands on County O that is for sale and may be incorporated into the County Forestland
- g. **Town Parks and Rec – Endrizzi** Twin Lakes project on hold til ice out.
- 22. **Farmer relationship workgroup status – Endrizzi, Antin, Heinecke & Ystad** Group will meet after we've had a presentation from WPVGA director.
- 23. **Soil testing workgroup – Endrizzi, Benkowski** John has received the GIS maps showing past tested properties.
- 24. **Recommendations for further septic system testing – Bob Benkowski** This is being pursued by Tri-Lakes.
  - a. **Recommended pumper program**
- 25. **Watershed flow & nitrate testing workgroup update – John Endrizzi, Dave Trudeau, Scott Provost(advisor)**
- 26. **Lake friendly fertilizer program workgroup update – Ron Foster, Carson Heinecke and Joe G** Jamie reported on this earlier in the meeting.
- 27. **+eco**
- 28. **Water turbine project status – Jerry Wiessinger**
- 29. **Shoreline habitat restoration status – Dave Trudeau, Don Ystad**
  - a. **Healthy Lakes grant participant status** Dave is working with the property owners to implement.
  - b. **Fish Habitat status** Dave reported that work was completed last Wednesday and that 80 trees were placed on the ice around the Sherwood islands; the project cost \$4500 and included 165 volunteer hours; \$2000 was received from the DNR grant and Dave is reaching out to LSPOA and Tri-Lakes for help with the balance. Dave is hoping to line up a drone to take photos of the fish sticks.
- 30. **TriLakes/14 Mile website status– Don Ystad**
- 31. **Set next agenda date, tentatively April 8th and topics** Next meeting will be April 15<sup>th</sup> with time yet to be set.
- 32. **Adjourn** Motion by Scott Bordeau, second by Jerry Wiessinger to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:17 pm.

\* This is Tom Lochner's response to Donna Hasdal's challenge regarding the use of the term "limited" regarding nitrogen and phosphorous use by cranberry growers in Barb's minutes from the March 14 Mile Creek committee meeting:

“I cannot recall exactly what I said at the meeting but I would agree with the statement that we use limited amounts of both nitrogen and phosphorous. I would offer the following for clarification:

- You are correct that we consider nitrogen to be “self-limiting” since applying too much (the UW guidelines call for 25 - 40 lbs. per acre based on soil and tissue analysis) results in excessive vegetative growth, poor fruit quality and reduced yield. I believe I tried to communicate that as part of the presentation. We also use the ammonium form of nitrogen and not the nitrate form since the plant does not utilize the nitrate form.
- I would also agree that we use limited or smaller amounts of phosphorus and spoon feed it in multiple, small applications so that it is available to the plants. Research has shown that phosphorus binds to soil particles in low pH soils within 2-3 weeks of application and thus becomes unavailable to the plant. The UWEX

guidelines in our Nutrient Management Plans use 20 lbs. per acre as the guideline. Growers need to document the need for exceeding that amount and if they are they also develop a phosphorus reduction strategy.

- I did present that our nutrient management decisions are based on a number of factors in our plans, which are written to meet the NRCS 590 Standard. Those include water but more importantly tissue analysis and soil tests in addition to plant health, precipitation and variety and historical yields.
- Most of our growers in the 14 mile Watershed have the ability to recover water and pump it back into their reservoirs. This conserves water for use during the growing season and also reduces any potential runoff.
- I respectfully disagree with the statement that somehow it is “misleading that no cranberry growers are contributing to our water quality issues which is not supported by any factual data relating to our 14 Mile Watershed.” I have not seen an such data, in fact data from our growers show that there is LESS nitrogen in the water after it passes through the cranberry farm system, the same with phosphorus.

I appreciated the opportunity to meet with your group and share information. I believe that it is in everyone’s interest to communicate with each other. I felt we had a positive and constructive conversation. I have not met Ms. Hasdal but am disappointed that she would mischaracterize my presentation and not taken the time to attend to obtain answers to her questions.” Tom Lochner, Executive Director, Wis. Cranberry Growers