



# Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

## ***Minutes of PACRS Member Meeting April 20, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Carlson's Rustic Ridge***

### **In attendance:**

**Board Members:** Scott Bordeau, Colette Camerano, Virgil Miller, Joe Stuchlak, Lynda Everson, Mark Diedrich, Rick Potter, Ron Von Haden

**Members and Guests:** Tom Camerano, Dave Jackson, Larry Everson, Sam Warp Jr, Matt Komiskey, Gerry Ganther, Wayne Gjersvig, Gail Rollins, Megan Schnolis, Chuck Sibilsky, Jean Warp, Peter Manley, Rick Carlson, Wallendal Farms

**Call to Order:** Vice President, Scott Bordeau called the meeting to order at 10:16 with introductions.

**Secretary's Report:** Colette distributed the March meeting minutes by email and regular mail at the end of March. The DNR presented the Wisconsin River TMDL project and approx. 30 members attended the meeting. A motion was made by Lynda Everson to approve the Secretary's report. Virgil Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Colette reported on current checking and savings balances. PACRS is pleased to announce that Thrivent customers have donated \$2800.00 of their Thrivent Choice Dollars to PACRS. Thrivent customers can donate Choice Dollars to an approved non-profit organization. PACRS was approved earlier this year as one of those non-profit organizations. Thank you to Thrivent customers, we appreciate your contributions. Ron Von Haden made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Joe Stuchlak seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**Wallendal Farms Conservation Practices:** Eric and Megan Wallendal are the third generation of family members operating Wallendal Farms. They farm 3300 acres of which 550 acres are certified organic. Megan and Eric discussed conservation practices on the farm. They have been strip tilling since 1985. They use soil probes to check soil health. The farm has reduced water consumption by 25% with the use of conservation tools. Cover crops on their field include barley, radish, winter pea and winter wheat. 14 acres along Duck Creek are dedicated for pollinator habitat. 700 acres are for corn production and the remaining acres are for processed vegetables. In 2017 the family hosted a 50 year celebration on the farm. At the end of their presentation, Scott Bordeau thanked them for their dedication to healthy soil and healthy water. The Wallendal Family was recognized by PACRS members for their conservation efforts and awarded a sign to be prominently placed on their property for the community to see.

**2018 Healthy Soil Healthy Water Workshop:** The Healthy Soil Healthy Water conference was held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the University of Wisconsin Marshfield campus located at 2000 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St Marshfield, WI. Thanks to Lynda Everson and Mark Diedrich who helped organize the event. The keynote speaker, Andy Bensed, was very inspirational and educational on cover crops and other conservation practices done on



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his fields. Rick Georgeson., PACRS President, awarded John Eron (lead farmer of the Mill Creek Farmer's Council) with the PACRS sign honoring his conservation efforts on soil and water. PACRS will also be recognizing the Wallendal's and John Eron on placemats that will be in area restaurants this summer. Below are photos of the Wallendal's and John Eron.



**2018 Fundraiser:** Jim Murphy has been hard at work organizing our fundraiser for this year. The annual celebration will be held on Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at Petenwell County Park. This is the same place as previous years. Brad Palmer has agreed to be our entertainer again this year. We are actively looking for a food caterer for this event. A couple of names were suggested by members to be checked out. There will be more information in the coming months. This is Labor Day weekend and the campground should be filled with families. Generally, our fundraiser has been later in the month.

### **County Conservation Reports:**

#### **Juneau County – Matt Komiskey**

Matt joined the county conservation department one year ago. Matt has been working to establish producer led water shed councils in Juneau County. He has met with 30 + people in the Lake Red Stone area to start a program. He also is working with smaller dairies in the Lake Decorah Watershed in Mauston.

Juneau County is conducting a survey of ground water in Armenia Township. Matt said the Health Department started to receive calls in December that prompted this action. Armenia residents are being offered water testing at reduced rates. Water samples will be taken by county employees on May 30<sup>th</sup> and will be analyzed at the UW Stevens Point Water and Environmental Analysis Lab. Lab results will be returned within a month. Flyers regarding the water testing were sent to all PACRS members.

#### **Adams County – Chuck Sibilsky**

Chuck said that the department is working on a 9 key element plan for the 14 Mile Creek area. They are doing soil tests on lakefront land owner's lawns and ditches.

#### **Other:**

- PACRS received an email from Jes Roloff concerning zip tie pollution. Jess has received comments from a concerned citizen on Castle Rock Lake. As they were walking the beach while the water levels were low, they observed hundreds of nylon zip ties that were washed up on the rocks. She knows how concerned we are about pollution and thought she would bring this to our



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attention. If you are going to use zip ties on your boat, canopy or dock, please collect them when you remove them and DO NOT discard them or any other trash into the water. Please bring this concern to your lake association and their members. Dock installers should also be informed.

- Colette said the PACRS Board of Directors approved comments to be sent to the WDNR regarding the Wisconsin River TMDL project plan. Comments were due April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Members felt the comments should also go on website. Scott will add them.
- Rick Potter talked about the County Conservation Congress voting that takes place in every county in spring. While most of the voting is related to hunting and fishing, there are questions regarding water health.

**Next Meeting Date: Friday, May 18, 2018**

**10:00 a.m. to Noon**  
**Splash Waterfront Bar & Grill**  
**1947 Dakota Lane**  
**Friendship, WI. 53934**

Meeting adjourned 12:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Colette Camerano,  
Secretary