14 Mile Watershed Alliance
Lake Sherwood Lodge – Lower Level, 6 pm meeting start
Agenda/Minutes for Monday, September 8, 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 6:08 pm.
2. Roll call of Directors: Members present: Dave Trudeau, Phil Rockenbach, Barb Herreid, Rick Mervine and Dave Keuler; absent: Brian Fischer. Also present: Mark Samelstad, Carl Hasdal, Scott Bordeau, Pat Rogers, and Jess Chipley- Trudeau.
3. Review and approve minutes for August 11, 2025: ***Motion made by Phil Rockenbach and seconded by Dave Keuler to approve minutes of*** **August 11, 2025** ***meeting; motion approved***.
4. Adams County Report:

County Conservationist – Colton Wolosek, LWRM 10-year plan: results of 1st Resource Advisory Committee Meeting 4/3?, Watershed Coordinator vacancy? Colton sent the attached update of his recent activities which addressed several issues
Water Resources Specialist – Keifer Sroka: No report
Resource Conservationist – Tyler Torstenson-Harris: No report

5. UW –Madison Extension, Anna Mitchell – Science by the River is scheduled for Oct 18 in Wis. Rapids from 10 am to 1 pm – 14 Mile Watershed is planning to attend and set up a booth**; Nekoosa HS Field Trip, 9/16 at Sherwood Lodge** – Greg Sager of J&J Cranberries will start off the day with a talk and tour of his operation. Students will then proceed to Sherwood Lodge, break into 3 groups and rotate through each of the 3 sessions (1) Watersheds with Anna, 2) Groundwater with Jen McNelly from UW-Extension, and 3) Aquatic macroinvertebrates with Andrew Senderhauf from Portage County Land & Water). Lunch is planned for 12:30 followed by a wrap-up session.
6. WI DNR Update - Scott Provost: No report
7. Evening Program: none this month
8. Standing Committee Reports

a. Publicity and Community outreach – Phil

i. ***E-newsletter, website, FaceBook, social media, Email access:*** The latest e-newsletter was issued last week and features the importance of protecting our earthen dams.

ii. ***Nekoosa School EE coordination – Gus Mancuso, Save the Date, 9/16***: refer to Item 5 above.

iii. **Proposed producer water quality sign, Visit Rome grant request, update?** Phil has submitted a grant request to Visit Rome for the sign and is awaiting feedback from the Farmers of the 14 Mile.

iv. **Farmers Market, 9/12, 9/19, 9/26 end of season -** Sign-ups for working the booth as follows: 9/12 – Phil and Brian; 9/19 – Dave K and Phil; 9/26 – both Daves.

v. **item omitted on agenda**

vi. Summer Concert Series, 8/23, The Blue Notes: report on fundraiser - The summer concert was fun and resulted in funds for our organization from both beer sales and the 50/50 raffle.

b. Lake testing – Phil Rockenbach, CLMN testing, nutrient sampling of harvester weeds: August testing has been completed and that is the last testing scheduled for this year – awaiting test results which will then be posted on our website. There was much frustration expressed with the disconnect of using USPS for sending in the samples to the lab because of the length of time for them to arrive compared to the lab's use of a carrier to return the empty kits. To ensure the integrity of the sample data, the courier would best be employed for sending in the samples to the lab – Phil will follow up with the CLMN coordinator, Paul S. Could the UW-SP lab be used instead?

c. Environmental Quality/Grant development – Dave Trudeau:

i. ***Surface Water Restoration Grant*** – ***Walden Park, interpretive sign ordered, frame in, concrete slab to be poured, No Mow and No Vehicle signs ordered:*** a work committee will be framing and pouring the slab. Phil noted that the signs from Amazon are starting to arrive.

Surface Water Restoration Grant – Camelot erosion grant complete, following up on reimbursement payments. 3 HL plantings for next season. 3 HL plantings have been planned for next season.

