



# Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

## ***Minutes of PACRS October 20, 2023 Monroe Center Town Hall 10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.***

**Board Members In attendance:** Scott Bordeau, Peter Manley, Steve Taylor, Colette Camerano, Rick Georgeson, Jim Stewart, Mark Diedrich, Gerry Ganther, Lisa Manzardo,

**Members & Guests in attendance:** Tom Camerano, Kyle Kettner, Al & Karen Knotek, Cathy Renner, Shane Wucherpfennig, Wayne Gjersvig, Jennifer Bergman, Colton Hutchinson, Joe Sukana, Fred Dudek, Jacki Koll, Karin Ganther, Dennis Glidden, Jim Carpenter, Lisa Diedrich, Brad Manning, Kiefer Sroka, Colton Wolosek, John Payson, John Endrizzi

**Call to Order:** President, Scott Bordeau, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Scott welcomed everyone and began the meeting with introductions from all present.

**Secretary's Report:** Colette stated the last PACRS meeting was our annual meeting held on Sept 15<sup>th</sup> at the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge. The minutes were posted to our website on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Colette gave a brief summary of the minutes. Scott Provost, DNR and Brad Strobel, NNWR, were speakers at our annual meeting. Members elected board members to serve for two years. We welcomed Lisa Manzardo as our newest board member. Virgil Miller stepped down from the board after 12 years of service. Thanks Virgil! A motion was made by Jim Stewart to accept the secretary's report. Motion was second by Gerry Ganther. All in favor, motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Steve Taylor updated members on current bank balances. Steve provided Colette a printed bank statement of accounts. Jim Stewart made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Peter Manley second the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

### **WRPCO Update – Joe Sukana:**

Joe joined our meeting to update members on WRPCO activity. Joe is a supervisor for the power company and has been at the Petenwell and Castle Rock dam for the past 13 years. He was joined by Brad Manning, who oversees 10 hydroelectric dams for Wisconsin Public Service including WRPCO. In 2015 WPS/WRPCO was acquired by WE Energies, with the creation of a new parent company WEC Energy Group. There are 30 hydroelectric dams in the WEC Energy Group fleet. There are approximately 9 miles of embankment at the Petenwell Dam. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regulates safety guidelines for our dams. WRPCO has an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) in order to mitigate any dam emergencies.

The Petenwell Dam is operated by WRPCO under licenses from FERC. The WRPCO federal license has approved operation Headwater levels. Also included in the WRPCO license are approved land use and recreational plans that outlines public utilization of WRPCO property. The current WRPCO FERC license expires in 2041.



## Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

Joe discussed how flood mitigation is accomplished by an annual drawdown that begins in February during the spring melt. The drawdown can be as much as five feet but is governed by the amount of water in the snow-cover in the state's northern watersheds. The flowage is refilled as the snow melts, normally beginning in late March. By April 30th the flowage must be full to normal summer levels. WRPCO Recreation Season is from Memorial Day to Labor Day. So far in 2023 to current, our areas are in a severe drought. Members made comments that our lake water has been clearer this year due to the severe drought. Joe said this year is the 37<sup>th</sup> driest year on record since 1895.

**President's 2023 Year-in-Review:** Scott did a presentation on PACRS activities from September 2022 to current. He highlighted conferences we sponsored as well as field trips in crop fields. You can view Scott's entire presentation on our website. Here is the link <https://pacrs.org/news/pacrs-year-in-review-23>

**Election of Officers:** Board members were elected by members at our annual meeting held in September. At this meeting, members elected officers for 2023-2024.

**Scott Bordeau** – President - Nominated by Colette. Second by Steve Taylor. All in favor.

**Steve Taylor** – Treasurer - Nominated by Colette. Second by Karin Ganther. All in favor.

**Colette Camerano** – Secretary – Nominated by Scott Bordeau. Second by Gerry Ganther. All in favor.

**Mayo Ewanowski** – Vice Pres - Nominated by Scott Bordeau. Second by Rick Georgeson, All in favor

### **Conservation Reports**

#### **Adams County:**

Colton Wolosek joined our meeting. He introduced himself as the new County Conservationist of Adams County. Colton had previously worked for Jennifer Bergman at the DNR fisheries division. Keifer Sroka, Water Resource Specialist, said a surface service water grant was awarded for Farmers of the Roche-a-Cri (FOTRAC). 7 sites will be monitored.

**Wood County:** Shane Wucherpfennig stated that he has re-applied for Mill Creek's TRM grant for the 9K Element Plan going into their 4<sup>th</sup> year. DATCP now has an Innovations Grant for \$16,500 for creating vegetative buffers, harvestable buffers. Wood County was awarded this grant. The multi discharge variance funds (MDV) have all gone to projects traded for Best Management Trading Services (BMTS) The last five years there has been reductions in phosphorous. Their no-til drill has been rented non-stop. Some of the farmers that have rented the equipment are farmers Shane might not have seen before. Some farmers have used the equipment and then purchased a no-til drill on their own.

**14 Mile Watershed Alliance:** Kyle Kettner is the Watershed Coordinator. Kyle commented that potatoes are the biggest disturbance of soil. They are harvested early in the season, so there is time for cover crops to be planted which would provide the soil with lots of nutrients. He said in the 14-mile watershed, 82% of fields have cover crops. Some of the cover crops are planted in the fall but pop-up in the spring.



## Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

**Other:** Jacki Koll announced that the Waldron kayak launch is complete. Visit Rome, DRAFT & the Town paid for the launch . The Walden launch shoreline vegetation project has not started. It was approved for a grant from Visit Rome. The DNR grant on this project is pending.

**Next Meeting Date:**  
**Friday, December 1, 2023**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**The Monroe Center Township Hall**  
**981 County Rd. Z**  
**Arkdale, Wi.**

Meeting adjourned 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colette Camerano  
Secretary