



***Minutes of PACRS Member Meeting
June 16, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.
The Lure Bar & Grill***

Board Members: Scott Bordeau, Colette Camerano, Steve Taylor, Peter Manley, Rick Georgeson, Mayo Ewanowski, Gerry Ganther, Mark Diedrich, Virgil Miller

Members and Guests: Tom Camerano, Star Ann Lemar, Anna James, Wayne Gjersvig, Paul Zielig, Curtis Frost, Sarah Fleck, Nancy & Bill Maschmeyer

Call to Order: President, Scott Bordeau, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. with introductions.

Secretary's Report: Colette reported the last PACRS meeting was held on May 5th at the Necedah Town Hall. Minutes were emailed to members on May 20th. Colette recapped notes from that meeting. A motion was made by Gerry Ganther to accept the May minutes. Mayo Ewanowski second the motion. All in favor of accepting the May minutes, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Taylor reported on current bank balances. Steve provided Colette with copies on the bank statements. Steve opened a certificate of deposit with American Bank for \$10,000. The term is for 13 months and interest rate is 4%. PACRS received a donation of \$165.00 from Visit Rome's sales of merchandise sold on June 2nd at the Farmers Market. Scott Bordeau worked the booth with them that day. Virgil Miller made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Mark Diedrich second the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Communications Report:

- **PACRS potential fiscal manager for the Farmers of the Roch-a-Cri (FOTRAC):** FOTRAC are a producer led watershed protection group in Adams County. Anna James is the collaborator and assisted this group in starting their producer led group and has a good working relationship with them. Producer Led groups can apply for 1 year grants up to \$40,000 with DATCP. For the 2023 grant cycle, FOTRAC were awarded a grant of \$14,000 from DATCP – the group intends to spend this money by December 31, 2023. Producer led groups need a fiscal manager when applying for grant funds. The role of the fiscal manager is to review projects with the group, fund the project and submit a reimbursement request to DATCP and receive the funds back to PACRS bank account. The FOTRAC is asking PACRS if we would take on the role as their fiscal manager. There would be a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between PACRS and FOTRAC. This September the group will apply for grant money to be available January 2024. FOTRAC have 40 members. Both Scott Bordeau and Rick Georgeson have been involved with this group since the very beginning. Anna said this would be the first producer led and lake group relationship in the state. After positive input from treasurer, Steve Taylor, the group voted. Rick Georgeson made a motion that PACRS take on the

role as fiscal manager for the FOTRAC. Colette Camerano second the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

- Anna James discussed an email that Scott Bordeau received on June 8th. The email was regarding the omission of funding in the state budget for the Natural Resource Education Program. UW Ext worked with the DNR to fund the NRE positions. In the DNR 2023-2025 State Budget as it stands and following the review and vote by the Joint Committee on Finance, does not include funding that has historically been used to support water quality monitoring and outreach that was carried out through a long standing DNR partnership with UW-Madison, Division of Extension **The omission of this funding impacts PACRS's efforts to work with other stakeholders to improve water quality in the Wisconsin River and our Lakes. In addition, the work of the NREs are critical to implementation of the WI River TMDL.** They work to form and support the efforts of Producer-led-Watershed Protection Groups and Lake Protection Groups throughout the state. Our local NRE for Central Sands has worked with Farmers of the Roche-A-Cri, Eau Pleine Partnership for Integrated Conservation (EPPIC), Farmers of the Lemonweir Valley, Producers of Lake Redstone, Farmers of Mill Creek, Farmers for Tomorrow, Central Wisconsin Farmer's Collaborative, Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards and the 14 Mile Watershed Alliance to support development, strategic plans, outreach and education and community relationship building to further soil and water quality improvement,. PACRS board encourages our members to reach out to their legislators to have these funds restored. This is time sensitive as budgets are being reviewed. Peter Manley suggests a call to your legislator with this simple message:
- **Juneau Cty residents call Senator Marklein (Co-Chair) (608) 266-0703**
Email: Sen.Marklein@legis.wi.gov
Adams Cty residents call senator Testin (608) 266-3123
Email: Sen.Testin@legis.wisconsin.gov

Or call Rep. Krug (608) 237 9172. (Or another legislator for your area.)
A staff person will answer. Tell them your message: "Start with telling them your name and where you live. Then: "I AM CALLING TO ENCOURAGE Senator or Representative _____ TO SUPPORT RESTORING FUNDING FOR THE THE NATURAL RESOURCE. EDUCATOR POSITIONS IN UW MADISON EXTENSION."

- Scott said our website is up and running. He will be setting up a training session with PACRS and Detonator. Please let him know if you would like to go through training.
- State of our Lakes was held on June 10th. Scott said it was a good meeting and packed house with 150-200 people attending.
- Adams County had a 14Mile Watershed 9KE update on June 15th, many farmers were present.
- Conservation Day at the Schoepp Family Farm is June 23rd in Lodi. The event is free but you must RSVP. The Schoepp Family was awarded the Conservation Farm of the Year by Wisconsin Land and Water earlier this year.

County Conservation:

Juneau County: Sarah Fleck joined our meeting. Sarah was doing water sample testing for nitrates at our meeting. Nitrates of 2 and under are considered natural. Juneau County's no-till drill is getting used quite frequently. This is the first year it is available for farmers to rent. The Clean Sweep Day is June 24th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Their next field day is July 21 at Bill Powers Barn.

Adams County - Kiefer Sroka Keifer could not attend our meeting this month. Next month he will discuss SnapShot Day. It is a statewide search for aquatic invasive species. The event will take place at Adams County Petenwell Park on August 19th from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. For more information go to <https://wateractionvolunteers.org/events>

Adjourned at 11:50 am

Next Meeting:

July 21, 2023 10:00 a.m.

**Place: The Lester Public Library
1157 Rome Center Dr. Nekoosa, WI**

Respectfully Submitted,
Colette Camerano - Secretary