



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

Minutes of PACRS Member Meeting January 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Necedah Town Hall - Necedah

In attendance:

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

Members and Guests: Jack Jasinski Sr, Terry Taft, Kenneth Hornburg, Sarah Fleck, Bob Paterson, Larry Everson, Christie Peitzmeier, Grafton Hull, Chris & Mike Turok, Sam Peterson, Mayo Ewanowski, Shane Wucherpennig,

Call to Order: President, Rick Georgeson called the meeting to order at 10:06 starting with introductions.

Secretary's Report: Colette emailed and mailed the December minutes late in December. The December meeting was held at Spot in the Woods on December 6th. Members were brought up to date on the activities of the Farmers of Mill Creek Council Field Days. County Conservationist from Adams and Juneau County reported on the activities in their counties. Kate Beaton from Wisconsin Conservation Voters was our guest speaker and gave an overview of their work and efforts organizing the Water Lobby Day to be held in Madison on January 30th. A motion was made by Virgil Miller to approve the December minutes. 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. All funds that were in ConnEXus Credit Union have been moved to American Bank in Necedah. Steve presented a few items for donation discussion and approval.

1. \$100.00 to support the silent auction at the WI Land and Water Conference for youth education programs. A motion was made by Colette Camerano to approve \$100.00 and seconded by Lynda Everson. All in favor, motion passed.
2. \$1,000 sponsor donation to the Wisconsin Land and Water Conference to be held March 4 – 6th 2020. PACRS was a sponsor of this event in 2019. A motion was made by Steve Taylor to donate \$1,000 for sponsorship. Scott Bordeau seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.
3. \$1,000 donation to River Alliance of Wisconsin. The River Alliance provides support and guidance to PACRS all year long. Steve Taylor made a motion to donate \$1,000 to the River Alliance. Motion was seconded by Rick Potter. All in favor, motion passed.



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

4. Juneau County Tourism prints and distributes maps of the Castle Rock and Petenwell Lakes Area. Area businesses are able to advertise. PACRS has run an ad for several years. A motion was made by Steve Taylor to continue the ad for \$230.00. Lynda Everson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.
5. The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Conference will be held in April at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point. Rick and Colette attended the conference last year. We had not been a sponsor at this event in the past but the members felt we should this year. A motion was made by Steve Taylor to sponsor this event for \$1,000. Colette Camerano seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Steve made mention that board members, approved by email in December, a \$1,000 sponsor donation to UW Ext Cover Crop Conference to be held on February 20th in Stevens Point. This event will draw 400 area farmers.

Steve said a budget was distributed at our December meeting for review and comment. After some discussion, Colette Camerano made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Lynda Everson seconded the motion. All in favor, the 2020 budget has been approved.

Communications Report: Scott Bordeau reported that he has posted the Water Quality Task Force report on the PACRS web site. There are 13 items that are addressed. It is 37 pages long.

Scott attended the last 14 Mile Creek Committee meeting and reported that Kason Morley, Adams County Conservationist, sent the 9 Key Element Plan for the watershed to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). They are expecting a response within 60 days.

Scott discussed setting PACRS up on the Amazon Smile program. Amazon donates a percent of customer's purchases to non-profit 501C (3) organizations. The customer has to choose the non-profit to support on their profile. Amazon donates .05% of that customer's sales to the non-profit selected by the customer. Scott is working to get PACRS up and running on this program. This is just another way the PACRS members can support our organization,

Discovery Farms Conference: Rick G, Peter Manley and Colette and Tom Camerano attended the Discovery Farm Conference held in Wisconsin Dells on Dec 11th PACRS was a \$400.00 sponsor for this event. We were given recognition at the conference and our logo and brochure were available in the attendee's packet. A farmer's panel discussed changes three farmers made on their farms. The morning was dedicated to agriculture discussion. After lunch, there were presentations on groundwater geology studies. Representatives Todd Novak and Katrina Shankland discussed the work of the Water Quality Task Force in 2019.



