

## 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, June 14, 2021 at 2:00 PM

**1. Call to order & confirm Zoom setup:** Don Ystad called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm; Rachael set up Zoom link.

**2. Roll call/confirm quorum:** Members present: Don Ystad, Dave Trudeau, Phil Rockenbach, Jerry Wiessinger, Karen Knotek, Carson Heinecke, and Barb Herreid. Also present: Rachael Whitehair, Gary Gross, Anna James, Tamas Houlihan, Tom Lochner, Bob Benkowski, Rick Georgeson, Scott Bordeau, Mike Tomsyck, Wayne Johnson, Bob Bauerhyte, Hannah Butkiewicz and Scott Provost.

**3. Review and approve minutes for May 10, 2021:** Motion made by Jerry Wiessinger and seconded by Phil Rockenbach to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 meeting; motion approved.

**4. Announcements:** 1) Planning committee for the State of the Lakes will meet immediately after this meeting and 2) John Endrizzi has resigned; Don thanked him for his 4 years of dedication to the group and for all of the water testing in the upper watershed. Kane Punzel will continue with the testing program with the help of Dave Trudeau and Phil Rockenbach.

**5. Guest Speaker – Eric Olson, UWSP College of Natural Resources:** Don introduced Eric Olson who spoke on Expanding the Capacity of the 14 Mile Watershed Alliance. Eric represents the Wis. Lakes Partnership (DNR + private property owners + UW-EX Lakes). He shared an organizational triangle with membership at the base and discussed the importance of building this base or in other words, building capacity. There is funding available through DNR to help us in these efforts; we should follow up with Scott Provost. Ideas expressed by members included: a) build bridges with neighbors upstream, b) be present at Farmers Market and other local events, c) State of the Lakes in August, d) need to recruit more members as well as board members, e) how can we attract seasonal as well as young people, f) the need to make the invisible, more visible and g) clarify our goals and the vision of the group. The value of a newsletter was noted and we will be able to get it to more people through US Mail than through our current email program with a distribution of 700 compared to 5000+ property owners(funding may be available). Tamas Houlihan of WPVGA expressed support of our group and that his group is interested in establishing a producer-led council. Also, Heartland Farms is open to setting up a tour of their operations for us. Tom Lochner of Wis. Cranberry Assn. shared his groups shared values of being good stewards and are supportive of clean water initiatives. Tours of marshes can be set up in the future (July/August is a good timeframe). Hannah Butkiewicz of Golden Sands Resource Conservation offered help with cross promotion and suggested UWSP groups as a means of getting to younger people. She also reinforced continuing to offer a virtual option for our meetings.

Eric went on to share a Minnesota study on why some groups are more successful than others by describing groups that are driven by how to solve a problem vs those who are driven by social connections and getting the community involved. An example he shared was the efforts in Madison of the Clean Lakes Alliance which was led by the local water skiers group. He also mentioned a book titled Flock Not Clock: Design, Align and Lead to Achieve Your Vision by Derek and Laura Cabrera.

Other ideas expressed: a) need to build for the longterm – 10+ years, b) want to present a professional image, c) get younger people to help expand our social presence via Instagram which is communicating via photos, d) utilize a survey for a focus group to gage a baseline of community awareness, e) use education to create awareness of such topics as BGA or the effect of weather on fish etc, f) Bob Bauerhyte noted that much lake data has been gathered over the years and we need to share this in a document and g) the value of the Lake Leaders training was shared.

**6. Status – 14 Mile Watershed Alliance – Don:** bypass in the interest of time

**7. 9 Key Element Plan status – Kason:** Anna James offered the department's help in setting up tour of Heartland and/or working towards establishing a producer-led council.

**8. Legacy Foundation discussion – Bob Benkowski:** Bob stressed that we should identify a project that is measurable and can be completed in a short period, not one that is ongoing over a period of time.

**9. Lake Leaders program – Karen:** She shared that she has attended one session already with 2 more to be scheduled and expressed how valuable the training is.

**10. Standing Committees:**

**a. Publicity and Community outreach – Karen:** Karen thanked Phil and Don for joining her and Al at recent Farmers Markets; as this is a weekly event, volunteers are needed for the remaining weeks this summer. It's fun and a great way to engage the community in our efforts.

**b. Watershed Research – Phil:**

**i. upstream testing:** Dave and Phil joined Kane on 5/26 to conduct the testing

**ii. In-lake testing:** Each of the lakes was tested on 5/24. Additionally, an e coli test was conducted on Sherwood; results showed less than 1 unit (300 would trigger an alert and 1,000 would lead to closure of the swim area).

**iii. Owens Rock denitrification project:** Monitoring is scheduled to begin 6/21

**c. Environmental Quality/Grant development – Dave:** Dave shared that he had recently attended a Resilience and Systems Thinking Workshop that shared many of the ideas from Eric's presentation. Dave will share information with us on how to participate in this online course.

**i. Healthy Lakes:** Since the recent project at the Huntington Beach Club, he's received several inquiries and interest in additional projects.

**ii. Fertilizer/Clean Water Cooperator:** Our presence at the Farmers Market has led to lots of interest in this program; several property owners have signed pledges and taken the yard signs.

**iii. Catalyst Conservation Landscape grant:** Word on this grant is expected in July.

**d. Finance – Barb:**

**i.** Phil reported on the donations received to date.

**e. Partnership Development – Don:**

**i. Speakers:** Golden Sands may be able to assist us in the future

**ii. Groups:** Karen met with Nekoosa Schools and students want to help us with the State of the Lakes.

**11. Lake reports:** none

**12. Town, County, Tri-Lakes updates:** none

**13. Set next agenda date & place, tentatively July 12, speaker, topics –** the next meeting on July 12 will be held in the Community room at the Rome Town Hall and also broadcast via Zoom. The primary agenda will be further discussion of Eric's presentation and the points raised.

**11. Adjourn:** Motion by Phil Rockenbach, seconded by Jerry Wiessinger; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Herreid, Secretary