



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

Minutes of PACRS Member Conference Call March 20, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Conference Call In

In attendance:

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

Members and Guests: Larry Everson, Tom Camerano, Rachael Whitehair, Lisa Schenk, Patrick Oldenburg, Scott Provost, Mayo Ewanowski, Sam Warp

Call to Order: President, Rick Georgeson called the meeting to order at 10:04.

Remembering Ron Von Haden: Rick announced that Ron passed away on March 5th. His funeral service was held on March 12th in Boscobel. PACRS sent flowers to the church for the service. Ron was a charter board member from the very beginning of PACRS. He was instrumental in the early organization of PACRS helping us with by-laws, obtaining our 501© 3 status and meeting with legislatures. Ron served on the board for 10 years and recently stepped down from the board in September 2019. Colette said she is gathering information on having a fish stocking on Lake Petenwell in his memory. More information on this to come.

Secretary's Report: Colette emailed the January 17th minutes on January 22nd. The January meeting was held at the Necedah Town Hall. A number of donations were discussed and voted on. The Water Quality Task Force Report is available on our website. A motion was made by Steve Taylor to approve the January 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. Donations were made to all associations that were approved at the January meeting. In addition, donations were received by Thrivent Choice Dollars customers and membership renewals. A motion was made by Lynda Everson to approve the treasurer's report. Peter Manley seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed. The Wisconsin Lakes Convention to be held in April has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus. Wisconsin Lakes will host a stewardship banquet sometime this summer. It was decided to keep our donation with WI Lakes.



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Communications Report: Scott Bordeau reported that the Wisconsin Lakes Conference classes will be held as teleconferences. The Adams County Lake Alliance meeting has been cancelled. The 14 Mile Creek Watershed 9 Key Element Plan is expected to be approved in April. Smile.Amazon is up with PACRS receiving a small donation for every purchase when made through Smile. The funds will be directed to PACRS quarterly.

Cover Crop Conference Feb 20th: Rick G and Peter Manley attended the Cover Crop Conference. PACRS was a Platinum Level Sponsor and 420 people were registered, mostly farmers. Rick Clark was the key note speaker from Indiana and spoke about his experience the past 7 years with no-til and cover crops. He cut his fuel cost by 50% and uses data to make decisions. He plants 400 acres of non-GMO corn. Next year's yield will depend on this year's cover crop. 1 out of 3 bites of food is a result of pollinators. Rick Clark told farmers to focus on soil health versus yield. Soil health starts to change after 3 years. Be patient, it will work. General Mills has provided \$1.65 million grant for Ray Archuleta, Soil Health Academy, to educate and mentor wheat and oat producers in targeted regions of the U.S. and Canada as they transition from conventional agricultural practices to soil health-focused regenerative agriculture practices. General Mills encourages farmers that supply them with crops for cereal to stop using the chemical, glyphosate(round up). General Mills' goal is that in 5 years none of their producers will be using roundup that could potentially get into their cereals. Peter Manley feels that when a producer receives an award for conservation, it means more to them than we might think.

Wisconsin Land and Water Conference March 4th: Rick G and Colette attended the WI Land and Water Conference held in Green Bay early March. There were 300 registrants and 72 counties represented, PACRS was a sponsor of the event. Adams, Juneau and Wood County Land and Water Departments were present. The Keynote Speaker was Ann Sayers, Deputy Secretary, WI Dept of Tourism. Tourism is the third largest industry in Wisconsin. There were 2 ½ days of breakout sessions. Every year there is a theme for student presenters. This year the theme was "Where Would We BEE Without the Bee and Pollinators". Students prepared speeches and posters for awards. Conservation Farm Family of the Year went to Kevin and Carolyn Parr of Harmony Hills Farm located in Vernon County. They will host an Observance Day on their farm this year with tours and presentations. The Friend of Conservation Award was presented to Representative Katrina Shankland. Colette sat in the breakout session led by Kevin Masarik, UW SP. Topic was "Estimating Potential Nitrate Leaching Losses from Ag Fields". Most of the percent of nitrate leaching into our groundwater from corn and potato fields is after harvest. Nitrate leaching in groundwater is less in spring and summer. These fields can be inter-seeded with cover crop in the summer which would reduce nitrate leaching after crop harvest.



