

## **14 Mile Watershed Alliance**

**Held at Lake Sherwood Lodge, Rome, WI, open to the public through a Zoom link.**

### **Agenda/Minutes for Monday, March 13, 2023**

1. Meeting called to order and Zoom set up at 6:10 p.m.

2. Roll Call/confirm quorum: Board members present: Dave Trudeau, Karen Knotek, Phil Rockenbach, Dave Keuler (via Zoom). Also present in person or via Zoom: Jess Chipley-Trudeau, Al Knotek, Bob Hanstad, Ken Jacobs, David Schmidt, Colton Hutchinson, John Endrizzi, Scott Provost, Pat Oldenburg, Bill Goeldner, Alice Goeldner, Keifer Sroka, Anna James, Ken Brester, Kyle Kettner, Rick Mervine, Mary Smoczynski, Mike Smoczynski, Gayle Casey, May (last name not given), Barry (last name unknown).

3. Minutes for meeting of February 13, 2023, reviewed and approved.

#### 4. Announcements

WI Lakes and Rivers Convention, April 19 – 21, 2023 is open to the public, but registrations are required (register on their website).

PACRS meeting 10:00a.m., March 17, 2023, at the Lester Library of Rome. Kyle will present an update the 14 Mile Watershed 9KEP activities.

#### 5. Adams County Report

Nine Key Element Plan: Kyle Kettner reported that the County now has certification to use drone(s) as tool(s) for mapping areas. The Roche-a-Cri map is done, and work continues on the story map. LWCD has a \$5,000.00 grant for a 9KEP informational mailer.

Keifer Sroka has spoken to Lake Arrowhead about Healthy Lakes and Rivers, and discussed shoreline assessments with Chuck Sibilsky. Plans for the summer include invasive species studies on purple loosestrife.

#### 6. WI-DNR

Scott Provost reported that there were already 39 RSVPS to the upcoming PACRS Meet and Greet. Many interest groups and individuals from the Wisconsin River Basin will be attending at noon on March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Rome Town Hall. They are interested sharing the work and successes we all have in common.

Colton Hutchinson reported that many field season projects are lined up this year. The denitrification projects have been approved. There should be a lot of high ground water this year due to the amount of snowfall we've received.

#### 7. UW – Madison Extension

Anna James announced the upcoming 2023 Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo at Mid-State Technical College on 3/22 as a good event to attend to gain an understanding of the struggles of the conservation practices that farmers deal with. Other topics include challenges, practices, and nitrate applications. The expo is open to the public (free lunch provided), and also may be attended virtually (but lunch on your own). Registration is free, but you must register on the MSTC website. Scott Provost and Kyle Kettner also commented that they have been working on a social survey with producers in the 14 Mile Watershed regarding practices they are using. UW – Madison will receive the results.

#### 8. Guest Speaker: Pat Oldenburg, WI DNR Water Resources Engineer

Pat presented his observations from the Tri-Lakes Watershed Nutrient Data Analysis. The main focus of the study was on lake water quality. He gave a presentation on seasonal nutrient levels in Lake Sherwood, Lake Camelot, and Lake Arrowhead. Data was taken above the dams and at other selected sites from mid-June to September. Some of the questions that remain after the study: Does being the middle and the oldest lake contribute to the differences seen (Lake Sherwood)? Do wake boarding and motor boating affect the water quality? What is causing the internal loading? Are problems being caused by how water is moved through the dams? Did historic drawdowns contribute to the algae problems? Some of the issues with our lakes may stem from the watershed, but there was noticeable spiking coming from the dams. The natural variability of the lakes makes it difficult to pin down what's causing the changes being seen. We must remember that nothing changes overnight. We must gain a better understanding to get closer to answers and improvements to get to the next level. Pat has been observing these changes for 10.5 years. (For more information contact Pat Oldenburg at: [patrick.oldenburg@wisconsin.gov](mailto:patrick.oldenburg@wisconsin.gov).)

Kyle Kettner discussed the algal bloom cycle, and the reduced probability of algal bloom frequency and severity resulting from various improvements over time.

#### 9. Standing Committees

Publicity and Community Outreach: Karen

Farmers' Market: We still need people for our booth on 04/14/23.

Nekoosa HS Environmental Ed field trip: Karen continues to work with Mike Schoenfeld about field trip and classroom visits.

Watershed highway signs: Phil Rockenbach reported that the township doesn't allow any permanent signs on R1 or R2 properties. John Endrizzi suggested we use a flag instead. He will also speak to a cranberry grower that he knows.

State of Our Lakes: June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Rome Town Hall, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Karen has submitted requests for advertising at KwikTrip, on Rome Channel 300 and Visit Rome website.

Adams County Directory: 14 Mile Watershed will be advertised.

Watershed research, stream and lake testing:

Phil reported that the next testing will be March 26, 2023. Testing was done February 26, 2023.

Environmental Quality/Grant Development: Progress on items and storyboard.

Surface water grant/education grant: Progress continuing on many items, including highway signs, coasters, and HL Hero yard signs.

Healthy Lakes status: Sherwood fish sticks cancelled 2023. Because this is 2021 funding, and project extension will be applied for. 2023 Healthy Lakes Grant was awarded to 14 Mile Watershed Alliance. There are 10 projects for 7 landowners. The grant award was \$10,000.00, plus \$1,000.00 for administrative costs. Native plant guide by Goggin is not planned for publication at this time. It is available for download. We will look into the cost of getting some in print.

Fertilizer/Clean Water Cooperator: Signs are still available.

Walden Park grant development: Restoration discussed with Town and possibility of \$50K DNR grant. Next meeting April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Walden Park.

Finance: Still waiting for the Healthy Lakes Grant advance to come. It should be received soon. Tree and shrub sale will be in mid – April (TBD).

Partnership Development:

April Guest Speaker: Christie Greening – Water Issues Public Survey, Saratoga. Watch for our 14 Mile Watershed newsletter in May.

10. Lake Reports: None.

11. Town, County, Drainage District, Tri-Lakes Updates: John Endrizzi reported that Lenola District remains neutral.

12. Next Meeting: April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 6:00 p.m., at Lake Sherwood Lodge (basement).

13. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Phil Rockenbach; second by Karen Knotek. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

14. Food and Networking: Sloppy Joes and chips available. \$8.00 donation requested.

Respectfully submitted by Jess Chipley-Trudeau  
(substitute)