

The June 24, 2010 PACRS meeting was held at the Adams Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Rick Georgeson.

Present: Rick Georgeson, Reesa Evans, Curtis Frost, Shane Wocheryennig, Jerry Storke, Steve Bradley, Ron Von Haden, Ken Schreiber, Russ Rasmussen, Jessica Kelly, Greg Lowe, Scott Bordeaux, Denny Caneff, Wayne Gjersvig, Gerry Ganther, Kevin Erickson, Gail Rollins, Matt Krueger, Mike Paul, John Small, Cliff Iannella, Bob Collins, Virgil Miller, Ron Lyman, Carol Lyman, Terry King, Darrin Johnson

Two visiting citizens groups from both Lake Wisconsin and The big Eau Pleine were welcomed. Rick reminded those present that connecting citizens groups along the Wisconsin River is precisely what has been recommended by our legislators. He thanked them for coming. Also welcomed were guests from the DNR, Ken Schreiber and Russ Rasmussen, as well as Jessica Kelly, an aide from State Senator Julie Lassa's office. Other guests present were Shane Wocheryennig, Jerry Storke, Steve Bradley.

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2010 meeting was made by Curt Frost and seconded by Ron Von Haden.

Treasurer's Report:

Curt reported a balance of \$242.50 in checking, and a balance of \$2124.91 in savings. In addition, Curt gave an update of the status of the 501C3 application process. The application has been submitted to an accountant for review and returned for further suggested modification. A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report.

Website Update:

Ron Lyman reminded us that changes/updates may take a week to be placed on website. One should plan on that when making announcements on the website.

Economic Impact Study:

Scott Watson suggested Rick to call Scott Provost to review the progress of our Economic Impact Study. When Rick placed that call he learned that Scott Provost has been able to schedule a meeting at the Lure on July 29, 2010 to meet with Dave Macoulier. Dave is pretty excited about this. He reinforced the idea that a smaller, localized study would be good to do first. His words were, "you need to learn how to crawl before you swim." He was not opposed to do a larger basin wide study but the more localized impact study could be quite telling for PACRS first and then open the door to something bigger. The real estate and recreational impacts are right up his alley.

Ron Von Haden reported that he made a request for support for PACRS Economic Impact Study at the Juneau County Land and Water Committee meeting. The Committee supported the request. The request advanced to the Juneau County Board and they voted to support it as well. With the support from both Adams and Juneau County Boards, the PACRS will receive \$3000.00 from each county. Our next step will be to seek matching funds from a Lakes Protection Grant. These funds will enable us to conduct the Economic Impact study for both Petenwell and Castle Rock Lakes. This is a huge step forward. Nice work Ron!!

Adopt a Bouy:

Reesa Evans shared a review of the water monitoring that has begun. 19 volunteers have received the training to do water monitoring. Reesa is coordinating the volunteers. She has gone out on every boat with volunteers for the purpose of training and supervising the work. When she feels they are ready, the volunteers will go out alone. Reesa is very pleased with the cooperation she has been given by the volunteers. Inclement weather has made it necessary to reschedule monitoring dates. Reesa reported the sampling bottles have arrived from NOAA for water samples. She also reported the microscopes should arrive soon. Reesa intends to place results of water monitoring efforts on our website.

Membership Drive:

Ron Von Haden referred to the master list of potential members that Matt Krueger put together. He urged PACRS members to review that list and make some choices of contacts they would willing to make. Rick urged that when making a contact with the purpose of increasing our membership, to consider informing the contact about the many steps that are already in progress. Ron indicated that many of the people/businesses he has approached are aware of PACRS.

That's a good sign!

Curt shared the label that will be adhered to the Jars on Bars. This label could be described as "Clean the Green" in bold letters with a picture of the PACRS Board and Technical Advisors and some members.

TMDL Update:

Ken Schreiber, DNR, gave a complete update on the TMDL. His presentation included the definition of a TMDL, description of the study area and monitoring strategy and a timeline for the project. Basically, a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) is the total amount of a pollutant (in this case phosphorus) that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards. WDNR is required to develop TMDLs for all waters on the federal 303d impaired waters list. Other impaired waters that will be studied as part of this project include the Big Eau Pleine Flowage, Lake DuBay, Mill Creek,

Dexter Lake and Lake Wisconsin. The study area includes the entire Wisconsin River drainage area from the Lake Wisconsin dam to its headwaters (about 9,200 square miles).

