NEWSLETTER

Issue 11 September 24, 2021

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Are you happy with the condition of our Rome lakes?

14 Mile Watershed friends and supporters,

We want you to be a part of our discussions and hope you'll join us for our monthly meetings in-person at the Rome Town Hall, or through Zoom. Our meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 2:00. We'll begin weekend meetings in spring when our seasonal friends return. We think you'll be interested in the topics for our next three meetings:

What are the guidelines for stream and waterfront property owners?

- **Oct 11th - roundtable discussion: Dusty Grant - Adams County Planning &**

Zoning, Anna James - Adams County Land &Water, and Dave Trudeau - 14 Mile Healthy Lakes contact - What are the applied shoreline setbacks in Adams County as they relate to healthy lakes projects and lakeshore assessments done by Land and Water? What are the applied setbacks for other land use around watersheds? Are the setbacks applied universally throughout the state? Are there changes with the new state administration? How do we obtain compliance with buffers and shoreland use, and what approaches can be used to encourage a healthier lakeshore environment on our lakes? What are the components of the Adams County Waterfront Property Planning Worksheet? What are the components of the Healthy Lakes program? What programs exist to urge compliance in other land use areas?

What is our impact on water quality?

- **Nov 8th - discussion with Dr. Paul McGinley UWSP** - Provide a basic understanding of land use modelling and nutrient loading, such as STEPL (spreadsheet tool for estimating pollutant loads) and others. How does it relate to the 9 Key Element Plan for watershed restoration? How do the demographics of our Rome Lakes area fit in to the modelling? We've been aware of Phosphorous as an issue and have a dozen years of testing to draw from. The issue with Nitrates is more recent. Are there any conclusions to be drawn based on our two years of in-lake Nitrate testing and the 4 years of upstream Nitrate testing? How significant are the approximate 1800 septic systems around our lakes to nutrient loading? What about fertilizer use around the lakes? Are there additional in-lake tests we should be performing to better understand our contribution?

How can I be heard regarding our lake water quality?

- **Dec 13th - discussion with Dreux Watermolen, chief of the DNR's analysis services section, with expertise in public involvement and social science research** - Provide an understanding of the process of engaging with our community. It's

been said that conservation problems are social and economic, not scientific. What options are available when gathering input from stakeholders in our 14 Mile watershed? How can surveys help us understand the opinions, knowledge, and behaviors of stakeholders? How would stakeholders like us to connect and work with them? How do we determine the issues most important to the variety of people in our lakes and upstream area? How can the DNR help us connect with our watershed community? What expertise and funds are available to us?

These sessions are open discussions and your input is welcomed. Zoom information for all future meetings is below. If you are unable to attend, recordings can be accessed via our YouTube Channel and our Facebook Page.

To Join the Zoom Meeting, Click The Link Below:
https://uwmadison.zoom.us/j/95995024210?pwd=RC9rSG1nSWZPWEVYRlZuVVFTcndOdz09

OR Call In By Dialing: +1 929 205 6099
(you will be asked to enter in the Meeting ID below)
Meeting ID: 959 9502 4210
Passcode: 550595

Don Ystad, President
14 Mile Watershed Alliance

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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