14 Mile Watershed Alliance
Lake Sherwood Lodge – Lower Level, 6 pm meeting start
Agenda/Minutes for Monday, September 14, 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, Dave Keuler and Rick Mervine. Also present: Rick Georgeson, Mark Samelstad, Pat Rogers, Brian Fischer, Jess Chipley-Trudeau, Carl Hasdal and Scott Bordeau.
3. Review and approve minutes for August 10, 2026: ***Motion made by Phil Rockenbach and seconded by Dave Keuler to approve minutes of August 10, 2026 meeting; motion approved***.
4. Announcements: WWASH, December 15-16, 90 scholarships for first time farmers; WI River Basin Bash/Conservation Night by the Lake, 9/24, 4-7 pm, Schoepp Farms, Lodi, RSVP by 9/17. Early enrollment for WWASH is 10/4. Scott B and Rick G will be attending the WI River Basin event.
5. Adams County LWCD Report(s):

County Conservationist – Colton Wolosek, Updates?, Adams Co 10-year Plan Watershed Coordinator vacancy, 9-KEP? No report
Water Resources Specialist – Keifer Sroka, Walden native planting: No report
Resource Conservationist – Tyler Torstenson-Harris: No report

6. UW –Madison Extension, Position Vacant – No report
7. WI DNR Update - Scott Provost: No report
8. Evening Program or guest speaker: None this month
9. Standing Committee Reports

a. Publicity and Community outreach – Phil Rockenbach

i. ***E-newsletter, website, FaceBook, social media, Email access, Lake Association Newsletters:*** The September e-newsletter is in progress. Phil will update the website with lake test results once the final report is posted online.

ii. ***Nekoosa School EE coordination – spring 2027:*** no fall field trip for 2026.

iii. **Proposed producer water quality sign, any update? Additional donations, FOFMC logo, Phil and Rick M:** Phil got an updated quote for the sign which reflected no increase in price. Phil met recently with Grant Holley, the new Executive Director of the WI Cranberry Growers Assn to introduce him to our group; Phil will recontact him soon to see if they will donate towards the sign.

iv. **Farmers Market 9/18 BF & ?, 9/25 BF & ?:** Brian will be joined by Phil on 9/18 and by Dave T on 9/25, the last market of the season.

v. **Info packet for new property owners:** Barb will resume working on identifying recent shoreline purchases.

b. Lake testing – update: testing is completed for the season

c. Environmental Quality/Grant development – Dave Trudeau:

i. ***Surface Water Restoration Grant*** – ***Walden Park, DNR grant for hillside restoration paid and closed out:*** Dave T reported that all parties have been paid for this project

ii. **Socks for Docks – Biochar sock deployment update. Next sentinel sample?** Dave T indicated that there are only 3 of the original 400 bags left. Instructions are being sent out to participants on fall removal of the bags and to save for next year. Rick has made a video also which will be posted on the website and a link will be included in the newsletter. Pat Rogers and Phil will be collecting the sentinel bags on Sunday and Pat will deliver to the lab on Monday. It was noted that our message should be that this effort "reduces the days of impact" of algae issues, that it's not a cure.

Walden Home Grown National Park initiative – Visit Rome grant awarded, $4,750. Incourage grant for $2,011 . . . thank you PACRS. Sprinkler contractor paid, balance $2,082 from grant obligations, plus $60 DRAFT donation: Brian Fischer coordinated tilling of the property and the planting of an oat cover crop which is already growing. Dave T has registered us as a wholesaler with Agrecol which helps us with the cost of the project. Yet this fall, a dry prairie mix supplemented with wildflowers will be planted.

FOFMC: Carbon Soil Amendment – SCF biochar grant awarded ($62,250 for year one):

Denitrifying bioreactor – VR grant award - $10,000, DATCP funding ($7.5k), PACRS donation ($2k) update on implementation. NRCS tech assistance pending: Project is on hold until next spring waiting for the required NRCS engineering plans. Phil and Dave T have been working on the DATCP renewal application for FOFMC and will submit by the 9/15 deadline.

iii. **Healthy Lakes status – Little landowner commitment for 2027. Following up on reimbursements for 2022-2025 completed projects (some from grant advance), 2023 HL project reimbursement received, review of DNR bookkeeping pending:** Dave was disheartened by landowners' response and suggested that we need to educate on why HL is still important and just one more part of a multi-pronged approach to improving water quality.

iv. **Fertilizer/Clean Water Cooperator, biochar "Socks for Docks" implementation plan discussed in grant report above.** Continued education is needed to reinforce that fertilizer is not needed and leads to runoff and water quality issues.

d. Finance – Phil/Barb, any updates? No report.

e. Partnership Development – All:

i. ***Speaker ideas or discussion topics for upcoming meetings?*** Phil suggested that we have a Zoom with Kurt Spokas, who is doing the biochar sentinel bag testing and analysis so we better understand what the sentinel bag results are showing. Pat Rogers will ask him.

ii. ***Networking –PACRS, WI Cranberry Growers Assoc., WPVGA, Farmers of the 14 Mile Creek, other partners.*** Scott Bordeau reported that Marathon County is working to implement an animal waste ordinance that will prevent manure spreading in February and March; it's going to the County Board for final approval. They are starting to collect Socks and Scott noted that lots of the bags were empty so they are trying to identify the cause. He and Rick attended the Wood County Field Day and related a farmer's use of drones for microdosing nutrients. The PACRS annual meeting will be held on 9/18 at Necedah National Wildlife.

f. Strategic Planning – Rick Mervine, any update? – As we'll be starting our 2027 planning process in November and December, Rick will contact each board member to discuss what was accomplished this year and what should be planned for next year.

10. Lake reports – Dave T reported that all 3 lakes will be stocking fish this fall. Also, Tri-Lakes included $6,000 in their 2027 budget for fish stocking.

11. Municipal reports: Town (Solar Farm, other?), Tri-Lakes (nanobubbler update, Annual meeting), County, Leola Drainage District, other updates?: Town: Carl reported that Nextera's quarterly report projected 2029 for having the project up and running. The first wake boat ticket was issued over Labor Day weekend. The kitchen at the Town Hall will be updated. Carl also reported on the Tri-Lakes Annual Meeting which highlighted a presentation by Moleaer staff. Less testing is planned for 2027. He indicated that zebra mussels are affecting the screens on the nanobubblers and Tri-Lakes is working towards solving the issue.

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

13. Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Herreid