14 Mile Watershed Alliance
Lake Sherwood Lodge – Lower Level, 6 pm meeting start
Agenda/Minutes for Monday, December 11, 2023, at 6:00 PM
(Food and networking at 5:30 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, Phil Rockenbach, Barb Herreid and Dave Keuler. Also present in person: Scott Bordeau, Brian Fischer, Keifer Sroka, Kyle Kettner, Rick Mervine, Tom Schultz, Mark Samelstad, Scott Provost, Anna James and Jess Trudeau.
3. Review and approve minutes for November 13, 2023: Motion made by Dave Keuler and seconded by Phil Rockenbach to approve minutes of November 13, 2023 meeting as printed; motion approved.
4. Announcements: Tom Schultz, Assistant Farm Manager at Heartland Farms was introduced. Tom, as well as Kyle, Anna and Scott B. shared impressions of the recent Wisconsin Cover Crop and Discovery Farms Conference held in the Dells.
5. Adams County Report

- County Conservationist – Colton Wolosek: absent
- Nine Key Element Plan status – Kyle Kettner – Kyle is working with data collected on the cover crop survey and identifying areas for improvement along the streams. He is also working with Tri-Lakes to help identify some shoreline opportunities.
- Water Resources Update - Keifer Sroka – Keifer reported that he is working on a large invasive stand of phragmites in Leola. He also mentioned documenting yearly ice on and ice off dates – currently, Gina at Tri-Lakes collects this information.

6. WI DNR - Scott Provost: Scott shared that a DNR Bureau has been created – the Bureau of Ag and Water Quality and that the DNR wants to shift emphasis from planning grants to implementing projects. He encouraged us to identify some areas where Best Management Practices could be implemented and added that, because of having a 9KEP, we are eligible to apply for NRCS, DNR TRM (Targeted Runoff Management) or Surface Water Grants. He noted that some lake districts are funding cost share portions of grants that will help their watersheds. Scott also shared that DNR and Moleaer will be meeting on Jan 21 to discuss grants and permits.
7. UW –Madison Extension, Anna James: Anna shared that she and Guolong Liang are finalizing the data collected in the social survey of producers. Since the goal of the survey was to learn how best their positions could serve the producers, the information will first be shared with them. She indicated that each producer is already implementing 3-4 practices in their operation. Anna confirmed that NRCS has funded her position for 2 years and that additionally, Wood County has posted to add a second position to assist her.
8. Guest speaker – **Rick Mervine: 14 Mile Watershed Strategic Planning, Update on planning, SWOT summary, establishing goals and feedback –** Rick shared the preliminary SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis input and asked for additional input from the meeting attendees. Items shared: continuity of the group is both a strength and a threat; a threat is the current age group – we need to add younger members to ensure the future of the organization; an opportunity suggested is that a new, younger generation of producers is upcoming. The next step in the planning process is to set goals for the next 3-5 years. Three goals that were identified were: 1) Extend our reach out and involvement efforts to all watershed stakeholders; 2) Continue our efforts to educate and 3) Be more collaborative with other groups.

9. Standing Committee Reports

a. **Publicity and Community outreach – Phil**

i. ***Farmers market*** – The December 1st market at the Town Hall was manned by Phil and Barb; there was very low attendance and interaction; the summer market is a better venue for us.

ii. ***Newsletter – feedback and survey results, e-newsletter content*** – Phil reported that the newsletter was mailed November 1 to 3550 property owners in the Tri-Lakes District. Responses were received from 260 property owners; the survey results are now posted on our website. Anna suggested that we pull out themes identified from the comments.

b. **Watershed Research, stream and lake testing – Phil** – Stream testing is now complete! Phil will work with Tri-Lakes to finalize the grant report.

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

i. ***Surface Water Restoration Grant*** – Walden Park –

Surface Water Restoration Grant – Camelot erosion – Both grant applications were submitted and results are expected in mid-February.

ii. ***Healthy Lakes status – 6 landowners, 13 practices***: Grant applications were submitted and Dave has shifted to getting reimbursements for completed projects.

iii. Fertilizer/Clean Water Cooperator – no report

d. **Finance – Phil/Barb** – Tree Sale update, 12/15 deadline: Barb reported that a reminder of the deadline has been sent out; orders continue to come in.

e. **Partnership Development - All**

i. ***Speaker ideas for January and beyond***: Moleaer Nanobubbler, Michael Goc – Dave is working to get both of them in the future.

ii. ***Networking – PACRS; River Alliance of WI, WI Cranberry Growers Assoc., WPVGA, other partners***: Scott Bordeau reported that PACRS and Anna are organizing a multi-group event for March 14 and would like us to help sponsor it. Details will be sent to Dave.

10. Lake reports – Camelot, Sherwood, Arrowhead, Petenwell: Dave reported that he's working on Sherwood's Fisheree to be held on January 20; there will be a raffle; all proceeds from this fundraiser go towards conservation projects on Sherwood. After that, he'll switch to continuing placing fish sticks near the islands. Keifer will follow up with Adams County Parks re adding stones to the Upper Camelot Dam.

11. Town, County, Drainage District, Tri-Lakes update: Dave repeated that there are 2 vacancies on the Drainage Board. Mark Samelstad shared that Tri-Lakes is working to identify potential locations on the lakes that would benefit from the nanobubbler technology. They are also working with ACEC to get quotes for providing power to these sites. Plans include a public meeting to educate the public, answer questions, discuss costs and get guidance before moving forward. He also encouraged us to attend Tri-Lakes monthly meetings.

12. Determine next agenda content, date & time. 2nd Monday is 1/8.

13. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Herreid