



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

Minutes of PACRS Member Meeting With Farmers

***August 19, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
Lure Bar & Grill – Nekoosa, WI***

In attendance: Rick Georgeson, Scott Bordeau, Steve Taylor, Colette & Tom Camerano, Mark Diedrich, Jim Murphy, Ron Von Haden, Mike Turok, Rick Potter, Paul Pisellini, Wally Sedlar, Gerry Ganther, Larry Everson, Curt Frost, Grafton Hull, Ann Hirekatur, Jess Roloff, Don Ystad, Taylor Letexler, Greg Lowe, Eric Wallendal, John Wallendal, Bob Grabarski, Bob Michael, Jeff Hopkins, Shane Wucherpfennig, Wally Sedlar, Nicole Hansen, Bill Wolfe, Bill Hatch, Scott Provost, Hannah Rogers, Kim Mello, David Gorski, Mark Holbrook, Bob Ciecko, Kevin Damask, Wes Meddaugh, Jim Wysocki, Matt Krueger, Bill Clendenning, Shirley Klapperich, John Endrizzi, Gail Rollins, John Exo, John Erron, Jim Coenen, Joseph Coenen, Jacob Coenen, Pat S, Dave Skala, Margo Levitt, Cassie Mordini, Jeff Wiernik, Ken Schroeder

Welcome: Colette Camerano welcomed the diverse group of people that gathered for discussion on how to improve water quality together.

Wisconsin River Flyover: Scott Provost, of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, presented a flyover film of the Wisconsin River watershed. The film covers the watershed from where the Wisconsin River begins down to where it runs off into the Mississippi River. The film showed the amount of phosphorus rises in urban areas, such as Wausau, Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids. The levels of phosphorus rose significantly when it reached Nekoosa. Scott said there are 35 cities and 92 villages along the watershed and it includes 26 counties. Scott said this is a complex issue with and there is no quick fix. We all have to work together to improve the quality of water for generations to come.

Mike Biadasz Memorial Fund: On August 19th, Mike Biadasz, a farmer from Amherst WI was involved in a fatal and terrible farm accident. His family was setting up a memorial in his name that would fund a program for farmer safety. PACRS recognized that a farmer's job can be dangerous. The PACRS Board of Directors voted to contribute \$100.00 to this program..

PACRS Overview: Scott Bordeau presented an overview of the PACRS organization. The presentation shows the value of the Petenwell and Castle Rock Flowages as the 2nd and fifth largest lakes in the state. From ice fishing in the winter to water skiing in the summer, the lakes are enjoyed by many tourists and local property owners. The algae blooms that plague our lakes result in impair water quality, loss of recreation use, decline of property value and tax revenue and negative impact on local businesses. Slides showed the impact to The Lure Bar and Grill and also Carlson's Rustic Ridge.

Open Discussion: Scott Provost led an open discussion with the group.



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Pontoon Tour: The morning weather did not cooperate for all 6 pontoons to tour the water. 2 pontoons did venture out after lunch when the weather cleared. Some of the comments made by farmers during the open discussion and on the pontoons were:

- DATCP has old regulations and technical standards. The Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) was developed 15 years ago. The NMP should be site specific for soil type. This current plan has uniform phosphorous application time the same throughout the state.
- Pressure is on farmers to produce food at lowest cost.
- PACRS and farmers need to trust each other. Farmers have most to gain and lose. Risk should be spread around.
- Grant money needed for farmer led groups.
- Farmers were impressed to see the 100' buffer between the land owners property and the lake shore. The buffer extends for miles around the lake. It is estimated that over 90% of Petenwell and Castle Rock lakes are protected by the buffer strip.
- Farmers are interested in knowing how much phosphorous leaves their farm. To use equipment available to them through the county conservation office, the information gained becomes public. The farmers are concerned about this information being shared. PACRS was asked if we could look into the purchase of such equipment. Farmers could each share it and use the information as a guide to measure if efforts are reducing phosphorous.
- Farmers mentioned the desire to strengthen relationships with PACRS. Consider an annual meeting on the farm to discuss progress.
- Farmers were grateful for the day on the water, some talked about coming back to fish. It was clear the time together on the pontoon, the discussion at the meeting and the presentations made and information share that the day was a good first step to build a strong partnership with lake users and farmers.
- John Eron, Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council, called Rick Georgeson the next day and stated the conversations in the car on the way home were energized. "If they can protect their shoreline with a 100' buffer, we are willing to work toward solutions on the farm".

Respectfully Submitted,

Colette Camerano,
Secretary