



# Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

## ***Minutes of PACRS Member Meeting December 8, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Northern Bay Island Restaurant - Arkdale***

### **In attendance:**

**Board Members:** Rick Georgeson, Steve Taylor, Scott Bordeau, Colette Camerano, Virgil Miller, Jim Murphy, Rick Potter, Lynda Everson, Joe Stuchlak and Mark Diedrich,

**Members and Guests:** Tom Camerano, Sam Warp Jr, Gerry Ganther, Curtis Frost, Patrick Oldenburg, John Endrizzi, Greg Searle, Mark Hazuga, Matt Kruger, Michael & Linda Walters, Shane Wucherpfennig, Wally Sedlar, Mark Saemisch and Jeff Rumbaugh

**Call to Order:** President, Rick Georgeson called the meeting to order at 10:07 with introductions.

**Secretary's Report:** Colette distributed the October meeting minutes by email and regular mail on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Colette recapped highlights from the October meeting which reelected the current officers for another year. A presentation was also given by Gene Bader from Sand Valley Restoration Trust on the project he is working on. A motion was made by Virgil Miller to approve the Secretary's report. Lynda Everson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Steve Taylor provided the current balances in our savings and checking accounts. Joe Stuchlak made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Scott Bordeau seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**Communications Report:**- Scott Bordeau reported that he has updated the website since the October meeting with PACRS minutes.

**Wallendal Farms Community Celebration:** Wallendal Farms celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> year in family farming on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Colette and Tom Camerano went to the celebration. Wally Sedlar was a speaker on Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs). The Wallendal's farm 3,000 acres and 800 acres are going organic. The family grows 32 different crops and 65 acres of pumpkins. Colette and Tom had conversations with Andy and Eric Wallendal how they conserve water resources. The community came out to celebrate with the Wallendals and pumpkins were given away to everyone who brought a nonperishable food item. Surplus pumpkins are fed to their cows, they enjoy the special treat.

**Farmers of Mill Creek Fall Cover Crop Tour:** Rick Georgeson, Sam Warp and Shane Wucherpfennig attended the fall tour hosted by John Eron. The tour bus took them to 5 area farms. Ken Schroeder discussed the cover crops planted on the fields. The group is testing equipment that reads oxygen, nitrogen and conductivity. Shane said the water quality indicators will be used in spring and non-rainy seasons. The equipment does not monitor phosphorous. Heidi Killer, from the LaCrosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, demonstrated shoreline protection. The interest in converting to no till and planting



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cover crops continues to grow in the Mill Creek watershed. An organic farmer has found these methods will work well in his operation. These methods are being shared and discussed among the farmers in Mill Creek, even the seed salesman who stops at many farms is helping spread the word.

**Farmer Recognition Award:** Colette Camerano and Scott Bordeau unveiled a draft sign to be used for the farmer recognition program. The sign 2'X3' would be printed on alumnibond material that should weather the outdoor year round Wisconsin climate for at least 10 years. The award would be given to farmers who have implemented best practices to promote land and water conservation. The group suggested a couple changes to the sign. Scott and Colette will work with the sign company and have a final image for the next meeting. Members suggested that the sign be printed on both sides. The criteria for the award, is being drafted. We also need to receive permission from Jim Vanderbrook to use the Land and Water logo.

**DNR – TMDL Update:** Greg Searle, Patrick Oldenburg and Mark Hazuga from the WDNR were present to discuss our TMDL project. Greg covered their current organization chart. The DNR is recruiting a Wisconsin River TMDL Coordinator in the first quarter of 2018. The selected individual must have a proven track record working with partners. The person would most likely have an office in Wausau or Eau Claire. The WI River TMDL is a big river basin that includes 21 counties, 85 cities & villages, 108 permitted wastewater plants, 14 citizens groups, 38 reservoirs and 109 streams. Pat explained the development process; determines load capacity, calculates baseline load contribution, allocates loads to sources and calculates receiving water concentrations. There is a lot of work to be done yet and then the finalized TMDL will need EPA approval.

### **County Conservation Report:**

**Adams County:** Wally Sedlar said there is a lot of effort in a 9 Key Element for Adams County Ground Water. He has been very involved with the Tri Lakes Water group. The Town of Rome has an ordinance for fertilizing lawns. Blue green algae are also fed by nitrogen. Reesa Evans, Lake Specialist of Adams County, is retiring on December 29<sup>th</sup>. Wally is interviewing for Reesa's replacement but the new title is "Water Specialist". Wally's new person would be involved in the 9 key elements. Wally said that cover crops were affected by a late harvest.

**Wood County:** Shane Wucherpfennig said that Wood County has applied for a grant for their 9 Key Element Plan which will be developed over the next 9 months. Conservation position is open in Wood County. Shane said there is lots of interest in having The Healthy Soil Healthy Water conference again. The planning group meets in December.

### **Other:**

**Joe Stuchlak:** Joe gave an update on Muskies Matter. On September 14<sup>th</sup> 150 muskies were stocked below the Mauston dam. An additional 450 muskies and 1,000 perch were stocked at Northern Bay on Castle Rock Lake.

**Matt Krueger:** Matt has been working on a water stewardship program in Marathon County. Matt is heading up the "Alliance of Water Stewardship" within the River Alliance. More information on his effort in 2018. Allison Werner continues to be our primary contact as she works with citizens groups along the Wisconsin River.



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**Mark Saemisch**- Mark is the Waste Water Treatment Plant Supervisor in Elroy. He announced the City of Elroy is taking in water haulers and septic haulers for water treatment.

**Jeff Rumbaugh** – Jeff announced his is a Candidate for Governor of Wisconsin. After listening to our discussion, Jeff stated he is encouraged by the activity of PACRS is he is also concerned about groundwater and surface water. You can email Jeff at [jeffrumbaugh2018@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrumbaugh2018@gmail.com)

**Next Meeting Date: Friday, January 19, 2018**

**10:00 a.m. to Noon  
Bay Rest Resort  
1915 Big Horn Drive  
Arkdale, WI. 54613**

Meeting adjourned 12:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Colette Camerano,  
Secretary