



# Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

## ***Minutes of PACRS Member Meeting April 26, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Ship Wreck Bay Restaurant – Mauston, WI***

### **In attendance:**

**Board Members:** Rick Georgeson, Colette Camerano, Steve Taylor, Lynda Everson, Virgil Miller, Gerry Ganther, Rick Potter, Joe Stuchlak

**Members and Guests:** Larry Everson, Bob Peterson, Karin Ganther, Wayne Gjersvig, Shane Wucherpfennig, Ray Feldman, Terry Taft

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

**Secretary's Report:** Colette recalled highlights from our March meeting held at Bay Rest Resort. The minutes were emailed or mailed to members at the end of March. A motion was made by Gerry Ganther to approve the Secretary's report. Lynda Everson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Steve Taylor reported on the current balances of PACRS savings and checking accounts and expenses paid. A motion was made by Rick Potter to approve the Treasurer's report and seconded by Gerry Ganther. Steve distributed the proposed 2019 budget for PACRS at the March meeting. Members were asked to review so we could vote at the April meeting. A motion was made by Joe Stuchlak to approve the budget for 2019 and seconded by Gerry Ganther. All in favor, motion passed. The 2019 budget is approved.

**Communication Report:** Scott Bordeau was not present for the meeting. Colette discussed the cost of the restaurant placemats. A couple changes were made. Actual dates for events were removed and only the month remains. Readers are referred to websites for more information. Colette will contact restaurants, order the approximate amounts and have them ready for the next meeting or get them to the restaurants by Memorial Day.

**Wisconsin Lakes Conference:** The Wisconsin Lakes Conference was held at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point on April 10 – 12<sup>th</sup>. Rick G and Colette attended this year's conference. Take-aways from the event are:

- Emphasis on Water Sheds



## Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

- The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) can be looked at as a budget or diet for a watershed. WDNR regulates Point Sources through the WPDES permit system. Permits are issued to municipal and industrial wastewater dischargers. Once the TMDL Waste Load Allocations have been state and federally approved, reissued permits must contain conditions consistent with the wasteload allocations per the TMDL for the watershed.
- Adaptive Management can be used by eligible municipal and industrial wastewater dischargers to demonstrate compliance with the TMDL WLAs. These options provide opportunities to reduce pollutant loading to streams, rivers and lakes through point and nonpoint source collaboration.
- There are three zones on a lake:
  - Littoral Zone - plant growth area (shallow) wood, plants and algae are very important to the lake's ecosystem.
  - Benthic Zone – Bottom of lake
  - Palagic Zone – deep or open water
- Trophic lakes are clear productive lakes
- Eutrophic lakes are impaired lakes
- Iowa has done a good job mapping land use in their state
- There are 5 TMDL project managers across the state managing the Fox, St. Croix, Red Cedar, Rock River and Wisconsin River watersheds
- There is a difference between “How much rain received ” and “How much rain that infiltrates into the soil ”. No till managed crop fields can take up to 4 inches of rain leaving no run off.
- Climate Change In Wisconsin:
  - Wisconsin has warmed 2 – 3 degrees since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century
  - Wisconsin is expected to warm 3 – 9 degrees by mid-21<sup>st</sup> century
- What can we expect by climate change:
  - Robust increase in precipitation during winter and spring
  - Lake water temperature increasing
  - Loss of ice cover period
- WDNR held a Climate Change and Inland Lakes Workshop – 52 attendees (16 organization) Climate change adaptation discussed:
  - **Resistance** (defend high value lakes against changes caused by climate)
    - Eliminating or reducing combined sewer overflow (CSO)
    - TMDL Implementation
  - **Resilience** (Improve the capacity of the lake to return to prior conditions; reduce stress and minimize vulnerabilities)
    - Wetland protection and restoration



## Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

- **Response** (intentionally accommodate change, but minimize undesired outcomes)
  - Water enclosure treatment systems (WETS) to minimize beach closures
- Spiny Water Fleas – Detected in Lake Mendota in 2009, the spiny water flea's voracious appetite has changed how Lake Mendota works. It is extremely hard and often impossible to manage invasive species once they have established in lakes. Water clarity can improve by reducing the amount of agricultural run-off into the lake. For more information on the spiny water flea go to <https://limnology.wisc.edu/publications/small-invader-big-ppetite-spiny-water-flea-transforms-food-web-of-lake-mendota/>

