14 Mile Joint Rome/TriLakes Watershed Committee
Held at Rome Town Hall 1156 Alpine Drive, Rome, WI
Minutes for Monday, September 10, 2018 at 2:00 PM

1. **Call to order & confirm posting** Don Ystad called meeting to order at 2 pm; agenda was posted on 9/5.
2. **Pledge** The pledge was recited.
3. **Roll call** Scott Bordeau, Jerry Wiessinger, David Trudeau, John Endrizzi, Don Ystad, Rick Antin, Ron Foster, Carson Heinecke and Bob Benkowski.
4. **Review and approve minutes for August 13, 2018** Motion by Ron Foster, second by John Endrizzi to approve the Aug 13, 2018 minutes. Motion approved.
5. **Introduce the 5 minute rule** In an effort to cover entire agenda each month, Don suggested a 5 minute rule for each agenda item. Bob Benkowski volunteered to be timekeeper and keep discussion on topic.
6. **Adams County Lake Alliance update** New President, Bill Pegler was introduced and shared his priorities for upcoming year including building on Don/Wayne's presentation to share throughout the county.
7. **Wally Sedlar status** Don stated that Wally's schedule doesn't allow him to be as involved as we'd like so we'll need pick up some of these programs ourselves – eg soil testing.
8. **Soil testing workgroup update –Bob Benkowski, John Endrizzi**
   a. **Confirm revised soil testing approach**
   b. **How many tests still to be done?** Bob reported that 25 new tests have been completed with 16 remaining; he asked for help in completing the tests.
   c. **Expansion of soil test for consistent coverage around lakes**
      i. **Beach clubs, untested areas, etc** Sherwood has 14 beach clubs; Camelot has approximately 31. Decided to sample some but not all of them. Bob Bauerhyte and John Endrizzi will help. It was suggested to review maps of lakes first before determining where to do the samples to maximize the distribution of sites. A request for additional property owners to volunteer to have tests done will be sent out.
   d. **Determine if tissue tests should be done for select areas** After clarification of the test, group decided that they don't have the expertise and will need to get assistance in the future if it will be pursued.
9. **Discussion and planning for 9 key element plan– Reesa Evans**
   a. **Status of sessions and priorities** Neither Reesa nor Kason were present. Don, Carson, Bob and John Haugen recently met with Reesa and LWC to discuss our involvement with the process.
      i. **Andrew Craig mtg**
      ii. **Planned County Cons area mtg**
      iii. **Status of completed document (1st week or two of Sept suggested at last mtg)**
      iv. **Status of public mtg**
      v. **Confirm inclusion of water and soil test data**
   b. **Status of communication plan - 14 Mile Committee with upstream ag neighbors** Timeframe for this activity in the Plan is much further down the road; consensus not to wait to begin efforts in this area. Concern was expressed that plan be implemented in a timely manner and that we should continue pursuing items/activities before receiving EPA approval. It was suggested that we be more assertive about taking a more active role in the process. LWC had suggested having a rep from our committee and Carson accepted. Need to follow up on Kason's list of upstream ag neighbors and to identify a key person to contact first. Because of Wally's experience in the past, he may have a suggestion of who that person might be. Perhaps starting with cranberry farmers and/or Tom Lochner after harvest is completed.
10. **Recommendations for further septic system testing – Kason Morley, Bob Benkowski**

a. **Database: Number of septic systems in our watershed and how old** Bob reported that Gina can compare Tri-Lakes list to the County list and that we should move forward with getting approval from the County to take responsibility for the entire list.
    i. **TriLakes database & followup**
    ii. **County database & followup**
b. **McGinley mtg 9/7 – Septic systems, e coli & plume testing** Additional plume testing will be conducted at the Yeoman Beach Club. Discussion on exploring ideas/solutions for filtering water that comes in from upstream and whether permits/regulations come into play. John E will contact Scott Provost to discuss some of the ideas and also ask for recommendation for a possible consultant.

11. **Outreach - other projects, experts and any other avenues that provide direction**
    a. **Assignments for follow-up (needs assessment and spreadsheet handout)** Assignments were made to contact names from listing and share info from the Statement of Status and Needs document and ask them for a recommendation for a consultant for us – someone who's got experience in the lake rehab process.
        i. **Names & dates**
        ii. **Follow-up report**
    b. **Political representatives – Antin** Don and Wayne will be making presentation to Adams County Board on Sept 18 and Don is encouraging citizens to attend or write letters that can be delivered that evening. Several letters have been received already.
    c. **Other watershed groups (Redstone) – Antin** Rick's research showed 25 lake groups have completed a Nine Key Element plan and that there are another 9-10 in process. He is contacting them too for suggestions and results of their implementation of the plan.
12. **Appoint committee member from each lakes association board** Have experienced mixed success with information flowing to/from the lake associations. Don will contact LCPOA to work to improve communication.
13. **Spring Forum follow-ups** Efforts have been delayed because of problems with existing website; they are working to convert Tri-Lakes' website to a new format and organization of material.
    a. **Summary posted for non-attendees on TriLakes?**
    b. **Video**
14. **Discuss Fall forum – no interest** Consensus that it's too soon to set up meeting; Scott B to follow up with John Eron to identify groups in our watershed.
15. **Watershed flow & nitrate testing workgroup update – John Endrizzi, Dave Trudeau, Scott Provost(advisor)**
    a. **Status of testing to date** **T**enth set of tests was completed last month. Both the intern and Scott P are working on statistical analysis of data; John expects to have reports in next couple of months.
    b. **Who should perform routine e coli testing and how often** Discussion on testing and who should be responsible besides our committee. John will check to see what lab is being used by Adams County.
16. **Lake friendly fertilizer program workgroup update – Ron Foster, Carson Heinecke and Joe Greco**
    a. **Yard signs for supportive residents** 25 signs were given out at Tri-Lakes annual meeting. Bob will send list of property owners who have had soil tests done so they can be contacted about the signs.
        i. **Application process - Who gets a sign?**
        ii. **How many distributed?**
    b. **Recognized applicator program status** Letters were sent to 22 applicators with only 3 responses; it was suggested that follow up calls should be from the Town since it is their ordinance. A draft document was passed out for publishing a list of preferred contractors.
17. **Water turbine project status – Jerry Wiessinger**

a. **2018 participant count** Jerry reported that a 5th unit was installed last Friday; still need a 6th spot. Improvements in immediate areas are being seen. Will pursue making a video for future expansion of the program.
b. **Contract approved?**
c. **Equipment needs into 2019**

18. **Shoreline habitat restoration status – Dave Trudeau, Don Ystad**
    a. **Healthy Lakes grant participant status** Has a waiting list of 5 properties
    b. **Review beach club mowing recommendation w/ Camelot (should this be town-wide?)** Needs to be pursued
    c. **Status of meeting w/Jennifer Bergman, Roger Spice, TriLakes and lake associations to determine best direction for fish stocking, fish sticks and fish cribs** Meeting held in July went well and they began planning for future. DNR is currently in process of doing comprehensive surveys on lakes – last one on Sherwood won't be completed until 2025. Because no stocking can be done while surveys are in process, short-term efforts will concentrate on habitat projects.
19. **Petenwell/PACRS status– Rick Georgeson** Scott B reported on 8/17 Pontoons and Politics event as well as upcoming annual fundraiser scheduled for 9/22.
20. **Communicating with the community – Don Ystad**
    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**
21. **Budget status/changes**
22. **Set next agenda date (tent. 10/8/18) and topics** Next meeting will be October 8.
23. **Adjourn** Motion by John E, second by Scott B to adjourn. Motion approved; meeting was adjourned at 4:08.