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

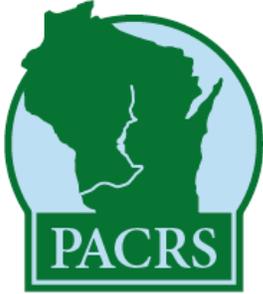
Cover Crop Conference February 20th: Rick G stated he has just finished a video for the upcoming Cover Crop Conference. The video will be available on their website to support registration for the conference. PACRS board approved a \$1000. donation in December to sponsor the conference. Sara Fleck, Juneau County Conservation Department, said that they are working with farmers in the Farmers of Lake Redstone Watershed. Sara asked if PACRS would cover the cost of one of these farmers to attend the conference. Rick Potter made a motion to sponsor the farmer's conference cost to attend. Virgil Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Clean Water Lobby Day: Rick Potter discussed the Clean Water Lobby Day coming up on January 30th. The day is being organized by the Wisconsin Conservation Voters (WCV). Attendees will meet at 12:00 at the Madison Concourse Hotel across from the State Capitol for instruction and guidelines on how to talk with their legislators. The hotel address is 1 West Dayton, Madison. WCV will set up appointments with lawmakers for the afternoon. The Water Quality Task Force Committee recently announced a list of recommendations to be presented to the legislature to be voted on. The Clean Water Lobby Day is extremely important to voice our opinions to the legislature before items are voted on. There was some discussion if PACRS had a lobbyist to represent our organization. Rick G indicated that PACRS members and officers had participated in prior Water Lobby Days. Rick Potter made a motion to support Clean Water Lobby Day in the amount of \$500.00. Colette Camerano seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Conservation Reports:

Wood County – Shane Wucherpfennig Shane indicated that 2019 was a busy year and their department dove into groundwater issues. There are 6 counties that are collaborating on ground water research. The counties are Juneau, Adams, Wood, Portage, Marathon and Waushara. This began when the water contamination was discovered in Armenia and in South Wood County. There is no science behind the problem. Research needs to be done on soil penetration. The state is supporting their efforts. In Grant, Lafayette and Iowa Counties, the dolomite bedrock hits groundwater quickly. Central Sands is showing elevated nitrates. Wood County offered free nitrate testing in private wells in 22 sections of the county. They had 40% participation in the 22 sections.

The 9 Key Element Plan for the Mill Creek Watershed was approved by the EPA/DNR mid-summer of 2019. Shane put in for a long-term TRIM grant for Wood and Portage counties. A grant of \$600,000 was approved. The plan was 126 pages with milestones set for 10 years. The focus is on reducing phosphorous in the watershed. The money goes directly to land owners for



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

cost share conservation practices such as planting cover crops and no-til. This removes some of the risk away from farmers. The grant money is both federal and state DNR funds,

The no til drill purchased by Wood County was rented to 12 farms in 2019 for planting in 500 acres. Shane thanked PACRS for our donation toward the no till drill. He received \$10,000 in donations and the county covered the difference to purchase the drill for \$19,000. PACRS donated \$2,000 to this cause in January 2018.

The last day for the Wood County tree sales was January 17th. .Shane said the trees; including hardwood oak, maple, spruce and white pine were good size trees.

Juneau County – Sara Fleck Sara announced that the 3rd Annual Lake Decorah Restoration Ice Fishing Tournament held on January 11th at Riverside Park in Mauston raised \$10,000. All proceeds raised go to the restoration efforts of the lake.

Adams County – Sam Peterson Sam reported that he has been using the water testing equipment given to Adams County by the PACRS last year. Sam passed around Adams County Tree and Shrub Sale Order Forms. Order deadline is February 21st. For more information go to the Adams County Land and Water Department website.

Next Meeting Date:
March 20, 2020
10:00 a.m. till Noon

Romano's Pizzeria
108 County Rd Z
Nekoosa, WI. 54457

Meeting adjourned 12:10 p.m.