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Lake Leader Training: Rick G explained that he is a graduate of Lake Leader Training., the class of 2008. There is an application process going on now for this year's Lake Leaders, Crew 13. The program has 3 sessions of 2 days training. Rick stated he has nominated, Colette Camerano and Karen Knotek for this year's training. Colette has shown her dedication to PACRS by being Secretary, attending conferences and corresponding to outside agencies as needed. Rick and Scott B both met Karen two years ago when the 14 Mile Creek Watershed Committee was formed. That group is focused on improving water quality of the Tri Lakes (Lake Arrowhead, Sherwood and Camelot). Lake Petenwell benefits by the work that is done on these lakes upstream from us. Karen is on the 12 - member watershed committee. They see the good work that Karen is doing for that watershed. Rick said there is a cost of \$300.00 per person to attend Lake Leaders. A motion was made by Jim Stewart that PACRS pays the registration fee for both Colette and Karen to attend this year's Lake Leaders. Scott Bordeau second the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

December Event Planning Stage: Rick stated that PACRS has been a significant partner in the 3 previously held Healthy Soil /Healthy Water workshops . On average, 60 – 75 farmers attended. Regional cover crop conferences took over the last couple years so we held back on our workshops and chose to support these. Recently, Shane Wucherpfennig, Wood County Conservationist, has suggested it is time to consider another event for this fall to bring farmers together to promote soil health and focus on the economics of cover crops and no till and how it can result in improving the bottom line. Shane has reached out to past planning committee members and found support to plan for an event to be held Dec. 2020. Rachael Whitehair from UW Extension has accepted the role facilitating these meetings and is doing a wonderful job. This event will be the first one to be held for the season, looking at first week of December. There is a balance of \$7,000 in the conference account leftover from previous HSHW conferences. The committee is considering various locations in the Marshfield or Stevens Point area. The hope is to make this an annual event focusing on Central Wisconsin agriculture.

Conservation Reports: No county conservation representatives were on the call.

Other: Scott Provost, DNR, is working with a landowner upstream on the Wisconsin River. The land owner owns a sizable frontage on the Wisconsin River. About 500 feet of frontage has severe erosion and losing tons of soil per year which equates to phosphorous. Scott made contact with Non - Point Sources in Madison and there is a TRM grant available for Urban areas in a TMDL project. Scott is writing up a grant and the owner will pay their share of 30%. Wood County Land and Water Department will sponsor the grant. The restoration to this area is not typical rip rap. The work could restore sturgeon spawning on the Wisconsin River. In addition, the right type of rock placement and root wads will be beneficial for flat head catfish to winter.



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This would be a huge for the fishery. Rick identified with the section of shoreline and the erosion problem. Scott asked PACRS to write a letter of support for this project. He felt PACRS is well known and a letter of support would go along way getting the grant approved. This project will also be done by all local people.

Rick recently attended a meeting with Chris Murphy. Chris is from Sauk County and working on the Rock River TMDL. Previously, Chris was the county conservationist with Adams County. Chris came to Stevens Point with a representative from the Madison Sewage District (Wastewater Treatment) . Chris made a presentation to 6 county conservationists and 3 waste water treatment plants operators from Plover, Stevens Pt and Junction City. Madison Sewage District invested money into a pool of funds for county cons to use the money for project on the land. They told huge success stories. There was interest from the waste water treatment representatives present to pursue further discussion. Shane Wucherfpennig would pull the group together. Patrick Oldenburg was present at that meeting and also on our call. He said he could see a number of smaller projects that they could work together on. Pat will be on the agenda for PACRS April meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 11:20 am.

Next Meeting Date:
April 17, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Meeting Place to be determined.

Meeting adjourned 11:20 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Colette Camerano
Secretary