14 Mile Watershed Meeting Minutes
October 14,2024

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

Roll call of directors: Dave Trudeau, Phil Rockenbach, Rick Mervine, Brian Fischer and David Keuler present; Barb Herreid excused.
Members present: Dave Trudeau, Phil Rockenbach, Rick Mervine, Rick Jorgeson, Dave Keuler, Brian Fischer, Scott Bordeau, Hagen Kaczmarek, Gary Kaltenbach, Mark Samelstad, Tom Wright, and Jess Chipley-Trudeau; on Zoom: Gus Mancuso.
Review and approval of minutes of September 9, 2024, meeting: Motion to approve by Rick Mervine; second by Phil Rockenbach. Motion carried.

Announcements:

2024 Wisconsin Water and Soil Health Conference, December 17 – 18, 2024, Kalahari Conference Center, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin.
Early bird registration through November 16: $90.00 - $130.00.
https://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/register-now-2nd-annual-wisconsin-water-and-soil-health-conferenceregistration-is-open-for-the-wisconsin/
Dave Trudeau discussed dates, registration, and content information. Phil Rockenbach made a motion that 14 Mile Watershed Alliance sponsor one of our area farmers, not to exceed $250.00, to the conference. Rick Mervine moved to amend the motion, changing the motion to sponsor two of our area farmers. New motion made by Rick Mervine; second by Phil Rockenbach. Motion carried.

Adams County Reports

No one from Adams County was in attendance tonight.

U-W Madison Extension Report

Anna Mitchell was unable to attend the meeting. Brief discussion by those who assisted with the Science by the River event concluded that the event went well, and that even though it was very windy, Anna had relayed that there were more than 130 people in attendance.

Wisconsin DNR Report

Scott Provost was not in attendance.

Guest Speaker: No guest speaker scheduled for tonight's meeting.

Standing Committee Reports:

Publicity and Community Outreach:
Phil Rockenbach discussed the tree sale. We are still watching for our story to appear on the Visit Rome blog. It was decided that we will not participate in the Indoor Farmers' Market this winter.

Gus Mancuso Zoomed in to discuss the Nekoosa High School Field Trip. He thanked everyone for their feedback on the event. The students seemed more engaged with the hands on activities this year. Next year's field trip will be **Tuesday, September 16, 2025**, and may possibly include an indoor aquatic insect identity activity. Gus will also contact the environmental education teacher from Adams-Friendship Schools to invite them to join us. He said that Anna had agreed to handle publicity.

Lake Testing: Phil Rockenbach discussed potential plans.

Environmental Quality/Grant Development:
We have received $1500.00 from the Rome Town Players, for the Walden Park project. Barb Herreid will send them a thank you card for their generous donation. Jillian Alekna will help put together the graphic design or recommend a graphic artist needed for the Walden Park interpretive sign.
Dave Trudeau showed us the Power Point presentation he put together on the Walden Park project. Afterwards, he thanked everyone who helped make it happen. Scott Bordeau suggested that the Power Point presentation be put on the 14 Mile Watershed website. Jess Chipley-Trudeau suggested that it also be shown at "State of Our Lakes." During discussion we learned that as the physical work for Walden Park was being done, some of the people living in the area stopped at the site and asked what the volunteers were doing. Their reactions were favorable, and after learning of the plans, one neighbor returned to the site to donate $200.00 cash to the project.

The Surface Water Restoration Grant for the Lake Camelot erosion is in progress by DCM. The $30,000.00 grant was processed through Tri-Lakes. Dave Trudeau wrote the grant application.
During the physical work on the project, many people in the area stopped to ask questions, too. There were three Healthy Lakes grass plantings included in the project. We will need a Healthy Lakes sign there, too.

Healthy Lakes grants: We have 6 landowners, with 11 practices to date. Application will be submitted by mid-November.

Fertilizer/Clean Water Cooperator: No discussion (Pat is in Florida).

Finance: Nothing to report. Just waiting for a check to come in from Home town rome Players.

Partnership Development: Michael Goc will be the guest speaker for our meeting on December 9, 2024.
PACRS: Scott Bordeau discussed a slide presentation given by Pat Oldenberg on non-point loading at the PACRS Annual Meeting. The slides are on the PACRS' website. He suggested we particularly check out slide #13.

Strategic Planning: Rick Mervine announced the following upcoming meetings: Planning team: November 4, 2024; Membership review: November 11, 2024; and Planning team: December 2, 2024.
Rick also encouraged us to do a review of this year to record what did/didn't work. We want to be ready for 2025 BEFORE 2025. Please let Rick know if you have any thoughts or concerns.
Rick Georgeson discussed some of the other field days that were held this year. Field day activities included talks about cover crops, and their benefits, as well as the practice of a farmer leading other farmers. Farming using drones was also discussed.

Town, County, Tri-Lakes Lake Reports: Mark Samelstad gave an update on the Nanobubblers. One big container unit will be placed on 8th Avenue; 30 smaller units will be placed on Lake Sherwood. A grant has been received from Visit Rome: $25,000.00 per year, for five years, to be applied to the principal of the loan. Quarterly reports will be given to Visit Rome.

Data from the study with the buoys has been delayed, but is coming.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 11, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned: at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jess Chipley-Trudeau