



NEWSLETTER

Issue 4 March 6, 2021

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Friends of the 14 Mile Creek Watershed,

Reminder - 14 Mile Water Week Virtual event next Friday

Wisconsin Water Week begins Monday, and our local 14 Mile virtual event is Friday, March 12th at 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. See details and registration link at the end of this newsletter.

14 Mile DNR Grant Success

The 14 Mile Committee of volunteers was created to address the water quality issues experienced in our lakes, and expanded to include the entire watershed, from Plainfield, down to Petenwell. With over 23 million gallons flowing downstream and through our lakes daily, it will take all of us to accomplish a solution.

Adams County and our 14 Mile watershed in particular was well recognized in this year's DNR grant awards. Over a quarter million dollars was awarded for programs that benefit our Rome lakes and the 14 mile watershed that feeds them.

- 30 Healthy Lakes projects were granted for \$23,653 to provide shoreland improvements that reduce erosion and nutrient runoff and improve fish habitat. We've been awarded

over 50 healthy lakes projects in the past three years, one of the most prolific citizen groups in Wisconsin.

- A grant for \$43,596 plus a project agreement in effect since January to cover water testing costs for our lakes and watershed through the end of 2023 saves TriLakes members over \$50,000 in the next three years, and insures that the certified testing program begun in 2017 continues in support of the EPA approved Nine Key Element Plan to be launched this spring.
- A co-funding grant prepared by our County Conservationist Kason Morley was approved to fund the Adams County Land and Water hiring of a seasoned resource to provide full-time oversight for the initial three years of the EPA-approved Nine Key Element Plan implementation, so important to water quality improvements. The overall cost is \$230,817. The DNR will cover 75% of the cost based on the TriLakes board's approval to co-fund 25%.

These grants don't just automatically happen. It's all about grant preparation and applicant reputation. We are seen as an active community, serious about putting in the effort to improve water quality here. That matters to the DNR, and our state DNR Secretary/Directors award confirms that. Approximately 275 hours were spent by our committee applying for the grants mentioned above, or assisting with the process. TriLakes stepped up to guarantee the 25% co-funding. It was an exercise in community cooperation and synergy. We appreciate TriLakes stepping forward to recognize the importance of the launch of the Nine Key Element Plan.

We need to recognize the hard work of the 14 Mile Committee members and their advisors; Dave Trudeau, John Endrizzi, Phil Rockenbach, Don Ystad, Rachael Whitehair, Scott Provost, Kason Morley, Sam Peterson, Anna James, Gina Combs, the UWSP lab, Wisconsin Lab of Hygiene, and the USDA lab. That's a lot of volunteer time! It's important for us to remember that all the grants mentioned above have a volunteer in-kind component staffed by 14 Mile volunteers and citizens.

So, when you see your fellow 14 Mile citizens promoting the 14 Mile Watershed Alliance at farmers' markets and local events, ask them how you can be a part of this movement to improve our groundwater and surface water in the 14 Mile Watershed. Or, check out our website or Facebook page. And, if you have questions, direct them to 14milewatershed@gmail.com.

Join the 14 Mile Committee Meeting Monday

Our next 14-mile committee meeting is Monday, March 8th at 2:00 p.m. David Trimner, GM of Miltrim Farms is guest speaker. Miltrim, located in Marathon County, is the largest automated dairy farm in WI, and the only farm in North America to be AWS certified (Alliance for Water Stewardship) through the Clear Water Farms program of the Rivers Alliance. They are partners in the EPPIC (Big Eau Pleine Watershed) producer led council. [Here's the link to agenda and meeting Zoom information.](#)

Friday March 12th, 2021 - 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. **(free local event)**

The NEW 14 Mile Watershed Alliance

In 2016, pets died and people were sickened following outbreaks of Blue-Green algae in the Rome lakes within the 14 Mile Creek Watershed. Citizens formed a 14 Mile committee to identify the cause and find a solution. As they say, the rest is history. With the announcement of the Wisconsin DNR Secretary's Director award, and the EPA approval of the 10-year plan for reduction of pollutants in the 14 Mile Watershed, we've expanded to meet the challenge.

Join us to learn about the NEW 14 Mile Watershed Alliance, open to all stakeholders in the entire watershed, from Plainfield all the way down to Lake Petenwell. If you drink the water or use it for agriculture or recreation, you have a stake in the solution to preserve the watershed for generations to come. Learn how we'll all be involved in the process to improve our watershed for the benefit of us all.

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

To register: (you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.)

https://uwmadison.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0lf-iqrDgiG9x3tGeKjaRTF5X_q4C18Rj

You can join us by Zoom, or by phoning in. 14milewatershed@gmail.com for further information.

The 14 Mile Watershed Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of surface and groundwater in the 14 Mile Creek Watershed in central Wisconsin. See us at 14milewatershed.org or <https://www.facebook.com/14MileWatershed>

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