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, July 13th, 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 July 9nd at Nekoosa Pt. Edwards State Bank, Pritzls, Rome Town Hall and the website.

3. Roll call Members present: Don Ystad, Scott Bordeau, Wayne Johnson, Dave Trudeau, John Haugen, John Endrizzi, Karen Knotek, Carson Heinecke, and Jerry Wiessinger. Also present: Scott Provost, Kason Morley, Rachael Whitehair, Bill Pegler and Beth Baranski.

4. Review/discuss minutes for June 8TH, 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. Farmers and Fishers – Karen Knotek Karen reported that she had contacted this group and spoke with Heidi from US Fish & Wildlife in LaCrosse. The group was formed 10 years ago and utilized many farmers' love of fishing as a bond to build trust with their community. We were encouraged to find one farmer already using no-till and build a group from there. Once we've got a group, Farmers and Fishers offered to come and speak to them. Karen will be joining a call tomorrow afternoon.

7. Nine Key Element Plan discussion – Kason Morley Kason gave us an overview presentation of the Nine Key Element Plan which was just recently conditionally approved by EPA. Key points include: The plan is a 'holistic' approach to addressing all areas affecting water quality. It is unique in that it combines both surface and groundwater pollution from nitrogen and phosphorus sources and is the first to have a large focus on groundwater. The plan covers the entire watershed which encompasses 4 counties, 55,417 acres in Adams, Waushara, Portage and Wood counties. Because of its size, it's been sub-divided into 3 portions or HUC's. Fifty percent is active cropland. The biggest concerns are 1) safe drinking water, preventing Blue Green Algae (BGA) blooms and 3) loss and destruction of shoreline and stream banks. Kason reviewed each of the Nine Elements as follows: 1) Identify causes and sources of pollution, 2) Estimate pollutant loading and expected load reductions, 3) Describe management measures, 4) Estimate amounts of technical and financial assistance, 5) Develop information and educate, 6) Develop a project schedule, 7) Develop milestones, 8) Identify indicators to measure progress and make adjustments and 9) Develop a monitoring component. What milestones should our group consider?: 1) Assist Kason with education and outreach including an updated waterfront owners packet, 2) Assist with reducing nutrient loading milestones by establishing a farmer-led group and continue to gather water quality data and 3) Assist with improving lake shoreline conditions by promoting shoreline stabilization projects, support increasing no-wake zones, continue soil testing and establishing shoreline demo projects. Kason then reviewed what's next in the process including educating, developing an implementation committee to establish priorities, seek additional funding opportunities, completing milestones and tracking progress by all stakeholders.

a) **Q&A attendees:** Kason fielded questions and comments. He suggested that we also develop a what's next? List and will send Don the latest version of the milestones. Carson emphasized the importance of communication between our group and LWCD as well as other stakeholders. Scott Provost encouraged us to publicize and get the word out with press releases and quarterly progress reports. Karen wants the promo sub-group to meet and decide how best to get information out in times of a pandemic. Perhaps we should apply for 501(c)(3) status.

8. ID reference mat'l & set date for budget discussion late July: Don informed us that Tri-Lakes has already input a budget amount for us.

9. Set next agenda date, tentatively August 10th, and topics Next meeting will be August 10; send any agenda topic suggestions to Don.

10. Adjourn Motion by Scott Bordeau and second by John Endrizzi to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.