

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, January 10, 2022 at 2:00 PM

1. Call to order & confirm Zoom setup: Dave Trudeau called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm; Rachael Whitehair set up Zoom link.

2. Roll call/confirm quorum: Members present: Dave Trudeau, Barb Herreid, Phil Rockenbach, Jerry Wiessinger, Bob Benkowski (via Zoom) and Karen Knotek (via Zoom). Also present: Scott Provost, Anna James, Scott Bordeau, Erin O'Brien, Colton Hutchinson, Tracy Arnold, Pat Oldenberg and Tracy Hames.

3. Review and approve minutes for December 13, 2021: *Motion made by Jerry Wiessinger and seconded by Phil Rockenbach to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2021 meeting; motion approved.*

4. Announcements: a. **Newsletter:** the latest edition was emailed this morning; b. Don is on way to Arizona and will be back by early April.

5. Zoom presentation – Colton Hutchinson and Scott Provost- denitrification in the Leola ditch

Scott shared a PowerPoint presentation on the project which is funded by DNR. The area near Owen Rock is completely surrounded by drainage ditches. Prior to ditching, it was wetlands so the top layer of soil contains rich organic matter. The project entails raising water levels in the area to reach the organic soils which hopefully will result in the nitrates being released into the atmosphere instead of flowing into the Tri-Lakes. Six monitoring wells are set up; preliminary readings show extremely high nitrate levels in 3 of the sites. As nitrogen plays a big role along with phosphorus in creating blue green algae, it is hoped that this process will result in much lower levels. While this project is reactive, Scott emphasized that we also need to be proactive by addressing other practices that will reduce nitrate inputs from both lake property owners as well as from the agriculture community. The 9KEP with help from Adams County will help us to address these areas. Phosphorus levels in the Tri-Lakes are borderline, but nitrogen levels are ten times higher than they should be.

6. Nine Key Element Plan status – Kyle Kettner: Kyle was unable to attend today, but met with our Board last week to document activities and milestones that have already been undertaken by our group.

7. Takeaways – Dreux Watermolen's session regarding engaging with our community: Karen will be posting Dreux's presentation on Facebook.

8. Standing Committees

a. Publicity and Community outreach – Karen:

- i. **Youtube channel/videos/Zoom sessions:** Karen is working with Kyle on an informational 9KEP brochure
- ii. **14MW booth plans 2022:** Phil and Bob will man the booth in January and will report on attendance; Karen to send out a Doodle poll to get other members to schedule the next 3 months.
- iii. **Educational program plans:** Karen and Gus will be meeting with Nekoosa HS in February.
- iv. **Other:** Jerry Wiessinger suggested that we send the Central WI Farm Profitability Expo flyer to growers in the watershed and offer to pay the \$18 registration fee for them to attend. Event is scheduled for Feb 15 at Mid-State Technical College. *Motion made by Jerry Wiessinger and seconded by Phil Rockenbach to fund the registration fees of 14MW ag attendees to this event; motion approved.*

b. Watershed Research - Phil:

- i. **upstream and in-lake testing:** Upstream testing was completed on Dec 28 with 2 of the interns. Testing will continue throughout 2022.
- ii. **Internship status:** Three interns have been hired and trained. Two of the students are from UW-SP and the other from Adams-Friendship HS.

c. Environmental Quality/Grant development – Dave: Dave reported that we are in a holding pattern until mid-March when grant awards will be announced.

d. Finance – Barb: Barb and Bob Benkowski performed an internal audit for 2021 on January 6 and found everything to be in good order. Barb also shared that orders for trees and shrubs are coming in and a preliminary reservation has been placed with ACLWD. Karen suggested that we also consider hosting a native plant sale in the future.

e. Partnership Development – Don:

- i. Speakers for Jan and Mar are set up
- ii. **WI Lakes conference presentation:** no report
- iii. **14 Mile Alliance status:** no report

9. Lake reports: Dave reported that LSPOA had interviewed 2 candidates for the open seat on the Tri-Lakes District Board and had selected Brad Atkins; the appointment yet needs to be approved by the TLM Board at the January 12th meeting. Anna James will also be reporting on the LS Beach Club project at that meeting. Dave promoted the LS Fisheree set for Saturday, January 15; raffle ticket sales help fund their conservation efforts on Sherwood.

10. Town, County, Tri-Lakes updates: Jerry Wiessinger reported land sold in the business park as well as approval given to the Lakes Inn to rent ATV's.

11. Confirm next agenda date & time

- a. **February 14 – To-dos for 2022/names/dates – execute grants, build capacity, varied meeting sched, etc**
- b. **March 14 – Pat Oldenburg DNR – the TMDL**

12. Adjourn: *Motion made by Phil and seconded by Barb to adjourn; motion approved.* Meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Herreid