14 Mile Joint Rome/TriLakes Watershed Committee
Held at Rome Town Hall 1156 Alpine Drive, Rome, WI
Minutes for Monday, April 23, 2018 at 2:00 PM

1. **Call to order & confirm posting** Don Ystad called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Agendas were posted on 4/19 at Rome Town Hall-10:48; NPESB-10:56; Pritzls-10:51 and US Bank-10:43.
2. **Pledge** The pledge was recited.
3. **Roll call:** Don Ystad, Ron Foster, Wayne Johnson, Chris Landowski, Barb Herreid, Bob Benkowski, Chuck Sibilsky, Reesa Evans, Rick Georgeson, Carson Heinecke, Jerry Wiessinger, David Trudeau and John Endrizzi.
4. **Review and approve minutes for March 12, 2017** Motion by Ron Foster, second by Dave Trudeau to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2018 meeting. Motion approved.
5. **Review communication with TriLakes and Town of Rome in regard to open meeting laws** Reminder of rules governing Wis Open Meetings including voting only at meetings, not via email and the need to include the 14 Mile Watershed email address on all email communications so that an official record is kept. Motion by Wayne Johnson, second by Ron Foster to move to item 17 on the agenda. Motion approved.

17. **Identify and draw from experience of other projects, experts and any other avenues that provide direction – ongoing**
    a. **WI Lakes Conference report – Endrizzi, Georgeson & Ystad** Don Ystad shared a recap of his sessions: 1)website creation and sharing of information with other watershed groups; 2) Paul McGinley spoke on intro to lake eutrophication and WILMS model; 3)treating lakes with alum to address water quality (most effective in lakes with minimal flow; very expensive); 4)developing a county-wide study as done in Oconto County; 5)Justin Morris of USDA on improving soil health to improve lakes and shared demo of rain simulator; 6)Elkhart Lake project using a tile drain system to purify runoff and 7)Don was member of a 3-person panel; others were from Lake Delton and Vilas County. Rick Georgeson shared that lots of folks like us from all over the state were there to learn; we need to continue to do things ourselves and not rely on government to be the solution to fix water problems. John Endrizzi shared learning about the importance of microinvertibrates and also attended a SWIMS session.
    b. **Contact with other groups at conference**
        i. **Nine Key element experience**
        ii. **Lake cleanup experience**
        iii. **Other expertise**

6. **Discussion of citizen Dan Hubacek's communication regarding phosphorous from cranberry growing operations. (see 3/23 e-mail)** Don Ystad will further respond to him with additional information learned at Lakes Conference that treating with alum is probably not a solution for our lakes because of the amount of flow that exists; will also clarify that cranberry operations are not the source of runoff issues as they avoid phosphorus because it is counterproductive and that they also have close-looped systems to retain their water.
7. **Review of 3/21 meeting with farmers – Kason Morley** Chuck Sibilsky reported that Adams County had sent out 300 postcards about the event and were disappointed that only 14 attended (1 was from our watershed). They are currently working to set up a farmer-led group in the county. Reesa Evans noted that she's found that one-to-one communications with farmers are most effective.
8. **Status of programs involving Adams County Conservationist** Wally Sedlar has resigned. Reesa Evans has been hired to write the 9 Key Element Plan which is due in September.
9. **Soil testing workgroup update – Wally Sedlar, Bob Benkowski, John Endrizzi**

a. **Discussion regarding alternate approach to soil testing with fellow citizen Chris Landowski** Chris shared soil test kits information and how to obtain results from lab in Marshfield. She will work with Bob and John to devise a plan to continue to gather soil test information. Reesa suggested looking at map and identify holes; beach clubs will be addressed by a separate grant.
b. **Obtain and evaluate existing test information** The workgroup will consider if Wally should be brought into the soil testing program on a fee basis.
c. **Program to increase test candidates and expansion to other areas**
d. **Plan/approval for tissue tests**
e. **Estimate costs**

