

14 Mile Watershed Alliance

Held at Lake Sherwood Lodge, Rome, WI, open to the public through a Zoom link Agenda/Minutes for Monday, January 9, 2023 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 and Karen Knotek. Also present in person or via Zoom: Anna James, Jess Trudeau, Gus Mancuso, Scott Provost, Rick Mervine and Colton Hutchison.
3. **Review and approve minutes for November 14, 2022:** *Motion made by Karen Knotek and seconded by Phil Rockenbach to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2022 meeting; motion approved.*
4. **Announcements** – none
5. **Special Guest: Mike Schoenfeld, Nekoosa HS, Discussion of Next Steps:** Board members, Anna James, Colton Hutchison and Gus Mancuso met with Mike prior to this meeting to discuss partnering opportunities with Nekoosa High School students in Mike's 3 science-based classes. Gus summarized the meeting and noted that we would be contacting Mike individually to set up activities to engage the kids.
6. **Adams County Report – Carolyn Pralle:** no report
Nine Key Element Plan status – Kyle Kettner: Kyle was absent due to illness
7. **UW-Madison Extension, Anna James – Updates:** Anna is working with Wood County to plan for a Farm Profitability Conference. She also is working with 6 producer-led groups in the North Central Region. Additionally, she is collaborating with Pat Oldenburg of DNR and Adams County to conduct a social indicator survey with producers in the 10 Mile and 14 Mile watersheds. She'll be conducting interviews with producers and use the information gathered to develop future programs that will benefit them.
8. **Scott Provost/Colton Hutchinson - Updates:** Scott wants to set up meetings with other water groups in the area with the possibility of creating a larger coalition with greater impact. He and Colton are continuing to work on a special project that monitors the amount of nitrogen entering and then leaving cranberry impoundments. In February (8th to 10th), Scott will be speaking about the TMDL data and discussing Best Management Practices to control nitrogen inputs. This led to a discussion of nitrogen, not phosphorus being the source of our water quality issues. This is an issue in certain parts of the state, including the Central Sands. Unlike Wisconsin's surrounding states, we do not have a standard for acceptable nitrogen levels in water. Higher levels affect groundwater as well as surface waters and can affect drinking water, so it is important to educate and motivate change.
9. **Standing Committees**
 - a. **Publicity and Community outreach – Karen:**
 - i. **Farmers Market – Winter Indoor Market, 1/13, 2/10, 3/10, 4/14:** Phil and Dave will man the booth in January. Volunteers are needed for 2/10, 3/10 and 4/14 from Noon to 3:30. Please volunteer to help in the booth.
 - ii. **Watershed highway signs:** Phil reported that the County D and County Z signs did not get placed before the ground froze so it's been delayed until spring. A watershed group does not qualify under State of WI rules to be able to place a sign within the right of way on a state highway. He is currently exploring how to place an advertising sign and is getting the regulations for that prior to approaching a couple of potential locations. Graphic samples of other watershed signs were discussed.
 - iii. **SOOL planning coming up and set date?:** dates in June were suggested and other area events will be checked to avoid conflicts – we need to set the date quickly. Several ideas were suggested and will be discussed further at the board meeting.
 - b. **Watershed Research - Phil:**
 - i. **upstream and in-lake testing:** Phil reported that December testing was delayed to January because of the holidays falling during their normal testing time.
 - c. **Environmental Quality/Grant development – Dave:**

i. Surface Water Grant/Education Grant – updates on Ed grant: both of these grants expire on December 31, 2023; we'll wait to submit final reports and reimbursement requests until after that and will have up to 6 months to submit the paperwork.

ii. Healthy Lakes status – 6 landowners, 10 projects, Sherwood fish sticks: Dave is working with Jennifer Bergman to get a new 5-year permit for fish sticks.

iii. Fertilizer/Clean Water Cooperator: no report

iv. Walden Park grant request status – DNR Surface Water Grant – restoration, up to \$50k: After pricing out the vegetative mats for this project, he determined that the price was higher than the grant would cover so he is exploring whether a restoration grant would be more feasible.

d. Finance – Barb/Phil:

i. Tree and shrub sale: Barb reported that our orders have been submitted; 592 items were ordered and many were from different property owners than last year.

ii. Audit: Phil and Barb will schedule the audit this month.

e. Partnership Development – All

i. Speakers for fall/winter: give any suggestions to Dave

ii. Networking – future meeting with GOLD, maybe joint meeting . . . working towards setting up a meeting at a time when Scott Provost can be included.

10. Lake reports: The Lake Sherwood Fisheree is scheduled for January 21; there's been some interest expressed by both Camelot and Arrowhead in doing a fish sticks project.

11. Town, County, Tri-Lakes updates: no reports

12. Determine next agenda content, date & time. 2nd Monday is 2/13: Date set for 2/13 at 6 pm.

13. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm. Motion made by Phil and second by Karen.

14. Food, social time – Pizza provided, \$5 suggested donation

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Herreid