14 Mile Watershed Alliance
Lake Sherwood Lodge – Lower Level, 6 pm meeting start
Agenda/Minutes for Monday, March 9, 2026 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 and Dave Keuler (via Zoom). Also present: Rick Georgeson, Mark Samelstad, Carl Hasdal, Brian Fischer and Scott Bordeau; also, Scott Provost and John Endrizzi (Zoom).
3. Review and approve minutes for February 9, 2026: ***Motion made by Phil Rockenbach and seconded by Rick Mervine to approve minutes of February 9, 2026 meeting; motion approved***.
4. Announcements: 2026 Lakes and Rivers Convention, April 15-17, Holiday Inn Convention Center, Stevens Point – many of us will be attending. Dave also mentioned the March 11 Winter Water Talks topic of 'Permanently protect shoreline with land trusts'.
5. Adams County Report:

County Conservationist – Colton Wolosek, Updates?, Watershed Coordinator vacancy? No report
Water Resources Specialist – Keifer Sroka, Additional Walden native plantings, Home Grown National Park program, meeting with Parks and Rec Committee: No report
Resource Conservationist – Tyler Torstenson-Harris: No report

6. UW –Madison Extension, Anna Mitchell – Career Announcement: UW-Extension, Demonstration Farm Network, Ozaukee, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Manitowoc - Anna has taken a new position with UW-Extension
7. WI DNR Update - Scott Provost: Scott joined in on the discussion on agenda item 8.
8. Evening Program: Working session to map out biochar sack deployment – It was agreed to try to implement placement of bags away from nanobubbler units so evaluation of the sacks' effectiveness can be measured accurately. Placements will be in all lakes except Sherwood because of the nanobubbler sitings in the bays. The bags will be tested, but it won't be necessary to test the water as there is enough data available from other testing programs. Pat Rogers got a quote for 300 bags of $18 each plus shipping. PACRS wants to order 180 and Tri-Lakes will decide at the 3/11 meeting how many to order. Additionally, approximately 10 larger-size bags will be ordered to place in watershed ditches; permission of the Drainage District will be needed.
9. Standing Committee Reports

a. **Publicity and Community outreach – Phil**

i. ***E-newsletter, website, FaceBook, social media, Email access:*** Phil added a page to the website documenting the Walden Project. It can be accessed in the 'Clean Water Projects' section or by using the QR code on the sign at the park. A March e-newsletter will be sent shortly.

ii. ***Nekoosa School EE coordination – Request for Earth Day Program:*** Rachel Stindt, Science Teacher at Nekoosa HS requested our help in an Earth Day (April 22) presentation for the students or help that day with any volunteer project. The morning will have rotating presentations to each of 4 groups of 15 students. Topics suggested: water testing, biochar, Homegrown National Park and a program suggestion from Rick G. From 11 to 2, the students will be bussed to Lower Camelot where Tri-Lakes will do a presentation on the nanobubbler project; students can help with cleaning filters. Barb will organize.

iii. **Proposed producer water quality sign, any update?** Phil is working on finalizing.

b. **Lake testing – Completed for season:** Keifer will be holding training sessions on 4/23 or 5/7; testing will begin within 2 weeks after ice out.
c. **Environmental Quality/Grant development – Dave Trudeau:**

i. ***Surface Water Restoration Grant*** – ***Walden Park, field work completed, signage to be installed in spring, QR code info, no change****:* signage will be installed in April; Dave and Keifer are working on an additional project for the park and will be presenting plans to Parks and Rec committee and then follow up with Visit Rome for funding support.

Surface Water Restoration Grant – Camelot Healthy Lakes plantings, three 350 sq ft plantings for next season, plants should have been ordered – planting will take place this spring

Socks for Docks - Green Bay Packers Foundation grant award ($3K), Visit Rome grant award ($4K), Incourage Foundation award ($2.2K) Through this funding, we'll be able to install 300 bags.

FOFMC: Carbon Soil Amendment – SCF biochar grant awarded ($62.25 for year one), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) grant application for denitrifying bioreactor, declined

ii. **Healthy Lakes status – 2026 HL application submitted, following up on reimbursements for 2022 – 2025 completed projects, in progress** Dave reported that he was contacted about turtle crossings at the 'S' curve; perhaps a sign? Phil will contact the Adams County sign department.

iii. **Fertilizer/Clean Water Cooperator, biochar "Socks for Docks" implementation plan** – Tri-Lakes will be discontinuing distribution of barley bags. Both PACRS and Tri-Lakes are interested in a joint order.

d. Finance – Phil/Barb, 2026 Tree and Shrub Sale, other updates? Tree and Shrub order has been submitted to ACLW; delivery is expected at end of April/early May.

e. Partnership Development – All:

i. ***Speaker ideas or discussion topics for upcoming meetings?*** Pass on ideas to Dave Trudeau.

ii. ***Networking –PACRS, WI Cranberry Growers Assoc., WPVGA, Farmers of the 14 Mile Creek (slide presentation at DATCP Farmer-Led Annual Workshop, February 24, Food+Farm Exploration Center), other partners.*** Rick G reported on the 2/24 workshop and said that Greg Sager did a nice Powerpoint presentation on the Farmers of the 14 Mile; the workshop was well-attended. Rick also shared comments on the Land & Water conference held last week in the Dells. One of the presentations given suggested not shipping heifers out west and back each year, but instead to institute rotated grazing year-round in Wisconsin as the grass would serve as a cover crop and help to improve water quality.

f. Strategic Planning – Rick Mervine, update on implementing 2026 plan – Rick reported on joint discussions with PACRS for recruiting. Our homework is to reach out to our contacts in the community and ask "are you capable of (our skill needed)?" or, if not, "do you know someone who is?" With our grant awards for several projects, we will need project managers for each one. Rick is also exploring technologies to assist with grant writing/project tracking and our quest for liability insurance.

10. Lake reports – Camelot, Sherwood (off impaired waters list), Arrowhead, Petenwell: Dave T reported that Sherwood has been removed from DNR's impaired waters list.

11. Municipal reports: Town, County, Leola Drainage District, Tri-Lakes (Any nano-bubbler updates, data results or other updates?): Tri-Lakes: They are working to site and install 18 additional units in 2026. **Town:** Mark reported on progress to establish a wake boat ordinance prior to the upcoming boating season. Carl reported that the Town is looking for a new Administrator. Also, they have created a grant committee and plan to make it available to other groups in Rome

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

13. Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Herreid