10. **Discussion and planning for 9 key element plan– Wally Sedlar & Scott Provost** Reesa Evans is working with Kason and Meghan to come up to speed with what's already been completed. She anticipates beginning mid-May to start writing; because it is very comprehensive, she will be working in sections and submitting them to DNR for review and feedback as she proceeds. After September deadline, it will go to EPA and there is no timetable for their response and can be a long process.
    a. **Leadership**
    b. **Schedule**
    c. **Status**
11. **Determine if further septic system tests are required – Wally Sedlar**
    a. **Establish workgroup for further review and planning**
    b. **Number of septic systems in our watershed and how old – Kason Morley** Chuck Sibilsky reported that Kason worked with GIS coordinator and identified 2500 permits in the 14 Mile Watershed; Don will be in touch with Kason to have more information for the next meeting.
12. **Spring Workshop plans** The workgroup will be meeting after this meeting to further develop plans.
    a. **Workgroup, Johnson, Wiessinger, Heinecke, Endrizzi, Ystad**
    b. **Status/Date/speakers** Wally Sedlar has agreed to be the keynote speaker
    c. **Committee member roles**
13. **Watershed flow & nitrate testing workgroup update – John Endrizzi, Dave Trudeau, Scott Provost(advisor)**
    a. **Status of testing to date** John Endrizzi reported that testing was done on 4/22 and that the flow this month was ten times greater due to the large snowfall the week earlier.
    b. **Identify any resulting changes to budget**
14. **Upstream agriculture partnership** No report
    a. **Testing plan for soil and water/ tie in with nine key element plan**
    b. **Create work group**
    c. **Obtain list of upstream owners**
    d. **Establish communication plan**
15. **Lake friendly fertilizer program workgroup update – Ron Foster, Carson Heinecke and Joe Greco**
    Discussion of communication to applicators – need to check with Mike Miller. Ron Foster shared feedback to new ordinance from both property owners and one of the applicator companies.
    a. **Intern for fertilizer ordinance adherence** A suggestion to consider a local property owner rather than a young intern.
    b. **Status of newsletter recommendations with lake associations** Articles were included in both the Sherwood and Arrowhead newsletters; LCPOA to add to website since article missed their newsletter.
    c. **Place signs at each lake advising of fertilizer ordinance changes** Suggested to place signs at beach clubs, not boat landings. The workgroup will meet and determine if signage should be placed and where.

16. **Refine 2018 expenditure budget/goals and activities for 2018** Defer to May; workgroups for soils, water and fertilizer to get together to further discuss and come up with plan.
    a. **Confirm budgets**
        i. **Determine budget for fertilizer program and water test intern**
        ii. **Soil tests**
        iii. **Water tests and equipment**
        iv. **Workshop**
    b. **Review procedure for invoice submission and approval** Any invoices should go to Tri-Lakes but need to be approved by our committee first – Bob Benkowski will coordinate.
18. **Communicating with the community – Don Ystad**
    a. **Quarterly updates**
    b. **TriLakes & Rome website posts**
    c. **Loop with TriLakes, Town, Lake Associations**
        i. **Schedule intro meetings with lake association boards**
    d. **Carson and Don meeting with LCPOA**
19. **Outreach –** Defer to May
    a. **Political representatives – Rick Antin**
    b. **Other watershed groups, etc**
20. **Petenwell/PACRS status– Rick Georgeson** Rick reported that DNR has hired Pat Oldenburg to head up the TMDL project. Three public meetings were recently held and currently are in a 30-day public comment period before the plan goes to the EPA for approval. Wood County will be buying a no-till drill for farmers to try/borrow before buying on their own. 10,000 placemats with educational message to be distributed to local restaurants. PACRS also received funding from Thrivant Financial.
    a. **Healthy soil-Healthy water workshop report**
21. **Water turbine project status – Jerry Wiessinger** Jerry discovered that Tri-Lakes paid for electricity last year and would need to increase budget to cover this year. Motion by David Trudeau, second by Ron Foster to increase the budget from $4800 to $5800 for the aerators. Motion approved. Contract should be from both Town and 14 Mile Watershed and will be reviewed by Town Attorney prior to sending.
    a. **Plan for 2018**
    b. **Participants identified**
    c. **Equipment needs**
    d. **Establish workgroup**
22. **Shoreline habitat restoration status – Dave Trudeau, Don Ystad**
    a. **Healthy Lakes grant** David Trudeau reported $7000 for 7 practices (5 properties and 2 fish sticks) has been approved.
    b. **Beach club mowing recommendation – Camelot**
    c. **Status of fish sticks program**
    d. **Setup meeting w/Jennifer Bergman, Roger Spice, TriLakes and lake associations to determine best direction for fish stocking, fish sticks and fish cribs**
23. **Set next agenda date (tent. 5/14/18) and topics** May 14 at 2 pm set for next meeting.
24. **Adjourn** Motion by Ron Foster, second by Carson Heinecke to adjourn. Motion approved. Adjourned at 4:10 pm.