

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, October 11, 2021 at 2:00 PM

- 1. Call to order & confirm Zoom setup:** Dave Trudeau called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm; Rachael Whitehair and Anna James set up Zoom link.
- 2. Roll call/confirm quorum:** Members present: Don Ystad, Dave Trudeau, Barb Herreid and Karen Knotek. Also present: Anna James, Scott Bordeaux, Scott Provost, Tracy Arnold, Bob Benkowski and guest Dustin Grant, Adams County Planning and Zoning.
- 3. Review and approve minutes for September 13, 2021:** Motion made by Dave Trudeau and seconded by Don Ystad to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2021 meeting; motion approved.
- 4. Announcements:**
 - a. Owens Rock Cranberry tour is set for October 19 – others are invited to join us
 - b. Science by the River, a family event organized by Rachael Whitehair, is scheduled for Oct 23 from 11-3 in Wis Rapids.
 - c. Upcoming meetings: Nov 8 – Dr. Paul McGinley of UW-SP on land use modeling and nutrient loading and Dec 13 – Dreux Watermolen, chief of the DNR's environmental analysis bureau, who will speak on engaging with our community.
 - d. Bob Benkowski advised that the Town Budget meeting is scheduled for Oct 28 and the important topic of ambulance service will be discussed
- 5. Roundtable discussion – Dustin Grant, Anna James, Dave Trudeau**
 - a. Shoreland zoning, shoreland assessments, relationship with Healthy Lakes:** **Dusty Grant** provided a background of the State Law and County Ordinance regarding shoreland landscapes. The current county ordinance is not more restrictive than the state law. Some of the current requirements include: buffer zone is 35' from the high-water mark (HWM) – no trees, shrubs or vegetation can be removed from this area except the 35% viewing area that is allowed; no new 'beach' areas can be created in the buffer zone; the setback for buildings and retaining walls is 75'; existing structures can be replaced but no new ones within the setback areas; trees within the 35' buffer need county approval to remove dead, diseased or dying. New sea walls are not allowed, but existing ones can be maintained. The DNR website has a checklist to aid in determining what can be done and permits that are required. **Anna James** described how she can help property owners to assess their shorelines for conservation measures and can provide recommendations. She shared her Waterfront Property Planning Sheet which is used to score the property's existing state for stormwater runoff, shoreline protection and the riparian buffer. The worksheet helps to identify the priority area to address. Vegetative shorelines are preferred over rock rip rap because they add back to the environment. She is working to set up key documents on their website to help property owners with their planning. **Dave Trudeau** described the Healthy Lakes program sponsored by DNR that can provide a 75% cost share funding up to \$1,000. In-kind labor in lieu of cash can help the owner to cover his 25% share. The program uses NR115 standards as guidelines for practices that a property owner can implement. There are 5 practices to choose from for each property and multiple grants are available.
- 6. Status – Key Element Plan/Resource – Kason:** Anna James reported that the job description may have been posted.
- 7. Standing Committees**
 - a. Publicity and Community outreach – Karen:** Karen shared her experience on a farm tour in the Lake Redstone watershed; cover crops are used to improve soil health and decrease runoff. She also described another conservation practice of grazing cattle on grasslands with a 30-day rotation; buying grass-fed meats at the grocery store helps to support this practice. She shared an educational placemat sample from the Eau Claire area and suggested we consider for next year; funding may be available from the EPA.
 - b. Watershed Research:** Dave reported that testing was done 9/25 and is scheduled for 10/25; in early November, they will be working on sampling for a biotic index. Don shared the group's efforts to formalize

the water testing program by recruiting interns that may be involved for multiple years in the future. The group has reached out to UW-SP, high schools in Nekoosa, Adams and Wis. Rapids and through our newsletter.

c. Environmental Quality/Grant development – Dave: i.) Surface Water/Education grant – in process for a maximum of \$5,000; will be setting up a Zoom meeting with the board to finalize; ii.) Healthy Lakes status – working towards a November 1 deadline for this grant as well; he has 8 practices lined up and the potential of 7 others to add. iii.) Fertilizer/Clean Water Cooperator – will need to put more emphasis on these programs next year. iv.) Legacy Foundation grant request status – Don and Bob are working on this

d. Finance – Barb: As a result of the recent Roman Fest fundraiser, a donation of \$480 was received.

e. Partnership Development – Don: the upcoming cranberry tour is a first step in building relationships with this community

8. Lake reports: Dave reported the following activities for Lake Sherwood: a) in January, will hold a fundraiser for the conservation committee in conjunction with DNR's winter free fishing day. b) 45-50 trees will be placed as fish sticks either on the east island or on shoreline owned by the county. c) annual clean-up of Sherwood Forest will be October 23 from 9-12 – volunteers are welcome.

9. Town, County, Tri-Lakes updates: no report

10. Set next agenda date & time, tentatively November 8th, speaker, topics

a. Capacity building discussion continuation

b. Dr. Paul McGinley, Guest speaker

11. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Herreid