14 Mile Watershed Alliance
Lake Sherwood Lodge – Lower Level, 6 pm meeting start
Agenda/Minutes for Monday, March 10, 2025, at 6:00 PM
(Food and networking at 5:30 PM)

1. Call to order & confirm Zoom setup: Phil Rockenbach called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Roll call/confirm quorum: Members present: Dave Trudeau (Zoom), Phil Rockenbach, Barb Herreid, Rick Mervine, Brian Fischer and Dave Keuler(Zoom). Also present: Rick Georgeson, Carl Hasdal, Scott Bordeau, Mark Samelstad, Heather Gayton, Greg Sager, Gary Kaltenbach and John Endrizzi.
3. Review and approve minutes for February 10, 2025: ***Motion made by Rick Mervine and seconded by Brian Fischer to approve minutes of*** **February 10, 2025** ***meeting; motion approved***.
4. Announcements: 1 2025 Lakes and Rivers Convention, Stevens Point, March 26-28; 2) A series of Winter Water Quality webinars by UW Extension is continuing. Registration is free, but required https://eventreg.wisc.edu/en/5f4YRxR7/g/extension/2025-agriculture-water-quality-webinar-series-5a2TQr16KwL/overview; 3/11 topic is Neonicotinoid Insecticides: Widespread Use and Emerging Impacts on Agricultural Landscapes 3) 4/30 is Farm Profitability seminar sponsored by UW-Extension and held at Mid-State; 4) 4/23-WI River Basin Summit in Wausau and 5) Our December guest speaker, Michael Goc, put together a hardcopy report on 14 Mile Watershed History which will be posted on our website.
5. Adams County Report:

County Conservationist – Colton Wolosek, LWRM 10-year plan: Resource Advisory Committee Meeting 4/3…any additional discussion of breakout questions? No update
Watershed Coordinator – Heather Gayton: Heather reported that she'll be holding a symposium on 3/25 to share information with producers on what is needed to implement a biochar project and subsequently, will be submitting a biochar grant application.
Water Resources Specialist – Keifer Sroka: Heather shared that Keifer is getting lake monitoring equipment and supplies ready for lake volunteers to pick up
Resource Conservationist – Tyler Torstenson-Harris: No report

6. UW –Madison Extension, Anna Mitchell – No report
7. WI DNR Update - Scott Provost: No report
8. Guest Speaker – None this month
9. Standing Committee Reports

a. Publicity and Community outreach – Phil

i. ***E-newsletter, website, FaceBook, social media:*** A monthly e-newsletter is in the works and will focus on spring wildfire season. Wis. Lakes, our website host, has implemented some new and significant improvements to WordPress that should help us; Phil has updated our website to take advantage of them.

ii. ***Nekoosa School EE presentation – Gus***: Gus is working with the high school to set a firm date for the fall event.

b. Lake testing – Phil: Phil will be picking up our supplies from the County.

c. Environmental Quality/Grant development – Dave T.

i. ***Surface Water Restoration Grant*** – ***Walden Park, interpretive sign development:*** Dave T reported that he is finalizing work on the interpretive sign.

Surface Water Restoration Grant – Camelot erosion, completed except planting:

ii. ***Healthy Lakes status – 1-6 landowners, application to be submitted soon:***

iii. **Fertilizer/Clean Water Cooperator** – No report

d. Finance – Phil/Barb – Tree Sale and other Updates? Barb reported that she will be setting up a work group for tree distribution once LWCD announces the distribution date.

e. Partnership Development – All: Greg Sager shared that the Farmers of 14 Mile Creek are in the early stages of their organization; there are currently 6 producers in the group and they are reaching out to others in the watershed.

i. ***Speaker ideas for upcoming meetings?*** **Suggestions? Shane Wucherpfennig, Wood County LwCD…tentatively scheduled for 5/12:** We hope to learn from the Mill Creek group whose 9KEP was approved a year before us. Please share any other ideas with Dave Trudeau.

ii. ***Networking – PACRS, River Alliance of WI, WI Cranberry Growers Assoc, WPVGA, other partners:*** Rick Georgeson reported on the 2/25 farmer-led council meeting held by DATCP; there were 130 attendees representing all 50 of the councils. There were presentations by several farmers' groups and Mill Creek was recognized with a 10-year certificate. There are now 1.5 million acres in Wisconsin that are employing no-till practices and this represents 10% of the total acreage. Rick also shared that the Farmers of Tomorrow are hosting a meeting on March 13 in Amherst.

f. Strategic Planning – Rick: Rick shared that board member's responsibilities have been divided up for 2025. We are looking to get more involved with other counties in our watershed, are continuing to recruit and will stay focused on the plan.

10. Lake reports – Camelot, Sherwood, Arrowhead, Petenwell: Rick reported that the Camelot lodge construction project is 2 weeks ahead of schedule and anticipates completion by the end of May. New docks for the shoreline have been ordered. There was discussion on issues with parking on the Kings Way dam; enforcement and barriers are needed to protect the dam structure.

11. Town, County, Leola Drainage District, Tri-Lakes (Nanobubbler update): Carl reported that Tri-Lakes has hired Bill O'Connor as their attorney. There is a crew on board to begin process of installing the nanobubbler units; the large unit will be set up on May 1st. Mark shared that DNR is requiring weekly testing once the system is installed. Brian Fischer noted that Visit Rome has rescheduled the August concert that we'll be helping with to Aug 23.

12. Determine next agenda content, date & time. 2nd Monday in April 4/14.

13. Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Herreid