



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

Minutes of PACRS Member Meeting December 6, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Spot in the Woods - Friendship

In attendance:

Board Members: Rick Georgeson, Colette Camerano, Steve Taylor, Scott Bordeau, Rick Potter, Mark Diedrich, Peter Manley, Virgil Miller, Lynda Everson

Members and Guests: Sue Taylor, Kason Morley, Sarah Fleck, Dustin Ladd, Judy Flashing, Bob Paterson, Larry Everson, Christie Peitzmeier, Kate Beaton, Terry Taft, Lisa Schenk, Grafton Hull

Call to Order: President, Rick Georgeson called the meeting to order at 10:03 starting with introductions.

Secretary's Report: Colette read highlights from the October meeting which was held at Lester Public Library on October 18th. The board made the decision to move PACRS bank account from ConnEXus Credit Union to American Bank in Necedah. Matt Krueger, Executive Director of Wisconsin Land and Water, joined us and discussed the structure and goals of their nonprofit organization. Rick G updated the group on two events held recently (Common Ground and River Bash). Officers were elected for the next year. A motion was made by Lynda Everson to approve the Secretary's report. Peter Manley seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Taylor reported on the current balances of PACRS savings and checking accounts. Steve said that he would be closing the account at ConnEXus and transferring funds to our new account at American Bank within the week. Steve wrote checks for \$400.00 to sponsor the Discovery Farms conference, \$12.00 to renew our Go Daddy domain name, \$11.00 for postage and \$10.00 for State of Wisconsin filing fee. All checks have cleared through ConnEXus. Steve and Colette had opened the account at American Bank with \$300.00. \$18.00 was spent to order new checks. A motion was made by Colette Camerano to approve the Treasurer's Report. Rick Potter seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Colette mentioned that a donation to Central Wisconsin Water Walk was overlooked at our October meeting. Their water walk was held in September. In the past, PACRS, had donated \$500.00 to the water walk. A motion was made by Virgil Miller to donate \$500.00 to CWNF. Lynda Everson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

Communications Report: Scott Bordeau reported that he received an email from Thrivent of an \$84.00 donation. Rick explained the Thrivent Choice Dollar program and how it benefits PACRS. Steve will notify Thrivent of our bank account change. They do direct deposits to our bank account for their member donations.

Scott gave updates on the 14 Mile Watershed Committee. Lauren Nichols from EPPIC spoke at their last meeting about their organization and families in their watershed.

Tri Lakes Management Meeting was held on November 13th. Their focus is on the 9 Key Element Plan. The implementation plan has been sent to the DNR for review. They are hoping to send it to the EPA at the end of December. Once approved, there will be funds for cost sharing with agriculture producers. An implementation committee will be organized by Kason Morley in Spring of 2020.

Scott receives instant messaging through our Facebook page. Questions are received regarding ice and algae among other questions. He tries to respond as best he can or refer the person to another website for more information.

CWIP Meeting November 9th: Colette attended a meeting on November 7th hosted by Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP). PACRS is a member of this group and Colette volunteered to represent PACRS at meetings and activities. The purpose of the group is to address invasive species on public and private lands within the 7 counties of Central Wisconsin. Asa Plonsky is the new CWIP Coordinator. At the meeting, Eric Olson was elected as Chair and Reesa Evans as Vice Chair. The committee has formed workshops that are funded by grants. Colette mentioned that PACRS may assist educating the public by providing CWIP a place on our restaurant placemats. It is not decided yet if there is enough interest by the restaurants to print placemats in 2020. The placemats would have to be updated with recent information.

Farmers of Mill Creek Field Day: Rick G, Peter Manley, Colette and Tom Camerano attended the field day on December 4th at Eron's Event Barn. Ken Schroeder, Portage County Agriculture Agent, works with the farmers in this watershed on projects and cover crop plantings. Also attending this event were 50 high school students and their instructors. After a morning touring cover crop demonstration fields, the group gathered in the event barn for a warm lunch and presentations. Presentations were given by several groups including PACRS and Wood County Land and Water Conservation. Rick Georgeson discussed PACRS relationship with the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed and the algae issues on our lakes. Students were able to see how phosphorous runoff effects our rivers and lakes. Comments were made that despite a cold



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

winter's morning, it is important to show up support these farmers in their efforts with no till and cover crops. Our lakes benefit by the work these farmers are doing in their watershed. Some of their accomplishments for 2019 were:

- 1,076 acres of no-till across 17 farms
- 554 acres single species cover crops (22 farms)
- 10 acres cover crop planting time demo plots
- 9 acres conservation covers and buffers
- 4 NEW cooperating farmers

PACRS values the relationship we have built with this group and we need to support their efforts conserving our land and water. There will be more field crop tours to attend in 2020. These tours are at no cost to us.

