

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, March 8, 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 March 4 at Nekoosa Pt. Edwards State Bank, Pritzls and the Town Hall as well as on the website.

3. Roll call/confirm quorum Members present: Don Ystad, Dave Trudeau, John Endrizzi, Phil Rockenbach, Jerry Wiessinger, Scott Bordeau, Karen Knotek, Carson Heinecke and Barb Herreid. Also present: Rachael Whitehair, David Trimner, Bill Pegler, Jane and Scott Provost.

4. Review and approve minutes for February 8, 2021: Motion made by Scott Bordeau and seconded by Jerry Wiessinger to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2021 meeting; motion approved.

5. Announcements –

a. March 12th WI Lakes local event: the presentation is scheduled for 1 pm and there are already 25 registered for it; a final run-through will take place on Zoom on Wed at 3:30.

b. New Website <https://14milewatershed.org/> Phil, Bar b, Karen: Good job! If you notice any corrections needed or have suggestions, just contact one of them.

c. Other: 1) Don is working with Gus Mancuso, former principal/coach at Lincoln High School to set up a meeting to discuss means to get young people involved in our group; 2) Scott Bordeau encouraged us to check out the Thursday offerings of Wis. Water Week including: @10:30 – Restoration of the Little Plover River Watershed, @11:30 – Improving Water Quality in the Wis. River Basin, @ 1:15 – EPPIC Collaboration and @ 2:15 – We Can Solve This; 3) Scott and John reported that WDNR is requesting public comments on nitrate rules for NR151 – an email with details will be sent out to us.

6. Guest Speaker David Trimner – Miltrim Farms – (*David Trimner is General Manager of Miltrim Farms in Athens, WI. They are the largest automated dairy in Wisconsin and the only farm in North America to be AWS (Alliance for Water Stewardship) certified through the Clear Water Farms program of the River Alliance*) David Trimner shared a Powerpoint presentation highlighting his farm's adaptation of practices including no-till and minimum till, water-saving practices, buffer strips and responsible use and handling of manure. These practices have improved soil structure and holding capacity, the soil microbiome, organic matter and creates firmer soils. He's experienced no loss in yield from planting cover crops and has found that these practices are good for profitability. His presentation will be available on the 14 Mile website.

7. Our New Organization – 14 Mile Watershed Alliance – Don reported that all the paperwork has been filed and we are awaiting official status from the IRS; in the meantime, our soft-launch will be Friday, Mar 12 with the Zoom presentation as a part of Wis Water Week.

8. 9 Key Element Plan status –

a. video – Kason Morley – tabled until April

b. flyer/mailer – Karen/Don – tabled until April

9. You tube channel – Karen/Rachael: Karen encouraged us to subscribe to our channel to automatically receive updates

10. Future videos/Zoom sessions – Don would like to offer more in the future; Karen suggested the Big Little Farm documentary.

11. Status of grants – Tremendous! All that were requested were approved! This includes 25 Healthy Lakes projects, our water testing program and funding of an additional resource for ACLWC to implement the 9 Key Element Plan.

12. Status of DNR wetlands parcels conversion – Taylor: Scott Provost shared slides describing the project which will work to raise the water table so that nitrogen can be scavenged into the atmosphere instead of

flowing to the lakes. The WDNR will be funding the project which will be started in April. Pre and post measurements will be taken to gage its success and he is hoping to see results in 1-2 years. It was suggested that this would make a good presentation for the next State of the Lakes event in August.

13. Upstream water testing : John Endrizzi last tested on Feb 27 and observed very low water levels as well as ice dams. He also noted that 2 of the 5 transducers have become plugged up from debris. John would like us to recruit a couple more volunteers to help him with the testing and to add some additional inventory work on insects in the area.

14. In-lake water testing: Phil reported that he'll be working with the State Lab of Hygiene later in March to set up the testing and with Wood County for the e coli testing. Anna let us know that she has received the CLMN equipment that was ordered.

15. Healthy Lakes: Dave thanked all the volunteers who helped with the fish sticks project on Sherwood – they were able to place 70 trees this year.

16. Outreach and promotion: Karen reported that the Town's marquee is listing the March 12th event and flyers have been posted and will also be distributed to customers at Pritzl's.

17. Lake reports: no report

18. Town, County, Tri-Lakes updates: Jerry Wiessinger reported that the Town passed a resolution in support of other Adams County towns that are fighting flooding issues. He also attended the Land & Water committee meeting and learned that a producer-led council is starting up in the Roche-a-Cri watershed.

19. Set next agenda date, tentatively April 12, topics – Scott Provost will speak on neonicotinoids

20. Adjourn: Motion by Dave Trudeau, seconded by John Endrizzi; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:52.