

**14 Mile Joint Rome/TriLakes Watershed Committee  
Held at Rome Town Hall 1156 Alpine Drive, Rome, WI  
Minutes for Monday, December 10th, 2018 at 12:30 PM**

1. **Call to order & confirm posting** Don Ystad called the meeting to order at 12:30; agendas were posted on 12/6/18.
2. **Pledge** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **Roll call** Committee members: Don Ystad, John Haugen, Carson Heinecke, John Endrizzi, Dave Trudeau, Jerry Wiessinger, Rick Georgeson, Bob Benkowski and Scott Bordeau. Guests: Steve Oberle, Sam Peterson and Kason Morley of Adams County, Evan of UW-EX, Scott Provost, Mark Hazuga, Taylor Hasz and Pat Oldenburg, all of DNR.
4. **Review and approve minutes for November 5, 2018** – item skipped
5. **Strategic discussion with Steve Oberle, DNR, LWC & others - 12:30 until 2:00 (Notes from discussions:)**
  - a. **Understanding our role and limitations – how do we be more effective?** Watershed is large, encompassing 4 counties; important to work the entire watershed, not just the lakes area. Need to build relationships in order to implement the 9 Key Element Plan. 9 Key is the foundation for moving forward – any progress will be based on our efforts. Several different types of grants may be available to support implementation; grant dollars can be used to implement best practices in the watershed or to sponsor workshops for learning about the new practices. Steve Oberle to follow up with Andrew Craig on status of the Plan and include Kason on any communications. The 14 Mile Watershed is included in the Wis. River TMDL but is a small portion. How do we set a goal for nitrogen? The TMDL addresses phosphorus through nutrient management plans.
  - b. **Building bridges with Ag, other projects, other county cons, our own county, etc** Start with the counties (LWC and Farm Services) as well as NRCS and build upon their relationships with farmers. Kason has just started to build as he is new in this position. All four counties need to be involved. The area has large growers so perhaps working through growers' groups/trade associations such as PVGA (potatoes) and the cranberry association would be beneficial. It was noted that processors often require certain levels of nutrients so it will be important to include them as well. It's best if the farmer writes his own plan as he will buy-in to it vs being dictated to. Important to show them the benefits to their operation. Workshops can be helpful for both county and farmers. Steve wondered if Plainfield has a source water plan and if they might be a partner for us. Important to identify early adopters in the watershed, work with them and then move on to others – allow it to be farmer to farmer. Perhaps offer a monthly farmer breakfast. Possible contacts mentioned include Hancock Research Station, Heartland Farms (Jeremy Pavelski, President) and the county ag agent in Antigo as this is another sandy area and agent has been working with potato growers. Farmers want to hold soil on their land so teaching how cover crops can help with that would benefit both the farmer and the watershed. Demonstrations of best practices can go a long way to get farmers to try themselves. Some farmers are afraid of the 'risk' involved in changing practices as it often requires buying new equipment and margins are already slim.
  - c. **Involving our lakes community with the 9 Key Element plan** Don introduced Chad Ziegler of Rome Water Utility and a couple of volunteers involved in fish stocking the lakes; they indicated that they would like to be involved.
  - d. **How do we promote producer led councils?** Start by finding a sparkplug/innovator farmer and enlist him to help set up group. The long-term solution is provider-led councils. We need to address this in January. There are very few small farms in the watershed – because there are large farms, changes can have the biggest impact.
  - e. **How do we capture the intel? – relevant data, other projects, processes decisions, etc?**