Green Bay Packers Foundation biochar grant application, Visit Rome grant application and Tri-Lakes funding (Phil) – all funding requests have been submitted; Phil expects to hear on the GB Packers Foundation and the Visit Rome requests in October.

ii. **Healthy Lakes status –following up on new contacts and reimbursements for completed projects. 7 potential projects currently. –** Dave is finalizing grant application and will submit in early October.

iii. **Fertilizer/Clean Water Cooperator, any discussion?** – Pat Rogers collected test samples today and will be pulling the bags in another week. These bags will be able to be used again next summer. She will be communicating with Scott Provost to determine the testing protocol of the biochar bags and surrounding lake water for a comparison.

d. Finance – Phil/Barb, updates? no report

e. Partnership Development – All:

i. ***Speaker ideas or discussion topics for upcoming meetings?*** **Kaysee Beckstrom, Clean Wisconsin on 10/13. Any additional suggestions?** Pass on ideas to Dave Trudeau.

ii. ***Networking – Report on Grow and Tell, 8/26, Sterling Farms, PACRS, WI Cranberry Growers Assoc., WPVGA, Farmers of the 14 Mile Creek, other partners.*** Attendees of the Grow and Tell shared impressions of the topics and demos including a demonstration of drone use for field inspection and mapping; Scott B shared that PACRS met last week with the Farmers of Roche-a-Cri. The Sept PACRS meeting will be at Monroe Center with Scott Provost as the speaker and in October, the meeting will be at the Lester Library and Pat Oldenberg will give a TMDL update. Dave T reported that he and Phil have been meeting with Greg Sager and that our group will serve as the financial agent for the Farmers of the 14 Mile Creek. An MOU is complete and they are in the process of getting letters of support to meet the September 15 deadline for submission of the grant.

f. Strategic Planning – Rick Mervine, update: Rick reported that it's time for each of the leads to assess the progress against goals for 2025. In November, we'll begin planning for 2026.

9. Lake reports – Camelot, Sherwood, Arrowhead, Petenwell: Rick noted that a fish crib on Lower Camelot has risen to the surface; Carl added that it will be pulled this week.

10. Town, County, Leola Drainage District, Tri-Lakes (Annual meeting, NanobubblerNeo installation, data collection, other updates?): Town: Carl reported on the following: **Solar** – there have been 4 ad hoc meetings and a public hearing is scheduled for 9/27; the board has authorized funds for mailing and for signs; over 900 have signed the petition; he is in contact with UW-Madison re any water quality concerns that have been documented. **Wake Boats –** a public meeting was held on 8/23 to get citizen input. **Zoning –** Emily has accepted the position and will be returning on 9/22. **Town Administrator –** Mark is in the process of narrowing down the candidates. **Shoreline fertilizing –** discussing options to deter this practice as it is detrimental to water quality. **Tri-Lakes:** Carl reported that the budget was approved at the Annual Meeting. Preliminary testing of the impact of the nanobubblers is positive and as expected. There will be additional media coverage of the technology. There are currently 9 of the smaller units installed and running; the 10th is just waiting for electrical connection. They are working with the County on options for placement of the large unit on Lower Camelot.

11. Determine next agenda content, date & time. 2nd Monday in October is the 13th.

12. Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Herreid

<u>Update received from Colton Wolosek:</u>

14 Mile Watershed Alliance Members,
Adams County Land & Water has been busy with a wide variety of conservation projects. I have been working with Fred Heider, from the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC), on the process of our 10 Year Plan. After several meetings with state and federal agencies after our initial Resource Advisory Committee meeting, we are just days away from our first draft of this plan. The initial draft will be getting sent to DATCP for their review, and will be coming back to our community and committee for a public hearing, most likely in October. Once the public and the County Board get the chance to review, Fred and I will be heading down to Madison in December to present this to the Wisconsin Land & Water Board.
Tyler, Resource Conservationist, and I have been working with the Town of Big Flats, WIDNR and Meteor Timber on the acquisition of more land within the Town of Big Flats. We are waiting for a Letter of Intent, so we can get appraisals, negotiate price, and apply for the Knowles-Nelson grant and County Forest Project Loan. We also met with WIDNR for our annual County Forest Meeting, and they will be assisting us in dozing recreational (hiking/walking) trails on the Town of Rome County Forest Parcels this fall.
I have still been researching and meeting with other County Conservationists around the state on possible funding opportunities for a full-time, county-wide, Watershed Coordinator position. I will be meeting with the National Association of Conservation Districts on September 18th to learn more about their technical assistance grants they offer. This is a *very* competitive grant, with priority going to high-need areas for boots on the ground work implementing practices that align with EQIP and CSP.
In early summer, when the state biennial budget process was occurring, myself, along with other County Conservationists wrote, attended, and encouraged our representatives to abide by state statutes and provide more funding for conservation departments. On August 20th, we received our 2026 Draft Joint Allocation Plan, and as it sits, Adams County will be receiving roughly $58k more in staff funding than we did in 2024. Our cost-share funds have increased by about $4k, and we have been awarded our Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) grant of $17.4k. Usually we do not see much of an increase/decrease from the Draft to the Final allocation plan, so this was great news!
Please reach out if there are any questions!
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