Discovery Farm Conference December 11th: Rick G announced that PACRS is one of the sponsors of the Discovery Farms conference. The theme for this year's conference is "Looking Ahead with 2020 Vision". How farmers can keep water clean. PACRS's donation was \$400.00 and a sticker with our logo will be placed on the folder handouts and other recognition at the conference. The cost for early registration was \$40.00 per person. Colette registered Rick G, Tom C and Colette C to attend. Peter Manley registered also online. Scott Bordeau made a motion that PACRS reimburse the registration fees to back to the members. Virgil Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed. Rick said that it makes sense for PACRS to sponsor other cover crop conferences in the future.

Conservation Reports:

Adams County – Kason Morley- Kason provided a year end recap of activities in Adams County:

- They partnered with Adams County Health Officer to inform beach users when conditions are unsafe to swim at certain beach locations. This program will continue in 2020.
- Citizens Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) is a group of citizens who volunteer to test water quality throughout the county. Organization and management of this group increased sampling on multiple lakes.
- A Shoreline Restoration Project was completed in the summer on Castle Rock Lake. This was a large native buffer near Sunset Condos. Cost share contracts have been signed and construction has started for a large Shoreline Restoration Project on Petenwell Lake.
- Stream Monitoring for base flow was limited this year due to high water for most of the season but will occur again in 2020.
- Adams County will be funding a private well testing program from 2020-2024 to gauge well water quality throughout the county.



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

- A large milk waste and manure storage pit project was completed. This protects groundwater quality from nutrients and waste seeping in and also prevents surface runoff into streams, ditches and lakes. An installation of a digester facility in the Town of New Chester was permitted to capture biogas from cow manure that can be used for energy. The gas would normally just diffuse into the atmosphere and not be used.
- Multiple maintenance projects throughout the season on county dams.
- The location of invasive Phragmites in the northern part of the county have been monitored and mapped. They will be removed this winter through spring if funding becomes available. They have also joined CWIP.
- Conservation Day was held for 5th graders. Farm Day hosted for 4th graders in the county.
- Education workshops were held for Nutrient Management Plans and Facebook training.
- The county board approved some of the county owned land to enter into the County Forest Program. This program is about sustainable forest management and public recreation opportunities.
- This year's tree and shrub sale will have a variety of species and prices have been lowered in hopes to sell over 12,000 trees and shrubs for 2020. Contact their office for details 608-339-4268.

Juneau County – Dustin Ladd – Dustin provided an update on recent activity in Juneau County:

- The Guardians of Lake Decorah group is in the process of applying for a Lake Management Grant to begin writing a 9 Key Element Plan through the Regional Planning Commission. This plan will focus on the Lemonweir River Watershed.
- The Juneau County nitrate testing program has tested 250 private wells in Juneau County. The Land and Water office has purchased a HACH colorimeter for nitrate sampling events. It can test water samples for nitrate level within 5 minutes.
- The Producers of Lake Redstone group has received Producer Led Watershed Protection grant funding for 2020. With the money carried over from the 2019 grant, the producers will have \$38,000 for Lake Redstone watershed improvement projects.
- Juneau County Land & Water will be working with the Forestry Department to complete 400 feet of shoreline restoration at Wilderness Park on Lake Petenwell.
- Juneau County has been applying for Targeted Runoff Management Grants to improve water quality resource concerns.
- Juneau County is in the process of updating the Manure Storage Ordinance to adopt the Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions of NR151.
- There is a vacancy on the drainage board. This is a 2 or 3 year term.



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

Wisconsin Conservation Voters: Kate Beaton, Western Organizer for Wisconsin Conservation Voters, joined us to update us on their recent activities. Kate is based out of Eau Claire but originally from Port Edwards. The major issue they are focusing on is water quality. They are working with the legislature on issues arising from the Water Quality Task Force. The committee made 13 stops throughout the state. In January, recommendations will be submitted by the task force to be voted on early next year. The group is working on a Water Lobby Day that will be held in Madison on January 30th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date:
January 17, 2020 10:00 a.m. till Noon

Necedah Town Hall
101 Center Street
Necedah, WI. 54646

Meeting adjourned 12:30 p.m.