Water quality monitoring was initiated in November 2009 and will continue for three years. There are 27 stream and river sites that will be monitored every two weeks year-round, and 19 reservoir sites that will be monitored every two weeks from May through September. Most of the sampling will be conducted by UW-Stevens Point staff. Other related activities going on in the basin include land use modeling in the Mill Creek watershed, volunteer bluegreen algae and Secchi depth monitoring in Petenwell/Castle Rock and sediment and water quality studies in the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir. Also, strings of thermistors to measure water temperature will be suspended from buoys in Petenwell at the primary water quality sites.

The timeline for the entire project will include three years of monitoring, with model development beginning after the first two years. TMDL development will begin during the third year of the project.

Phosphorus Pollution Control Measure:

Russ Rassmussen, DNR, gave a brief update on the recent Natural Resource Board meeting. Russ reported the phosphorus pollution control measure will be making its way from the Natural Resources Board (NRB) to the appropriate committees (Agriculture and Environment) of the Wisconsin Legislature.

PRRR Program: PHOSPHORUS RUNOFF REDUCTION REWARD (PRRR) PROGRAM

Chris Murphy gave a report on a new program called the PHOSPHORUS RUNOFF REDUCTION REWARD (PRRR) PROGRAM. The PRRR program provides an innovative implementation method for reducing agricultural non point sources of phosphorus runoff above and beyond state standards as well as a method to meet Total Maximum Daily Load Standards. PRRR will improve water quality by accomplishing the following:

Determine the current sources and amounts of phosphorus runoff from cropland, pastureland and farmsteads by completing land use model calculations and review results of modeling with landowner. Nutrient Management Technicians shall input field and management data obtained during a site visit with the landowner into SNAP-Plus (a modeling program for agricultural land) and perform calculations to determine the Phosphorus Index (an estimate of the amount of phosphorus runoff from a field). If a farmstead is present, the Nutrient Management Technicians shall input data into BERT (a modeling program for barnyards) and perform model calculations to estimate the amount of phosphorus runoff. The Nutrient Management Technicians shall contact the landowner to review modeling results.

Educate landowners on water quality regulations and agricultural performance standards as well as explain the Phosphorus Runoff Reduction Reward (PRRR) program. County Land and Water Conservation Departments (LWCD) shall provide names, phone numbers, and addresses of owners to the Nutrient Management Technicians who shall make site visits to educate the landowner on Environmental Protection Agency regulations, including Total Maximum Daily Load requirements, Wisconsin Administrative Code NR151 – Agricultural Performance Standards, County Manure Management and Stormwater Runoff Ordinances. The Nutrient Management Technicians shall explain the PRRR program allows the agricultural landowner to enter into a 10 year agreement with a County Land and Water Conservation Department where they can receive a payment of \$2.00 per acre for every .1 reduction in Phosphorus Index (PI) as calculated by SNAP-Plus. Each year of the agreement, PI shall be calculated and if the PI should increase, the landowner shall be required to return \$2.00 per acre for every .1 increase in the PI.

Confirm commitment to participate in PRRR program and develop plans for best management practices (BMP). Nutrient Management Technicians shall visit landowners to complete a PRRR program agreement and plans for BMP. The agreement shall be for 10 years, containing language defining program requirements of the landowner and county. All BMP shall meet or exceed USDA-NRCS standards (engineering designs shall have USDA-NRCS/DATCP Engineering Approval Authority, non-engineering plans shall be approved by a USDA-NRCS Certified Conservation Planner, nutrient management plans shall be approved by a Wisconsin Certified Crop Advisor).

Evaluate plans and determine payment status. Land and Water Conservation (LWCD) staff shall conduct annual reviews to determine PI by inputting field and management data into SNAP-Plus. If PI decreased, payment to the landowner shall take place. If PI increased, payment from the landowner to LWCD shall occur.

The PRRR Program will cost approximately \$20 to \$30 per acre. Currently state law requires agricultural producers receive \$28 per acre for nutrient management plan implementation.

The plan is to present the PRRR Program to the Wisconsin State Legislation along with a request for more funding for the Wisconsin River Water Quality Study. We ask for your organizations support when it comes time to make the presentation.

Denny Caneff of River Alliance presented a paper from Andy Johnson, Marathon County conservationist, explaining Marathon County's proposed "ingredient" for the Whole Enchilada. Marathon County proposes to gather more information for the purposes of nutrient management planning on farms in for two sub-watersheds in the Big Eau Pleine River basin.

Next meeting date was set for July 22, 2010 at 10:00am at the Lure.

The meeting adjourned about 1:45.

Respectfully Submitted by Rick Georgeson