14 Mile Watershed Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2025
Lake Sherwood Lodge, Rome, WI
6:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m: Dinner and networking.

Meeting called to order: 6:03 p.m. Zoom set up confirmed. Welcome to attendees.

Board of Directors members present: Rick Mervine, Brian Fischer, Phil Rockenbach, Dave Trudeau, Dave Keuler present on Zoom; Barb Herreid excused.

Members/guests attending meeting: Rick Mervine, Brian Fischer, Phil Rockenbach, Dave Trudeau, Mark Samelstad, Rick Georgeson, Carl Hasdal, Heather Gayton, Jess Chipley-Trudeau, and Hagen Kaczmarek in person; Zoomers: John Endrizzi, PACRS (and Dave Keuler, ibid).

Motion to approve minutes of January 13, 2025: Motion by Phil Rockenbach; second by Brian Fischer. Motion carried.

Announcements:
2025 Lakes and Rivers Convention, Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, WI, March 26 – 28, 2025.
Winter Water Quality Webinars, UW Extension
1/21 Nutrient Movement Through Tile Systems
2/4 Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategies
2/18 Nitrate Leaching and UW Discovery Farms Research
3/4 Nitrogen Balance: Reevaluating Crop Rotations for Cleaner Water in Wisconsin
Central WI Farm Profitability Expo, April 30, 2025

The 2025 DATCP grant may help cover some Farm Profitability fees for Farmers of the 14 Mile. 14 MWA may offer some financial assistance if needed (will be discussed later).

Heather Gayton relayed a message from Colton Wolosek that the February 11, 2025 advisory committee meeting date for the Adams Co. LWCD 10-year Plan will be changed to April 3, 2025.

Rick Mervine discussed two of Colton's questions to consider: 1) What specific natural resources should be the focus of the County Work Plan? 2) What are the top 3 priorities of 14 MWA for Adams Co LWCD?

Rick Mervine also shared the primary areas he considered to receive our focus in regard to the Adams Co. LWCD 10-year Plan: Water has to be the key, with animals, trees, recreation, and employment also being important. We should support water safety in all forms – drinking water, crop water, fire safety, recreation. Our Firewise program has to be strong. We need to educate the public, and highlight the value of our farms.

Rick Georgeson expressed that County Conservation could look at 14 Mile Watershed as being its cheerleaders. We could serve as community volunteers to help them.

Organization strategic work plans were also discussed. Five year plans tend to be more specific; ten year plans tend to be more general. As a group, 14 Mile Watershed would recommend that the County use a 5-year plan, if that is a possibility.

Watershed coordinator Heather Gayton discussed the 9 Key Element Plan meeting, and the Biochar Workshop. Heather also read a very nice thank you letter to 14 Mile Watershed from the Farmers of the Roche Cri, expressing gratitude for the luncheon at the Biochar seminar on January 24, 2025. She also provided an update on the Biochar workshop, and the plans Central Sands has to implement biochar this year.
Also, the DATCP grant deadline is the end of March, so she would like a letter of support from 14 MWA for the coming grant application for Farmers of the 14 Mile.

Standing Committee Reports:
Phil Rockenbach stated that E-news from 14 Mile Watershed will be coming out soon. Also, the video of the Biochar Workshop can be viewed at 14mile.org/videos.

Healthy Lakes has 1 – 6 land owners applying, but not everyone has signed or returned their forms yet. An extension has been granted for the 2022 Healthy Lakes grants for 2 years, so project completion due date will now be December 2026.

Speaker ideas for upcoming meetings include Shane Wucherpfennig, Wood County LWCD.

Dave Trudeau discussed and displayed draft of the interpretive sign for Walden Park, and asked for ideas on wording as well as where to get art work for the plants in the margin. Heather Gayton will ask Wild Ones if they may have a catalog. Jess Chipley-Trudeau suggested contacting Agricol for photos they may have for the varieties of plants that are incorporated into the vegetative mats that were used at the site. John Endrizzi has photo library of native plants that he's willing to share. Rick Georgeson said that a web link or a QR code to a website where the plants may be purchased would also be nice to include on the sign. Might Foss' Nursery help us sponsor the sign - the QR sign/web link, pictures of plants, or other cost?

Phil Rockenbach, Dave Kueler, and Barb Herreid recently performed the internal financial audit, and all is well.

Networking:
PACRS: The flier is almost ready to print, and send out to apx. 2200 people.
Greg Sager is scheduled to give a report on the Farmers of the 14 MIle at our next meeting.

Strategic planning:
Rick Mervine reported that the 9 Key Element Plan is moving forward as we progress through this year. Also, the Facebook page is transitioning.

Lake reports:
Camelot: During a recent ice fishing weekend, there were reports of more than 40 cars seen parked on the dam on King's Way. "No Parking" signs are clearly posted, yet parking on the dam continues to happen. The issue needs to be addressed long before any structural damage occurs to the dam. The Lake Camelot Fisheree is February 15, 2025.

Sherwood: The Lake Sherwood Fisheree was January 18, 2025. 230 adults registered and 24 children registered. The event raised just under $4500.00 for fish stocking and habitat.

Leola Drainage District: Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 19, 2025.

Tri-Lakes: Carl Hasdal stated that all of the nanobubbler agreements are in, and they will be ready to go with installation as soon as the weather breaks.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, March 10, 2025, Lake Sherwood Lodge.
5:30 p.m. meal.
6:00 p.m. meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Jess Chipley-Trudeau