



# Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

## ***Minutes of PACRS Member Meeting January 19, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Bay Rest Resort***

### **In attendance:**

**Board Members:** Rick Georgeson, Steve Taylor, Scott Bordeau, Colette Camerano, Virgil Miller, Jim Murphy, Joe Stuchlak

**Members and Guests:** Tom Camerano, Paul Pisellini, John Endrizzi, Michael & Linda Walters, Shane Wucherpennig, Bill Leichtnam, Bill Clendenning, Chris Turok, Matt Komiskey, Dave Jackson, Vern & Carol Leis, Mayo Ewanowski

**Call to Order:** President, Rick Georgeson called the meeting to order at 10:03 with introductions.

**Secretary's Report:** Colette distributed the December meeting minutes by email and regular mail at the end of December. Colette recapped highlights from the December meeting which included guest speakers from the DNR that discussed the status of our TMDL. Members also provided input on the farmer recognition sign. A motion was made by Virgil Miller to approve the Secretary's report. Jim Murphy seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Steve Taylor provided the current balances in our savings and checking accounts. Steve also distributed a proposed budget for 2018. Members were asked to review the budget and we would vote to approve it at our February meeting. Bill Clendenning made a motion to approve the finance report. Scott Bordeau seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**Communications Report:** - Scott Bordeau reported that he has updated the website with January minutes and the February meeting notice. Colette added that PACRS has 153 paid members for 2017. Our distribution is much larger when you include technical and county support. We had the same number of members from 2016. We lose a member or two when they sell their homes and relocate. It is always important to recruit new members.

**2018 Healthy Soil Healthy Water Workshop:** Rick Georgeson, Mark Diedrich and Lynda Everson are on the planning committee for this year's workshop. Shane is assisting coordinating the event. The workshop will be held sometime in March. No specific date has been set yet. There is interest from the agriculture community to have the event again this year. Shane said 20 some farms in the Mill Creek Watershed are doing no till farming practices. These farmers dispel any myths about no till with other farmers at these workshops. Bazooka Farmstar is a manufacturer of a low disturbance manure injection systems. This equipment was demonstrated at the Farmers of Millcreek Field Days in 2017. The system injects manure directly into the soil. There is no pooling of manure on the farm field. Thereby, there is no physical evidence of manure on the crop field or roadways. The manure is removed from the manure pool by hose or tank and injected into the crop land. A motion was made by Colette to donate \$1,000 to support the HSHW Workshop. This is the same amount that was donated in 2017. Joe Stuchlak seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.



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**Farmer Recognition Award:** The farmer recognition committee members are Scott Bordeau, Colette Camerano, Chris Turok, Lydia Thomas and Jannah Mather. Scott held up the newest version of the farmer recognition sign that changed from our previous meeting based on member's input. It was decided that we should remove the year entirely from being printed on the sign. This would eliminate the sign from being seen as dated in the future. The committee submitted criteria to be used in nominating and selecting a producer for the award. A few minor changes were made to the criteria. PACRS would like to award a farmer from each of our 3 surrounding counties with this award at the HSHW Workshop in March. Nominees would need to be submitted and approved at our February meeting.

**PACRS Year In Review:** Rick Georgeson recapped events from 2017.

**New Board Members:** In September, we elected two new board members, Joe Stuchlak and Jim Stewart. Joe gave a brief bio on himself. In addition to being a PACRS director, Joe is President of Muskies Matters on Castle Rock Lake and owns the Castle Rock Dam Bait Shop. Jim Stewart is researching the Rotarians. Rotary Clubs around Lake Erie and Canada elevated the issues of the water quality in Lake Erie. Jim is mapping the Rotary Clubs up and down the Wisconsin River Watershed. No commitment has been made.

**Successful Fundraiser:** Rick thanked Jim Murphy and those members that contributed to the success of the fundraiser. This year's fundraiser raised \$3500. That was a thousand dollar increase from our 2016 fundraiser.

**Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award:** In April 2017, PACRS was the recipient of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Award. This award represents PACRS group effort to protect and improve lakes in Wisconsin.

**Tri Lakes Water:** Wally Sedlar has 72 lawns cored for soil analysis. Efforts are being made to educate and influence water property owners on land nutrients. Tri Lakes flow into Lake Petenwell via 14 mile creek.

**2017 Healthy Soil Healthy Water:** the workshop was held March 6<sup>th</sup> in Marshfield WI. This workshop allows farmers to share conservation ideas. PACRS is one of the sponsors of the workshop.

**Reesa Evans Retirement from Adams County Land and Water Department:** Reesa was the "Lake Specialist" in Adams County for the past 15 years. She retired on December 29<sup>th</sup> and there was a small celebration to honor her and all that she has done for the Adam County Lakes during her tenure.

### **County Conservation Reports:**

**Juneau County – Matt Komiskey –** Matt is working on the Juneau County Land and Water Management Plan. It is a 10 year plan due in June 2018 for presentation to the board in October 2018. In September of 2017, Matt sent out a public opinion survey via Survey Monkey. Colette had emailed this survey to all PACRS members. Matt said the number one priority that people were concerned with was our ground water quality. They are also doing ground water monitoring. His department is working in Wilderness Park re-doing lane paths to control erosion.

**Wood County – Shane Wucherpfennig –** Shane said the DNR has two No-till drills available for producers to use out of the Bona-Vista service center. The Mill Creek Farmers Council no longer houses or use them because of the complicated reporting system the DNR requires. Shane would like Wood County Land and Water Department to purchase a 10 foot no till drill that would be available to anyone in their county that would like to use it. He needs to raise \$20,000 for purchase of the equipment. He has a list of 15 entities that might donate to this cause. The more farmers that practice no till benefits the water



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quality of our lakes as it reduces soil runoff. The Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council have worked closely with PACRS over the past couple years. PACRS members have been invited to their field day tours to observe their best practices for conservation. Joe Stuchlak made a motion to donate \$2,000 to Wood County Land and Water Department toward the purchase of the no till drill that will be used by any farmer in Wood County. Steve Taylor seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

### **Other:**

**Wisconsin River Alliance:** Rick read a card sent by the Wisconsin River Alliance thanking us for all the work we do for our lakes.

**Central Wisconsin Nature Foundation:** Rick read a thank you note from Paul and Patt Pisellini thanking PACRS for our donation to their Water Walk fund for 2017.

**Duck Creek Advisory Council:** Virgil Miller advised PACRS members that he attended a Duck Creek meeting the night before and the group has decided to disband. He said there are a couple of bills to be paid and any funds remaining would be donated to PACRS.

**Ground Water Summit:** Bill Leichtnam stated a year ago Wood County's Conservation, Education & Economic Development (CEED) Committee formed a sub-committee for ground water. They are planning a Ground Water Summit through UW Stevens Point. Clean Green Action is endorsing and supporting the summit. Bill is asking that PACRS promote and endorse the summit. No date has been set for the summit. Peter Manley has been chairman of this sub-committee which meets monthly. Peter is retiring at the end of January.

**Central Wisconsin Nature Foundation Water Walk:** Colette announced that CWNF is planning their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Water Walk. The walk is set for Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. The route is being finalized but will probably be a 10 mile walk. You do not have to walk the full 10 miles. A bus will be following so anyone can get on and off the bus when they need to. The morning starts with a sunrise ceremony and the day ends with a traditional Native American Feast at the Town of Rome Hall. Members are encouraged to participate.

**Next Meeting Date: Friday, February 16, 2018**

**10:00 a.m. to Noon  
Shipwreck Bar & Restaurant  
N7265 Schacks Rd.  
Mauston, WI. 53948**

Meeting adjourned 12:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Colette Camerano,  
Secretary