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, December 14, 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 December 11 at Nekoosa Pt. Edwards State Bank, Pritzls and on the website.

3. Roll call Members present: Don Ystad, Dave Trudeau, John Endrizzi, Phil Rockenbach, Jerry Wiessinger, Gary Gross and Rick Georgeson. Also present: Rachael Whitehair, Pat Oldenberg, Scott Provost, Taylor Hasz, Anna James, Paul Pisellini, Jennifer Bergman, Tracy Hames, Charlie Rath, Jeanne Osgood, Greg Corning and Heidi Keuler.

4. Review and approve minutes for November 9, 2020: Motion made by John Endrizzi and seconded by Jerry Wiessinger to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2020 meeting; motion approved.

5. Review and approve minutes for March through October: Motion made by Dave Trudeau and seconded by Jerry Wiessinger to approve the minutes for March through October; motion approved.

6. Awards and Announcements Don shared Certificate of Appreciation awards that will be presented to Scott Provost of WDNR and Kason Morley of ACLWC in appreciation of all their efforts in support and guidance of this committee. A Member of the Year award was also presented to John Endrizzi for his tireless efforts and dedication to the upstream water testing program.

7. Guest speaker – Heidi Keuler – US Fish & Wildlife – Fishers & Farmers program coordinator: Heidi shared a Powerpoint presentation on the Fishers and Farmers group in Wisconsin which is one of twenty such partnerships in the US. Her group works in support of the Upper Mississippi River Basin and involves 5 states. They believe in going to and addressing the source of a problem and have done 40 projects (such as Prairie Strips and Streambank Stabilizations) over the past 10 years. She also spoke of a Stream Table which can be used to demonstrate conservation practices and received interest from our group as a possible demo for a future State of the Lakes.

8. 9 Key Element Plan – skipped due to absence of both Kason and Karen

a. video – Kason Morley
b. flyer/mailer – Karen/Don

9. Create you tube channel – Karen/Rachael: Rachael reported that Karen is working on it but is currently out of state.

10. Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo 12/16 – Rachael Formerly known as Healthy Soil, Healthy Water, this event is being rebranded and will offer ag topics virtually including how to be successful/profitable when dealing with crazy weather and droughts. It will again be held December 16 from 9 to 10:30 am and Jason Cavadini, an agronomist will be the keynote speaker and present Breaking the Cycle: Climbing the Ladder of Regenerative Agriculture.

11. Consideration of future videos/Zoom sessions: item is skipped for this month

12. Status of Grants – Dave Trudeau reported that grant awards will be announced on February 15. He submitted 25 projects this year for the Healthy Lakes grant which is up dramatically from 7 last year. Dave also indicated that he will again pursue adding fish sticks to Lake Sherwood in January and February, depending on ice cover conditions.

13. Status of DNR wetlands parcels conversion – **Taylor**: Taylor announced that they had received a go-ahead from the Adams County Drainage Board and are currently getting permits approved for the project. Our help on the project will be welcome in the future.

14. Review mission statement and goals: Don provided an updated mission statement/goals document which was developed by a sub-committee. As the original mission statement addressed only short terms goals, it was felt that now with the 9 Key Element plan, it was time to update and to look out over the next 10 years. Also, the original related primarily to Town of Rome efforts while the revised expands out to other groups such as

the Wisconsin Wetlands and others in the watershed. Scott Provost indicated that he had sent it out to others and received some good feedback which he will share with Don.

15. **Upstream water testing –** John met recently with Scott and Taylor. As he is starting the 4th year of testing, there may be some changes in test locations such as a Leola Ditch spot that has become too dangerous so a nearby spot will be substituted for the transducer.

16. **In-lake water testing –** Phil reported that the last tests of the season were taken in October.

17. **Healthy Lakes –**reported under agenda item 12.

18. Outreach: - 1) Rick Georgeson reported on the Dec 2 Profitability speaker, Rick Clark from Indiana, who presented how his decisions for his farm operation are focused on building soil health and not on yields. By using green techniques such as crop rotation, cover crops and no till, he no longer needs to use nitrogen or chemicals and has saved $ in the process. Rick Georgeson was inspired to contact DPI to pursue getting this kind of knowledge shared in high school ag programs. Anna shared that she and Kason are working with the A-F ag teacher and will help Rick get in touch with her. 2) Rick also shared that he had heard that there is interest in the Little Plover watershed for forming a farmer-led council. 3) Jennifer Bergman shared that she is working with Tom Schultz of Heartland Farms concerning a project on the Big Roche-a-Cri and that he seems to be conservation-minded and might be a person to contact.

19. Lake reports: Anna James shared information on reporting ice on and ice off dates and will send additional information on how to identify the correct conditions and what part of each lake is needed to report into SWIMS. Don will again ask for citizen volunteers for each lake.

20. Town, County, Tri-Lakes updates – Paul Pisellini shared that the County is working to develop a referendum on clean water for a future election.

21. Set next agenda date, tentatively January 11th, speakers and topics – January 11 will be the next meeting date and Todd Weiks will speak on filtering phosphorus. Rachael will not be available that date but offered to train us on setting up the Zoom meeting. Motion made by John Endrizzi, seconded by Jerry Wiessinger to adjourn; motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.