- f. **Improving existing programs**
  - g. **Identifying priorities for 2019** It's important to have an implementation plan and to involve farmers in the process from the beginning.
6. **Resume regular agenda**
  7. **Review the 5 minute rule**
  8. **Adams County LWCD update – Kason Morley**
    - a. **Status 9 Key Element Plan** Kason is waiting for a response from Andrew Craig. He is working to have one-on-ones with farmers and he also indicated that he will be able to help with workshops in the future.
  9. **Adams County beach testing/closure procedure – Leah Ekstein** Leah attended the last Tri-Lakes meeting; Don will invite her to join us at a meeting in the spring.
  10. **Adams County Board follow-up – Ystad** no report
  11. **Petenwell/PACRS update– Rick Georgeson** Rick shared photos from the Mill Creek farmer-led council with demonstration visits to farmers that are implementing cover crops and no till practices. Practices may be different in different parts of the state because of differences in soils and crops grown etc.
  12. **Consider recognized septic pumper program – Bob Benkowski** no report
  13. **Outreach - other projects, experts and any other avenues that provide direction**
    - a. **When do we invite Beaver Dam Lake group to visit?** Late spring
    - b. **Political representatives – Antin**
  14. **Town of Rome Twin Lakes project grant request – Endrizzi** John indicated that they have to wait for ice-off before proceeding.
  15. **County & town meeting reports**
    - a. **County lake alliance – Ystad** Board met and is working on programs for 2019.
    - b. **LWCD committee – Endrizzi & Wiessinger** John reported that recent meeting included readdressing the mining ordinance as they want to be proactive.
    - c. **County Board – Benkowski & Wiesinger** meeting is upcoming
    - d. **County P & Z – Antin** nothing to report
    - e. **Town P & Z - Wiessinger** nothing relating to the lakes
    - f. **Town Board – Endrizzi & Wiessinger** nothing relating to the lakes
    - g. **Town Parks and Rec – Endrizzi** they are planning for a new park in the industrial park; at the existing park by Walden, they may be setting up a kayak launch point.
    - h. Steve Oberle wondered if we might consider also attending public health department meetings.
  16. **Create farmer relationship workgroup** Members will be Don Y, John E, Rick A and Carson H.
  17. **Soil testing workgroup – Endrizzi, Benkowski** Need to take inventory of past tests and use information to develop plan for 2019.
  18. **Recommendations for further septic system testing – Bob Benkowski** Bob indicated that they will be revising the reporting postcard to include more requirements.
    - a. **McGinley follow on testing on Sherwood**
  19. **Watershed flow & nitrate testing workgroup update – John Endrizzi, Dave Trudeau, Scott Provost(advisor)**
    - a. **Status of testing to date, evaluation & future direction** John indicated that he may drop one of the locations tested and replace it with a spot north of Hwy. 73. He is struggling with SWIMS – Taylor volunteered to help.
  20. **Lake friendly fertilizer program workgroup update – Ron Foster, Carson Heinecke and Joe Greco**
    - a. **Results of recognized applicator program phone follow-up** Carson, Rick A, Rick G, Scott and Bob each reported on the results of their calls; they found that several of the non-responding businesses don't do fertilizer applications or are out of business. As they have a few more to reach, they should have a final tabulation at the next meeting and it can be added to the websites.

- 21. Water turbine project status – Jerry Wiessinger** no report
- 22. Shoreline habitat restoration status – Dave Trudeau, Don Ystad**
  - a. Healthy Lakes grant participant status** Dave reported that 7 property owners have shown interest; contracts need to be signed by Feb 1. He will be working on fish sticks in Lake Sherwood the week of Jan 7 and needs volunteers to help him.
  - b. Update on 11/15 Fish Habitat mtg** Meeting was well-attended, much was learned and next meeting will be Jan 3.
- 23. Communicating with the community – Don Ystad**
  - a. TriLakes/14 Mile website status** Still wrestling with the project but there is a person to help set it up.
  - b. Loop with TriLakes, Town, Lake Associations**
- 24. Budget status/changes** no report
- 25. Determine winter schedule and set next agenda date (tent. 1/14/2019) and topics** Next meeting will be on Jan 7 at 2 pm (*note change from normal schedule*); Don leaving Jan 10 and gone til April – John Endrizzi will lead meetings in his absence.
- 26. Adjourn** Meeting was adjourned at 3:00.