

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, January 11, 2021 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 January 7 at Nekoosa Pt. Edwards State Bank, Pritzls and on the website.
3. **Roll call/confirm quorum** Members present: Don Ystad, Dave Trudeau, John Endrizzi, Phil Rockenbach, Jerry Wiessinger, Scott Bordeau, Karen Knotek and Carson Heinecke. Also present: Scott Provost, Taylor Hasz and Anna James.
4. **Review and approve minutes for December 14, 2020:** Motion made by John Haugen and seconded by Jerry Wiessinger to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020 meeting; motion approved.
5. **Guest speaker – Todd Weik – CBC Engineers – use of blast furnace slag for phosphorous removal:** Todd Weik shared a Powerpoint presentation on engineering projects he's been involved with using a new technology to remove phosphorous. Several examples were included from small projects such as rain gardens up to large commercial projects. The technology has been approved by WDNR but a permit is required. He indicated that there is also some affect on nitrates. Grant funds may be available through USDA and the County Conservationist. Estimated cost of the slag aggregate is \$10/ton plus transportation costs from Gary, Indiana.
6. **9 Key Element Plan status –**
 - a. video – Kason Morley – no update
 - b. flyer/mailer – Karen/Don – on hold til video is completed
7. **Create you tube channel – Karen/Rachael:** Karen needs additional material before setting it up.
8. **Review of Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo – John, Scott, Don:** Scott was very interested in the presentation by Rick Clark and wondered how this group could support his practices in our area.
9. **Future videos/Zoom sessions:** based on the 'Kiss the Ground' presentation, there is a desire to sponsor additional videos and either coordinate with Rachael or do on our own.
10. **Status of Grants –** Dave Trudeau reported that grant awards will be announced on February 15.
11. **Status of DNR wetlands parcels conversion – Taylor:** Taylor is currently working on getting permits approved for the project and is looking to execute the plan in 2021.
12. **Committee direction:** Don shared current efforts to further the committee's efforts to improve the watershed. Now that the 9 Key Element Plan has been approved and will begin a 10-year plus effort, our committee needs to re-structure. We need to broaden out from the Town of Rome to include parties from throughout the entire watershed. Additionally, funds will be required to provide a 25% match to grants that will be available. A workgroup met to consider and rewrote our mission statement and goals and is pursuing organizing as a 501(c)(3) non-profit. This would allow us to obtain tax-deductible donations and gain access to private grant sources. A nine-member board is being planned and will include representatives from the other parties involved in the watershed. Don will be sharing further at the next Tri-Lakes and Town of Rome board meetings and he also indicated that the group is working with Nick Flanagan to submit the paperwork required.
13. **Upstream water testing :** John Endrizzi shared that he's worked closely with the UW-SP lab for the past 37 months of testing. Because DNR will now be funding the testing, all future tests will go to the State Lab of Hygiene in Madison. He also has determined a new location on the Leola Ditch near 6th Avenue and will begin testing there.
14. **In-lake water testing:** Phil reported that he had been working with Anna James to line up supplies and equipment for 2021 and that has been approved. He'll also be receiving an additional set of testing equipment to allow for set up of a new team to test on Lower Camelot.

15. Healthy Lakes: Dave is hoping for some sub-zero weather to strengthen the Sherwood ice near the islands to allow for placement of 24 to 80 trees for the fish-stick project to improve fish habitat. He will need help once it's safe.

16. Outreach: Don sent out a newsletter this morning from Wisconsin Wetlands organization and he will also share a newsletter from last month's speaker, Heidi Keuler, that highlights a Michigan group doing lake projects similar to the Healthy Lakes program.

17. Lake reports: Scott shared information on a Clean Water Now campaign led by the River Alliance which is encouraging counties to adopt and put on an election referendum in an effort to influence the State Legislature to act. Wood County has adopted it and it will be on the April election ballot. Don will send out information on the effort in Adams County. Dave promoted the Sherwood Fisheree this weekend which runs from 8 to 4 on Saturday. Please help promote and stop by the booth and get some raffle tickets.

18. Town, County, Tri-Lakes updates: Jerry Wiessinger reported that the Town is working to rezone 140 acres from forestland to residential.

19. Set next agenda date, tentatively February 8th, speakers and topics: Next meeting will be February 8.

20. Adjourn: Motion by John Endrizzi, seconded by Scott Bordeau; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:44.