# 14 Mile Watershed Alliance
## Held at Lake Sherwood Lodge, Rome, WI, open to the public through a Zoom link
## Agenda/Minutes for Monday, July 11, 2022 at 6:00 PM

**1. Call to order & confirm Zoom setup:** Dave Trudeau called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**2. Roll call/confirm quorum:** Members present: Dave Trudeau, Barb Herreid, Phil Rockenbach, Dave Keuler, Bob Benkowski and Karen Knotek. Also present in person or via Zoom: Gus Mancuso, Kyle Kettner, Anna James, Scott Bordeau, Al Knotek, John Endrizzi, Jane Janowski, Colton Hutchinson, Donna Hasdal, Scott Carlson, Bob Ness, Bob Bauerhyte and Scott Provost.

**3. Review and approve minutes for June 13, 2022:** ***Motion made by Dave Keuler and seconded by Phil Rockenbach to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2022 meeting; motion approved***.

**4. Announcements**: a.) On July 18 at 5 pm, Farmers of the Roche A Cri are holding Grow and Tell at Coloma Farms; UW-Extension specialists will be presenting and there will be a tour of Andy Diercks farm. If interested, contact Anna James to register.

**5. Nine Key Element Plan status – Kyle Kettner:**

**Field inventory/ground truthing:** Kyle reported on his recent activities including wrapping up the crop survey. He'll also be taking sub-samples to determine crops, rotations and conservation practices. The survey will be done annually to determine changes and patterns. He is also working with the DNR on a social indicator survey.

**Grazing buffer and drainage to Leola:** Kyle explained that while much concern is expressed about the grazing cattle along Hwy. D and the Leola Ditch, it is actually better than raising some crops. The area is wet during months when the cattle are not grazing as they are only out from May to mid-September. He is working with the producer to introduce some small changes in the most sensitive areas of the fields.

**6. Scott Provost: Two-tier ditches and bioreactors for denitrification/Pilot studies in Iowa**

Scott shared a Powerpoint presentation highlighting some new promising practices from Iowa. He shared that the Central Sands is a unique region with some of the highest nitrogen levels in the state. Weed harvesting operations helps to remove internal loading (2 weeks of harvesting removes 1 day of loading). Alternatively, chemical applications provide instant results BUT are worse in the long run as the plant matter stays in the lake. Precision Ag practices such as those employed by Heartland Farms greatly reduce excess nitrogen. In Iowa, they are installing bio-reactors using wood chips to reduce nitrogen levels as nitrogen-rich water runs through the chips. The method is cost-effective and has a lifespan of 10-15 years. Another practice from Iowa is using two-tier ditches which might be something that could be employed on the Leola Ditch. Scott will be doing a site visit in Iowa on July 23 and will have more information afterwards on how this might be useful in our area. The DNR is currently seeking volunteer landowners in our watershed to participate in testing these new methods.

**7. Standing Committees**

**a. Publicity and Community outreach – Karen:**

i. **Youtube channel/videos/Zoom sessions:** The video from State of Our Lakes is being posted to our Youtube channel.

ii. **14MW booth plans 2022:** We are present weekly on Fridays from 9 to 1 at the Rome Farmers Market; this is an excellent opportunity to speak with our neighbors about practices we all can do to improve water quality and to promote shoreline restoration. We'll also have a booth at Camelot Frolics on August 20.

iii. **Educational program plans:** Gus Mancuso is working with Nekoosa High School to set up a meeting in August to work on developing a plan for student involvement based on the survey results.

iv. **Farmers Market:** already covered in ii above

v. **14-MWA shirts for Board . . . others?** Karen is working on getting polo shirts; is there interest by others besides board members?

**b. Watershed Research - Phil**:

**i. upstream and in-lake testing:** Phil reported that in-lake testing will be done July 18, upstream testing on July 24 and e coli in Sherwood on July 19.

**c. Environmental Quality/Grant development – Dave:**

**i. Surface Water Grant/Education Grant:** Karen has developed a larger Healthy Lakes Hero sign and is looking for comments on the design.

**ii. Healthy Lakes status**: Dave has been meeting with property owners who are interested in HL projects; he helps them with an evaluation and completes the grant application. If interested, contact Dave prior to October 1 to get in on the next grant cycle.

**iii. Fertilizer/Clean Water Cooperator**: Signs are still available at the Farmers Market booth.

**iv. Legacy Foundation grant request status – Bob/Don:** He is looking into a possible project at the Walden Park and will work with the Legacy Foundation for financial support. This area might be a good place to utilize and implement grow mats in lieu of individual plants.

**d. Finance – Barb:**

**i. Treasurer's report – Phil:** Phil reported on our current balance and also a donation received from Visit Rome as a result of apparel sales at their Farmers Market booth last month.

**e. Partnership Development – Don/Dave/all**

**i. Speakers:** Dave is working with Michael Parsen of the Wis. Geological Survey to discuss the groundwater and Leola Ditch study and the Owen's Rock denitrification site. He is also trying to line up Jesse Weinzinger of Eco Services.

**ii. Networking**: Several members attended the June Heartland Farm tour and also heard a presentation by Pheasants Forever. On June 30, others attended a Wis. River Alliance event in Amherst. Should we join and/or donate to this group? Will discuss further next month.

**8. Lake reports:** Dave Keuler reported that a plan by Anna and Chuck for Arrowhead's West Lake Center has been received and will be presented to the Arrowhead board for approval.

**9. Town, County, Tri-Lakes updates:** Bob Bauerhyte reported that Tri-Lakes has received an analysis of the lakebed borings from their consultants. More work is needed to understand the results and what actions may or may not be feasible. Weeds are growing and harvesters are now working 5 days a week. The Town is looking at problems/complaints over wake boats but need to get more input.

**10. Determine next agenda content, date & time: Next meeting is Monday, August 8 at 6 pm in the lower level of Sherwood Lodge.**

**11. Adjourn:** ***Motion by Phil Rockenbach and second by Dave Keuler to adjourn.*** Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

**12. Social discussion and conversation (pizza ordered, food donations accepted)!**

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Herreid