14 Mile Joint Rome/TriLakes Watershed Committee
Held at Rome Town Hall 1156 Alpine Drive, Rome, WI
Minutes for Monday, August 13, 2018 at 2:00 PM

1. **Call to order & confirm posting** John Endrizzi called meeting to order at 2 pm; Barb reported the postings date and times.
2. **Pledge** The pledge was recited.
3. **Roll call** Reesa Evans, Carson Heinecke, Jerry Wiessinger, David Trudeau, John Endrizzi, Rick Antin, Ron Foster, Rick Georgeson, Kason Morley, John Haugen, Scott Provost and Bob Benkowski.
4. **Review and approve minutes for July 9, 2018** Motion by Jerry Wiessinger, second by Rick Georgeson to approve the July 9, 2018 minutes. Motion approved.
5. **Adams County Lake Alliance update** Bob Benkowski reported that Bill Pegler is new President and Don Ystad is new Secy-Treasurer. Don will be presenting information on economic impact of lake property to Land & Water on 8/14 and the County Board in the future.
6. **How the TMDL involves the 14 Mile watershed – Rick Georgeson/designee** Rick shared a memo and response from Pat Oldenburg, DNR head of the Wis. River TMDL. Rick was asking how the TMDL relates to the 14 Mile Watershed. The goal is for a 30-40% reduction in the watershed and Pat hopes that the TMDL process will bring people and groups together to solve issues. Scott Provost indicated that 14 Mile will benefit directly from the TMDL.
7. **Soil testing workgroup update –Bob Benkowski, John Endrizzi, Wally Sedlar** No report
   a. **Confirm revised soil testing approach using Wally Sedlar**
   b. **Expansion of soil test for consistent coverage around lakes**
      i. **Beach clubs, untested areas, etc**
   c. **Confirm all outcomes have been sent to participants**
   d. **Tissue tests for select areas initially**
   e. **Project ongoing costs**
8. **Discussion and planning for 9 key element plan– Reesa Evans** Reesa outlined her work on the plan so far and next sections she'll be working on including identifying options for the future as well as milestones for the next ten years. She has met with Andrew Craig and got some suggestions to incorporate and will also be meeting on Thursday with the conservationists from the other counties that are involved. She's planning to provide a completed document to DNR by first week or two in September.
   a. **Status of sessions and priorities**
      i. **Andrew Craig mtg, late August public mtg**
      ii. **Inclusion of water and soil test data**
   b. **Status of communication plan - 14 Mile Committee with upstream ag neighbors**
9. **Recommendations for further septic system testing – Wally Sedlar, Kason Morley, Bob Benkowski** Scott Provost gave presentation on septic systems (Privately-Owned Water Treatment Systems or POWTS). Phosphorus goes to groundwater but much of nitrogen is released as a gas. The more nitrogen in lake results in more toxic algae blooms so it's important to address both nitrogen and phosphorus. He discussed key items to heed when installing POWTS as well as maintenance recommendations. It's important to identify groundwater flow directions. DNR has no jurisdiction on POWTS. Paul McGinley could assist us with modeling to determine % that septics contribute to water quality issues. Once known, it would help us to determine whether or not a sanitary sewer system would have a big impact – ie is it practical and cost effective to go that route if it only affects 10% of the phosphorus load?
   a. **Number of septic systems in our watershed and how old**

i. **TriLakes database & followup** Bob Benkowski reported that the open records request has not resulted in usable information. Will be determining next step.
ii. **County database & followup**

