14 Mile Joint Rome/TriLakes Watershed Committee
Held at Rome Town Hall 1156 Alpine Drive, Rome, WI
Minutes for Monday, November 5, 2018 at 2:00 PM

1. **Call to order & confirm posting** Don Ystad called the meeting to order at 2 pm; agendas were posted on November 1, 2018.
2. **Pledge** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **Roll call** Scott Bordeau, Don Ystad, John Haugen, Rick Antin, Carson Heinecke, John Endrizzi, Rick Georgeson, Jerry Wiessinger, and Dave Trudeau. Also present – Scott Provost, DNR; Sam Peterson, Lakes Specialist and Tonya, DNR.
4. **Review and approve minutes for October 8, 2017** Motion by Dave Trudeau, second by Scott Bordeau to approve the October 8, 2018 minutes. Motion approved.
5. **Review the 5 minute rule** Don reminded us all of this new guideline.
6. **Adams County Lake Alliance update – Bill Pegler** no report
7. **Adams County LWCD update – Kason Morley** LWCD is now known as LWRR; Sam Peterson reported: 1) he's working on beach club grants by contacting the lake associations and individual beach clubs, 2) repairs on the Sherwood dam will soon be completed and 3) he is working to set up well water testing in the county.
8. **Adams County beach testing/closure procedure – Leah Ekstein** no report
9. **Adams County Board mtg update and Oct 16th follow up – Ystad** the follow-up meeting was held October 16 to develop solutions to water quality issues throughout the county. Don offered to cost share to bring in experts in the future.
10. **Petenwell/PACRS update– Rick Georgeson** Rick reported that PACRS donated $2000 to Wood Co. Conservationist towards purchase of $25,000 equipment for farmers to allow them to try out no till practice. PACRS will be meeting with new staff at LWRR to share their organizations mission and activities. PACRS also donated to the Water Walk. Scott advised that they received a $1,500 grant from the Alliant Energy Foundation.
11. **Outreach - other projects, experts and any other avenues that provide direction**
    a. **Beaver Dam Lake visit report – Endrizzi, Benkowski, Ystad** John, Bob and Don met with this group who are about 3 years ahead of us on a 9 Key Element Plan to gather insights from their experience. They have a strong committee led by a civil engineer and have put efforts into creating settling ponds to help with clean up. Scott Provost shared that a settling pond wouldn't help in our sandy soils. The Beaver Dam Lake also has a carp issue to deal with. The group offered to come to a future meeting.
    b. **Wallandal Farm visit – Ystad** Don reported on his visit to this farm in southern Adams County. The Wallandals are environmental stewards on their land with 60' setbacks as an example. They recommended that we get involved with the Discovery Farms group and conference on Dec. 12.
    c. **Political representatives – Antin** Rick will renew efforts after the election.
    d. **Other watershed groups (Redstone) – Antin** Rick needs to explore further.
    e. **Expert resources – Ystad** Don re-introduced Steve Oberle from Oconto County; he has background both as a farmer and a former county conservationist. He has agreed to help us develop priorities for the future. He will meet with us an hour and a half prior to next month's meeting.
12. **Town of Rome Twin Lakes project grant request – Endrizzi** John shared conversation with Scott Provost concerning Twin Lakes might be a good candidate for a DNR restoration grant to manipulate water levels to encourage plant growth and subsequent habitat for small fish. Scott explained process of shocking to determine if carp would be an issue. Question raised on whether tourism dollars might be available.
13. **Request assigned attendees for county & town meetings** Assignments as follows:

a. **County lake alliance - Ystad**
b. **LWCD committee – 2nd Tues – Jerry and John**
c. **County Board – 2nd Tues – Jerry and Bob**
d. **County P & Z – 1st Wed - Rick**
e. **Town P & Z - Jerry**
f. **Town Board – 1st & 3rd Thurs - Jerry**
g. **Other – Park & Recreation – John E**

14. **Discuss addition of committee members** Don recommended adding additional members to the committee. Motion by Don Ystad, second by John Endrizzi to add Karen Knotek to the committee. Motion approved.

Motion by John Haugen, second by Scott Bordeau to move to item #19. Motion approved.

15. **Create farmer relationship workgroup** Carson suggested we get the 9 Key Element Plan in place before establishing a workgroup. Sam Peterson will help in getting a list of watershed landowners as well as operation managers for the watershed from Adams, Waushara and Portage counties. Don Ystad will contact Andrew Craig of DNR to get a timeline for approval of 9 Key Element Plan as well as a feedback meeting with us.
16. **Soil testing workgroup update –Bob Benkowski, John Endrizzi**
    a. **Beach club testing this fall** Tests were completed on approximately 10 beach clubs. Results will be compared to resident properties (beach clubs do not fertilize).
    b. **Continuation of soil tests in 2019 for consistent coverage around lakes** Consensus that the program be continued and promoted next year to gather more data.
        i. **untested areas, etc**
17. **Status of 9 key element plan submittal – Kason Morley** already covered above
    a. **Research other plans – what worked, citizen involvement, etc**
18. **Recommendations for further septic system testing – Bob Benkowski** Bob is still working with ODC and the county to identify
    a. **Database: Number of septic systems in our watershed and how old**
        i. **TriLakes database & followup**
        ii. **County database & followup**
    b. **McGinley follow on testing on Sherwood**
19. **Watershed flow & nitrate testing workgroup update – John Endrizzi, Dave Trudeau, Scott Provost(advisor)**

Scott Provost shared a presentation after analysis of our water testing data; 3 'hot spots' were identified in the upper watershed (D and 5th, D and 73 and D and 3rd) and recommended additional testing in these areas to further identify the source of the high readings. He emphasized that it's not just phosphorus, but also nitrogen that leads to BGA. The testing revealed that ph levels are below water quality standards but that nitrogen levels are very high. He also suggested that there is a drop off of n levels between the hot spots and the lakes and wants to understand further. He will follow up with Pat Oldenberg of DNR to gain additional insights.

    a. **Status of testing to date, evaluation & future direction**
20. **Lake friendly fertilizer program workgroup update – Ron Foster, Carson Heinecke and Joe Greco**
    a. **Recognized applicator program status** Carson shared list of applicators; only 5 of 22 have responded. It was suggested that a follow up phone call be made before publishing the preferred applicator list. Rick A, Rick G, Bob B and Scott B will develop common talk track for the calls and make them.
21. **Water turbine project status – Jerry Wiessinger** no report

a. **Equipment needs and plans for 2019**

22. **Shoreline habitat restoration status – Dave Trudeau, Don Ystad**
    a. **Healthy Lakes grant participant status** Dave reported that he found a replacement for one of the properties that dropped out of the program
    b. **Review beach club mowing recommendation w/ Camelot (should this be town-wide?)**
    c. **Fish stocking, fish sticks and fish cribs** Don, Dave and Bob will attend fish management meeting scheduled for Nov 15
23. **Communicating with the community – Don Ystad** Needs to continue to pursue updated website
    a. **TriLakes/14 Mile website status**
        i. **Load forum presentation to new site**
    b. **Loop with TriLakes, Town, Lake Associations**
24. **Budget status/changes**
25. **Set next agenda date (tent. 12/10/18) and topics** Next meeting on December 10 at 2 pm preceded by meeting with Steve Oberle starting at 12:30.
26. **Adjourn** Motion by Dave Trudeau, second by John Endrizzi to adjourn. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.