# 14 Mile Joint Rome/TriLakes Watershed Committee
# Held remotely as a video conference meeting, open to the public through a Zoom link
# Agenda/Minutes for Monday, October 12, 2020 at 2:00 PM

**1. Confirm Zoom setup** Established

**2. Call to order & confirm posting** Don Ystad called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm; Barb confirmed that the agendas were posted on October 8th at Nekoosa Pt. Edwards State Bank, Pritzls and the website; at the Rome Town Hall on October 10th.

**3. Roll call** Members present: Don Ystad, Scott Bordeau, Dave Trudeau, John Endrizzi, Karen Knotek, Carson Heinecke, Phil Rockenbach, Rick Georgeson and John Haugen. Also present: Rachael Whitehair, Pat Oldenberg, Anna James (new Lakes Specialist for Adams County), Gus Mancuso and Donna Hasdal.

**4. Review/discuss minutes for September 14, 2020 (approval at next live mtg)** There were no questions or suggestions for the minutes; they will be approved at the next live meeting.

**5. Announcements** None.

**6. Status of 9 Key Element Plan video -** Kason was not in the office today.

**7. Status of 9 Key flyer/mailer - Karen/Don:** Karen reported that she is working on a layout

**8. Status of you tube channel – Karen/Rachael:** Scott Bordeau and Don will also be involved; Rachael sent out a link to check out and will be setting up a meeting to help committee members pursue this.

**9. Organize viewing/Zoom discussion "Kiss The Ground" – Rachael:** Don, Rachael and Karen have viewed the video and each recommended setting up a viewing – it will become available on October 22nd. A lunch-and-learn or an evening viewing was discussed and consensus was to proceed with an evening presentation. The movie is one hour and fifteen minutes in length and a discussion will follow afterwards. Event will be advertised through the Town and Concerned Rome Citizens. Rachael and Don will work to set it up for late October.

**10. Status of Grants – a. Water test funding 7/1/21 through 12/31/23:** Dave Trudeau reported that he had set up a virtual meeting with the water testers and Scott Provost to work out objectives and other key details for the grant application. Approximately 20 groups were contacted to request letters of support and they are starting to come in. Tri-Lakes Management approved a resolution and will serve as the requestor as well as the financial supporter of the grant. If approved, the grant will cover $57,000 of testing and will reimburse 75% of the costs for our upstream testing, the in-lakes testing as well as e coli and DNA tests, if required. Because of the positive affect of in-kind volunteer work, Tri-Lakes' portion will only be $2,500 over three years. **B. Adams County 9 Key staffing grant 2021 – 2023:** Kason is working on a grant application to fund 75% of a new staff member for 3 years and Tri-Lakes will fund the remaining 25%. Adams County will also need to approve the application since the payroll for the position will be processed by them and then reimbursed. **c. Healthy Lakes grants for 2021:** Dave reported that recent publicity for these grants resulted in 30 responses from interested parties and that he will be incorporating 25 projects for 11 landowners in the grant application.

**11. Discuss outreach opportunities** – Don reported that the Wisconsin Wetlands Association may want to work with us in the future. A tour with their partnership team has been set up for next week to further acquaint them with our watershed. This association could be very helpful to us in establishing relationships with our upstream agriculture community. John Endrizzi shared how this group worked with and assisted the Little Plover River group.

**12**. **Upstream water testing –** John stated that 2 of the 5 transducers that were recently installed were plugged up so they weren't able to measure; he's hoping for better success next year. So far, he's conducted upstream testing for 33 months.

**13**. **In-lake water testing –** Phil reported that the in-lake testing has been completed for the season and he's expecting final test results in the next couple of weeks. The program will start up again in April. He'll be working to set up 2 volunteer groups for Camelot to eliminate lengthy travel through the channel to go from upper to lower Camelot. In-lake testing has a history going back to 2007.

**14**. **Healthy Lakes –** Dave reported that the 2018-19 projects have been completed and he'll work next month to submit them for reimbursement. Since 2017, there have been close to 50 projects.

**15. Other 14 Mile committee activities -** Dr. Paul McGinley of UW-SP has a National Science Foundation grant to help him study nitrate levels in lakes and see if there is a relationship to the levels of algae; he is interested in including the Tri-Lakes in the study and shared information on it on a recent Zoom call with Don and John.

**16. Lake reports – Camelot**: Carson commented on the water clarity; **Sherwood**: Dave is planning the Winter Fisheree for January 16 and needs volunteers to help. This is an annual fundraiser for their conservation committee; Anna, Karen and Don volunteered to help; **Petenwell**: Rick commented on and thanked the 14 Mile committee for their energy and commitment; our work in turn benefits PACRS efforts on Petenwell.

**17. Town, County, Tri-Lakes updates –** John Haugen stated that the Town is currently working on a new budget and suggested that if we have any funding gaps to let him know. He also indicated that the Firewise program needs some attention again. John also commented that he's hearing comments from all 3 lakes that water quality was good this year and wondered if there's an explanation. Pat Oldenburg shared that there's been a decrease in phosphorus levels on Petenwell but he needs to review the Tri-Lakes data in SWIMS before he can comment further. Rick suggested that when people comment on the water quality we could share with them what the 14 Mile and other groups are doing to bring additional focus to this issue.

**18. Set next agenda date, tentatively November 9th, and topics** – November 9th will be the next meeting date. Motion made by John Endrizzi, seconded by Rick Georgeson to adjourn; motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 pm.