b. **Further discussion – e coli & plume testing**

10. **Spring Forum follow-ups** No report
    a. **Summary posted for non-attendees on TriLakes?**
    b. **Video**
11. **Discuss Fall Forum** Before planning a forum, it was suggested that we see what issues/concerns are raised at the Tri-Lakes annual meeting and base presentation on that.
12. **Watershed flow & nitrate testing workgroup update – John Endrizzi, Dave Trudeau, Scott Provost(advisor)**
    a. **Status of testing to date** New volunteer Nick Eidenschink was introduced.
    b. **Results of spot test for e coli on 7/14 test cycle**
    c. **Consider adding e coli testing and other – Scott & Wally discuss at TriLakes mtg 7/25**
    d. **Protocol for reporting water quality health concerns - Leah Eckstein – Adams Cty Health Officer** Leah Eckstein addressed blue-green algae blooms (BGA) and e coli. **For BGA**: advisories are posted as needed but if beach is involved, she can close the beach until problem has cleared. No testing is done; visual observations are made. BGA is now considered a reportable disease – if reported, then DNR is involved and test samples are taken. She relies on citizen input/observations. To report on weekends, call on her cell phone #608-403-7234. For future, it was suggested that we consider volunteers on each lake to report or possibly the dam operator could. **For e coli**: Adams Co doesn't currently monitor for e coli. She's been in contact with Wood Co who has a program and she will suggest through the budget to start one in Adams for next year. A key is to get quick turnaround on lab tests – Wood Co provides results within 18 hours. She may be able to help us access their lab in the future. Communication to the community was discussed – Scott Provost suggested Facebook in addition to current postings on websites in Rome and e-alerts.
13. **Lake friendly fertilizer program workgroup update – Ron Foster, Carson Heinecke and Joe Greco**
    a. **Flyer distribution** Ron Foster reported that 3700 brochures were mailed; additional 1300 will be distributed to Tri-Lakes and the lake associations.
    b. **Yard signs for supportive residents**
        i. **Application process - Who gets a sign?** Initially, the 75 property owners who had soil tests last year will be contacted; they will be asked to sign a document.
        ii. **Cost/timing** Motion by Ron Foster, second by John Haugen to authorize approximately $2300 for 200 lawn signs. Motion approved.
    c. **Recognized applicator program** A letter under the Town Chair's signature has been sent to applicators explaining the new ordinance and asking them to sign a document acknowledging the changes and agreeing to comply; waiting for responses.

14. **Water turbine project status – Jerry Wiessinger** Jerry has been working with Oxford subdivision and several turbines are now installed and providing results. He would like to install a 6th unit. Motion by Ron Foster, second by David Trudeau to allow a $1,000 budget overrun to provide the 6th unit. Motion approved. Some of the units will be sold at end of the year which will help offset the expenses. Discussion of bottom of bay and methods to stir up and push the algae out. Scott Provost cautioned not to let forced air to blow vertically as it could result in illnesses.
    a. **2018 participants identified – Oxford?**
    b. **Contract approved**
    c. **Equipment needs**
15. **Shoreline habitat restoration status – Dave Trudeau, Don Ystad** No report
    a. **Healthy Lakes grant participant status**
    b. **Review beach club mowing recommendation w/ Camelot**
    c. **Meeting w/Jennifer Bergman, Roger Spice, TriLakes and lake associations to determine best direction for fish stocking, fish sticks and fish cribs**
16. **Confirm schedule with Wally Sedlar for professional services** No report
17. **Petenwell/PACRS status– Rick Georgeson** Rick also shared information on program held at UW Research station in Stratford. Some of the practices discussed there were shared and Reesa would like to incorporate them into the 9 Key Element Plan.
18. **Outreach - other projects, experts and any other avenues that provide direction – ongoing**
    a. **WI Lakes Conference contact follow-up Ystad**
        i. **Paul McInley**
        ii. **Quita Sheehan - Vilas County study**
        iii. **Bob Martini – Oneida Cty study**
        iv. **Emily Stewart – Sheboygan Cty – Iron Slag**
    b. **Political representatives – Antin**
    c. **Other watershed groups (Redstone) - Antin**
19. **Communicating with the community – Don Ystad** No report
    a. **TriLakes/14 Mile website status**
    b. **Quarterly updates**
    c. **TriLakes & Rome website posts**
    d. **Loop with TriLakes, Town, Lake Associations**
        i. **Schedule intro meetings with lake association boards**
20. **Budget status/changes** No report
21. **Set next agenda date (tent. 9/10/18) and topics** Meeting set for 9/10/18; Carson suggested that we add discussion of establishing an ag liaison to the agenda.
22. **Adjourn** Motion by Rick Antin, second by Ron Foster to adjourn. Motion approved. Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.