### **Wisconsin Lakes Stewardship Awards:**

Citizens – Nate & Jessica Rice

Regional Group – North Lakeland Discovery Center

Small Group – Beaver Dam Lake Management District

Public Service – Sandy Wickman

**Clean Water Healthy Soil April 24<sup>th</sup> UW Stevens Point:** Rick G and Colette attended this 2 hour conference. The panel discussed “Alternative Funding for Clean Water and Healthy Soils” Panelists were Jim VandenBrook (Retired Executive Director WI Land and Water Conservation Association), George Meyer (Ex Secretary of the WDNR and current Executive Director of Wisconsin Wildlife Federation), Tammi Kircher (State Council Chair Iowa Ducks Unlimited) and Moderated by Jane Elder (Executive Director Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters). The panel discussed obtaining and implementing funding for statewide water and soil quality initiatives. The State of Minnesota has a legacy fund. They raised the sales tax by \$0.01. 7/10 of the penny is added to the fund for natural resources. How do we, in the State of Wisconsin, build public will for a natural resources fund. Current funding comes from hunting, fishing licenses etc. Tammi Kircher made the comment that they were seeking 3/8 of 1% sales tax increase in Iowa. They decided on an overall sales tax because 100% of the people use natural resources whether that be visiting parks, beaches etc. This group is looking for a broad coalition of people to get interested in alternative funding for Wisconsin.

**PACRS Fundraiser:** PACRS's annual meeting and fundraiser will be Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at Adams County Petenwell Park Shelter. This will be our 4<sup>th</sup> fundraiser. Colette has contacted Alter Ego and they have agreed to play again this year. A food service is still being worked on.



## Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

Colette is looking to form a committee for this event. Lynda Everson has volunteered. Please let Colette know if you are interested.

### **County Conservation Reports:**

**Wood County –** Shane Wucherpfennig reported the 9 Key Element Plan for Mill Creek Watershed is completed. EPA needs to approve and will be in the budget for 2020.

Shane distributed 3 pamphlets regarding protecting our Shorelands. The pamphlets have information on shoreland restoration, wildlife and water quality. She will mail these articles to members in January 2020 when she does membership renewal letters.

The WDNR has a Stewardship Fund that maybe available for programs such as Clean Boats Clean Water and other types of conservation efforts.

Wood County has purchased the no till drill and it is available for farmers in Wood County to use. The fee to farmers is minimal and basically covers maintenance costs for the drill. Shane will be doing water monitoring in Mill Creek to obtain a baseline in the sub shed.

Wood County Board approved a county wide nitrate testing of private wells. Wells will be tested in each section of the township during May 13 – 17<sup>th</sup>. 800 samples will be taken and tested in the Wood County lab. Their lab has been certified to perform the testing. Shane has been meeting with county conservationist and health departments from 8 counties. The focus is a ground water study for all of the Central Sands region.

Shane also stated that starting in 2020; the counties will receive funds directly from the WDNR. The county can then decide if they want to contract with Golden Sands Research.

### **Other:**

Joe Stuchlak discussed activities of Muskies Matter Inc. May 4<sup>th</sup> is Pork Fest at WI River Meats from 10:00 am till 4:00 pm. They are selling 300 tickets for \$10.00 each. 2 lucky winners will win ½ hog each. The hogs are donated by Schroeder Farms and processing donated by Wisconsin River Meats. Joe said they will once again be putting pit tags on fish and are in need of funds for pit tags and readers. Colette made a motion to donate \$1,000 to Musky Matters for purchase of the pit tags and readers so they are able to monitor stocked musky. Virgil Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed. Joe Stuchlak abstained from voting.

Joe is also on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress for Adams County. At the April 8<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Conservation Spring Hearing advisory question #50 was; Increase setbacks from



## Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

fields to streams to 30 feet. All 72 counties approved. These numbers are representative of participants who voted in person or online. Vote was 7217 approved and 840 disapproved. This question will now go to the respective committee for possible approval.

Rick Georgeson was recognized by Rick Potter for his presentation to the Wood County Citizens Ground Water Group. His topic was "Successful Engagement with the Ag Community". Rick P was present for this meeting and said Rick G did a great job representing PACRS and our mission.

**Next Meeting Date: Friday, May 17, 2019  
10:00 till 12:00 p.m.**

**The Lure Bar & Grill  
1735 Archer Lane  
Nekoosa, WI. 54457**

Meeting adjourned 12:30 p.m.  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Colette Camerano,  
Secretary