14 Mile Watershed Alliance
Lake Sherwood Lodge – Lower Level, 6 pm meeting start
Agenda/Minutes for Monday, May 12, 2025, at 6:00 PM
(Food and networking at 5:30 PM)

1. Call to order, confirm Zoom setup, welcome: Dave Trudeau called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Roll call of Directors: Members present: Dave Trudeau, Phil Rockenbach, Barb Herreid, Rick Mervine, Brian Fischer and Dave Keuler. Also present: Rick Georgeson, Heather Gayton, Pat Rogers, Carl Hasdal, Mark Samelstad and Jess Chipley- Trudeau.
3. Review and approve minutes for April 14, 2025: ***Motion made by Phil Rockenbach and seconded by Rick Mervine to approve minutes of*** **April 14, 2025** ***meeting; motion approved***.
Announcements: 1) Central WI Farm Profitability Expo, April 30, feedback on inspiring stories presented by farmers; 2) Upper WI River Basin Summit, April 23, feedback; they may consider forming a coalition of groups such as the one for the Lower Wisconsin River Basin; 3) State of Our Lakes, 6/7, planning is in progress.
4. Adams County Report:

County Conservationist – Colton Wolosek, LWRM 10-year plan: results of 1st Resource Advisory Committee Meeting 4/3 No update

Watershed Coordinator – Heather Gayton: Heather's big news: the $100,000 biochar grant was approved! The grant period is for 2 years. She wants to get the Ho-Chunk Nation involved since biochar is an indigenous practice. She also shared that she's working with the Farmers of the 14 Mile to create a storybook of the 14 Mile using drone technology. It will be presented to the Land and Water committee as well as the County Board in July. She suggested we plan a pontoon get-together to meet with the producer group.

Water Resources Specialist – Keifer Sroka: No report

Resource Conservationist – Tyler Torstenson-Harris: No report

5. UW –Madison Extension, Anna Mitchell – No report
6. WI DNR Update - Scott Provost: No report
7. Guest Speaker – Shane Wucherpfennig: Implementing the Mill Creek 9 Key Element Plan, Wood Co. LWCD perspective: Shane authored the 9KEP in 2019 for the Mill Creek Watershed which runs from Marshfield to the intersection of Hwy 66 and the Wisconsin River in Portage County. This area is 47 miles long and encompasses four HUC 12's. He identified the following key activities: education through promoting conservation practices and holding field days; building partnerships as there is a common interest in water quality; harvestable buffers as an option for farmers and the importance of recognizing producers.
8. Standing Committee Reports

a. Publicity and Community outreach – Phil

i. ***E-newsletter, website, FaceBook, social media, Email access:*** Our May newsletter will come out at the end of the month and will promote the State of Our Lakes and a local outlet for native plants.

ii. ***Nekoosa School EE coordination – Gus Mancuso, Save the Date, 9/16***: Gus communicated that budget cuts will not affect Mike's position next fall and we will proceed with planning a field day on September 16.

iii. **Proposed producer water quality sign –** Phil shared a draft of the sign and passed it on to Heather for feedback from the Farmers of the 14 Mile.

iv. **Farmers Market, 5/16, 5/23, 5/30, 6/6:** Sign ups for working the booth as follows: 5/16 – Phil and Brian; 5/23 – Brian and Barb; 5/30 – Dave T and Dave K; 6/6 – Rick and Brian.

b. Lake testing – Phil Rockenbach, CLMN testing began April 13: The spring testing was completed on all four lakes.

c. Environmental Quality/Grant development – Dave Trudeau:

i. ***Surface Water Restoration Grant*** – ***Walden Park, interpretive sign development:*** Dave T reported that he's gotten some graphics help from Visit Rome for the sign. Also, Brian and Dave completed some 'finish-up' tasks at the site. Water is being turned on.

Surface Water Restoration Grant – Camelot erosion, completed except planting, received a plant mix recommendation from Agrecol. HL grant funding 3 native prairie plantings at site. DCM will be doing the plantings.

ii. **Healthy Lakes status – 2 landowners, amended application replaced landowners who opted out of project completion. Follow-up with multiple projects.** It's time to promote this program again.

iii. **Fertilizer/Clean Water Cooperator, any discussion** – Pat Rogers gave us an update on the biochar bags that she installed last summer in her bay and a couple other locations. She will be getting a report from a group in IL who has a 3-year history of using the bags. Further data is needed to determine if this practice produces worthwhile results.

d. Finance – Phil/Barb – **Tree Sale and fund raiser, 4/26:** All orders were distributed and left over saplings were sold to Foss Garden Center.

e. Partnership Development – All:

i. ***Speaker ideas for upcoming meetings?*** **Suggestions?** UW-Extension has a Cover Crop 101 program.

ii. ***Networking – PACRS, River Alliance of WI, WI Cranberry Growers Assoc, WPVGA, other partners:*** Rick G reported that PACRS will have a speaker this month from Clean Water Wisconsin. He also shared that Scott Provost introduced him to the head of the new Ag Water Quality Office and he will speak at a future meeting.

f. Strategic Planning – Rick: Rick shared that our board is focused on those activities that reflect the Strategic Plan such as education at the Farmers Market and the State of Our Lakes event.

9. Lake reports – Camelot, Sherwood, Arrowhead, Petenwell: No report.

10. Town, County, Leola Drainage District, Tri-Lakes (Nanobubbler installation, data collection, Neo unit cover procurement, DNR permit update): Carl Hasdal reported that the large unit is in the process of implementation and it will be launched at 11 am on June 2nd. Mark stated that Moleaer will be promoting it widely as there is great interest throughout the state. As Town Chair, Carl shared that EpiPens were approved for all emergency personnel and that he has met with an attorney concerning the proposed solar farm.

12. Determine next agenda content, date & time. 2nd Monday in June is the 9th.

12. Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Herreid