

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, November 8th, 2021 at 2:00 PM

1. Call to order & confirm Zoom setup: Don Ystad called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm; Anna James set up Zoom link
2. Roll call/confirm quorum: Members present: Don Ystad, Dave Trudeau, Phil Rockenbach, Jerry Wiessinger (Zoom), Bob Benkowski and Karen Knotek. Also present: Anna James, Scott Bordeaux, and via Zoom; Colton Hutchinson, and Heather Gayton and her Necedah Grade School class.
3. Review and approve minutes for October 11th, 2021: Motion made by Dave and seconded by Phil to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2021 meeting; motion approved.
4. Announcements:
 - a. Wi Lakes Annual Membership Zoom meeting Dec 7th. All are welcome - pre-registration required. See 14 Mile website for link.
 - b. Friend of the 14 Mile awards given to Joan Kramer, landowner on 14-mile, Owen Rock Cranberries, and Heartland Farms.
 - c. Adams County reorganization puts Land & Water, Planning & Zoning and GIS under direction of Dustin Grant effective 11/17/2021. No change expected in services. Kason is leaving 11/16 and search is on for his replacement.
 - d. Karen announced that we are signed up for the Rome winter farmers market on Dec 3rd, Jan 14th, Feb 11th, March 11th and April 8th. Bob and Phil volunteered of Dec. Karen will send around the announcement.
5. Guest speaker Dr. Paul McGinley UWSP – land use modelling and nutrient loading in the watershed.
 - Amount of N and P nutrients determine the amount of biologic activity, both algae and plants. Both are needed, within reasonable balance, to support aquatic species and vegetation.
 - More focus on measuring P in lakes because it can be in short supply. P attaches to soil and other solids, and can also be soluble, which is more readily taken up by plants. As a result, P tends to move in surface runoff (water that flows on or over the ground). N as nitrate is soluble and readily moves downward into groundwater and then moves and enters streams with the groundwater
 - P enters the lake and is used by the algae; some then settles to the bottom and can reenter the water when that alga decomposes. It normally measures higher upstream than in the lake, as it is in soluble form. P in our lakes increases during the summer. This likely reflects release of settled phosphorus as temperature and biological activity goes up in the lake, some of this could be boat activity, stirring up the P off the bottom, some could be surface runoff generated by large rainfall events that lead to runoff into the lake. In some years, these increases

could be during periods of lower flow into and out of the lake which makes the lake concentration more sensitive to phosphorus additions.

- Sherwood's deep hole reports phosphorous highest in Aug/Sept
 - Algae increases with heat and increasing phosphorus concentrations
 - Oligotrophic = few foods for plants
 - Eutrophic = excessive richness of nutrients in a water body, frequently from runoff from lakeshore and upstream, causing a dense growth of plant life.
 - Our lakes are at 990 to 1020 feet above sea level. The watershed begins in the east at **1100** feet above sea level, resulting in water movement from east to west to the Wisconsin River basin.
 - Annual rainfall is 32" (long term average, some years more, some years less). Given evapotranspiration of about 22', our annual flow is 10". That equates to about 12 billion gallons throughout the entire watershed annually, or, an average of about 50 Cu Ft per second leaving the watershed if the amount leaving is about equal to the amount entering (of course the water spends hours to years to decades between the time it enters and the time it leaves depending on the path the water takes).
 - Phosphorus is present in soil and plants. As a result, land contains a lot of phosphorus – we can work out the quantities for our area, but one study showed there was about 350,000 lbs of P per square mile of land
 - Cover crops may help keep N from moving into groundwater and we need more research on this. Cover crops can also improve soil structure and reduce surface runoff (and wind erosion) and that should help keep P on the land. Again, this is an area where measurements and mass balance models might help us get a better understanding of opportunities. Cover crops may help N to move through the soil vertically for uptake in the root zone, versus running off into surface water.
 - Measurements on Sherwood show Nitrogen in the nitrate form is highest early in year, lowest in late summer and fall. This likely corresponds to how nitrate is used during the growing season Maybe coincides with growing season, upstream and around lakes? P highest in summer in the lake corresponding to release from sediment and any other additions during this low flow period.
 - Any N not taken up as the water moves through the plant's root layer typically ends up in groundwater. We are still learning how this nitrogen impacts lakes. Denitrification could be important to release into the air as nitrogen gas.
6. Status — 9 Key Element Plan/Resource: Anna James reported that applications were received and interviews conducted. None met the qualifications, and the application process remains open. Paul P reported on 11/10 that 3 additional applications have been received.
 7. Capacity Building Key Point Review – Rachael reviewed the list to bring us up to speed and to update actions since last review. Rachael will distribute the updates for task scheduling at our Dec meeting.
 8. Standing Committees

- Publicity and Community outreach - Karen
 - i. Promotional booth plans 2022 – 2021 was very successful and we'll continue in 2022.
 - ii. 9 KEP flyer – with Kason leaving, Karen will pick this up and begin work on the flyer
 - iii. Educational programs – Still working with Nekoosa, though their response has been slow. Heather Gayton also has worked with Mike at Nekoosa and may be able to assist.
- Watershed Research – Phil
 - i. Internship – Seven candidates applied and 3 solid interns have been identified. Will move forward with training in Nov.
- Environmental Quality/Grant development - Dave
 - i. Surface Water grant/Education grant was submitted
 - ii. Healthy Lakes status – 6 applicants for a total of 12 projects this year
 - iii. Legacy Foundation grant request status – Bob/Don – Don is beginning to gather demographic information for our initial background story and appeal to Legacy Foundation. Anna may be able to help with county info.
- Finance – Barb
 - i. Treasurer's report – Phil - \$4,800 in checking
- Partnership Development – Don
 - i. Speakers – will ID potential speakers for winter months
- 9. Lake reports – Sherwood searching for candidate to serve as TriLakes representative
- 10. Town, County, TriLakes updates - none
- 11. Set next agenda date & time - confirmed Dec 13th, 2:00 pm.
 - Speaker, Dreux Watermolen DNR
 - Agenda topics
 - To-dos for 2022
 - ID winter tasks for building capacity
 - varied meeting sched to attract community attendance
 - Rome Farmers Market winter support schedule
 - Outline 2022 9KEP goals (milestone review)
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- 12. adjourn