



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

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PACRS efforts continue to result in measurable progress. During this past year the EPA has approved the WI. River TMDL, an effort that PACRS was most instrumental, 11 years ago in 2008. Patience and persistence has shown to pay off. Our sites were set and we continued the course, using all the tools available to us. Our TMDL project manager, Pat Oldenburg, informs us that within the next year alone, the permits of 1/3 of the waste treatment plants in the Wi River watershed will come up for renewal and a new phosphorus limit will go into place. Both the 14 mile Creek Watershed and the Mill Creek Watershed have completed 9 key element plans, which when approved by EPA, will qualify those watersheds with potentially millions of dollars for the use of making changes on the land, changes that will result in improved water quality in Lakes Petenwell and Castle Rock. PACRS continues to support and strengthen our partnership with the farmers in the Mill Creek by assisting in the purchase of no till farm equipment that is made available to farmers to work their land differently, and by attending their June and December field days. PACRS made available to farmers in both Wood and Adams Co registration dollars for any farmer who attended either of two seminars held in both Baraboo and Stratford, conducted by Ray Archeletta last spring to learn about the use of no till and cover crop. In February we will watch for an interview conducted by Discover Wisconsin, a discussion with our own PACRS board member Gerry Ganther. We continue to support the work of River Alliance by becoming a major supporter of this year's River Bash, which will take place this coming Thursday where our Lieutenant Governor will speak on the issue of water in Wisconsin. PACRS was invited to speak to the Water Task Force in Mauston, an opportunity to inform 16 legislators of our efforts to improve water quality and to ask of their continued support in the implementation of the TMDL. PACRS took a lead role in supporting the work of Wisconsin Land and Water by being a major sponsor of The Wisconsin Land and Water State Conference held last April in Lake Geneva. This week Tuesday PACRS will attend an event called Common Ground sponsored by EPPIC at the UW Research Station in Stratford. The Eau Pleine Partnership in Integrated Conservation, a recently formed group of citizens, like PACRS, is doing like work on the Big Eau Pleine. It's important that we show support of their efforts.

"Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world, for indeed, it's the only thing that ever has" Margaret Meade.