



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

Minutes of PACRS Member Conference Call

April 17, 2020 at 9:45 a.m.

Conference Call In Toll Free

(844) 875-7777

Access Code 309003#

In attendance:

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

Members and Guests: Larry Everson, Tom Camerano, Jim Carpenter, Lisa Schenk, Patrick Oldenburg, Scott Provost, Sam Warp, Wayne Gjersvig

Call to Order: President, Rick Georgeson called the meeting to order at 9:49 a.m.

Remembering Board Director, Rick Potter: Rick G announced that Rick Potter had passed away suddenly earlier in the week. His funeral plans have not yet been arranged. Rick was elected to serve on the PACRS board in September 2016. Rick remembered how generous they were last year when Rick and his wife, Sam, sponsored a pontoon ride on the Wisconsin River from the Nekoosa Dam down to Lake Petenwell. On board were representatives from the county conservation departments and DNR. Sam made sandwiches and there was good conversation shared with all aboard. Rick G then asked other board members on the call to share their memories of Rick Potter. Everyone expressed his passion for nature, clean air and water participation in Water Lobby Days in Madison and his energy helping us with our fundraisers. Colette will provide more information as it becomes available.

Secretary's Report: Colette emailed and mailed the March 20th minutes shortly after the meeting. The March meeting was our first conference call due to the "Shelter at Home" order for the State of Wisconsin. Colette announced that Karen Knotek and she were accepted into the 2020 Lake Leaders Crew 13 this year. Rick G had nominated both of them for training. PACRS agreed to pay their tuition (\$300.00 per person). Colette said they are not sure when the training will start. Gerry Ganther made a motion to accept the Secretary Minutes for March. Virgil Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Taylor reported on the current balances of PACRS savings and checking accounts. A motion was made by Colette Camerano to approve the Treasurer's Report. Lynda Everson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.



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Communications Report: Scott Bordeau participated in the Wisconsin Lakes Conference via teleconference held online April 2nd and 3rd. There were approximately 50-80 participants in each class. Classes were 50 minutes long. 280 people participated in the conference. Links to the sessions can be replayed online. Copy and paste this link in your web browser.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/uwexLakes/playlists>

Stocking of Fish Memorial / Fundraiser: Colette has been working on having a fish planting on Lake Petenwell in memory of Ron Von Haden. Don Kempden, Consolidated Musky Club of Wisconsin Rapids has been helping her with organizing the event. The release has to be coordinated with the DNR and musky stocked all have to be pit tagged. The date is set for Saturday, September 26th. Colette is trying to reach Petenwell County Shelter on Big Horn Dr. The club has previously released fish from that park/launch. Colette is suggesting that after the fish release, we go to Bay Rest Resort for our annual meeting and lunch. Our local businesses have been hurt by the closing of their businesses due to the COVID 19 pandemic. It would be difficult to seek donations for a fundraiser. We are not even sure what restriction will be placed on large gatherings. For these reasons, there will not be a fundraiser this year. Colette indicated that in recent years, we have donated money to Consolidated Musky Club WR and Musky Matters Inc for stocking and tagging of fish planted in our lakes. Colette made a motion to donate \$1500.00 to each club to support these fish plantings. Gerry Ganther seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Town of Germantown Project: PACRS has received a request for support of a master park plan to improve the Germantown Park located on Castle Rock Lake. The town is applying for Wisconsin DNR Stewardship funding for the park improvements. Scott Bordeau has had conversations with Greg Haunroth, Town Chair, and the funds would be used for shoreline repairs, beach improvements, installing a kayak/canoe launch, trail construction, adding a disk golf course, constructing new restrooms/shelters, adding a new playground and other park improvements. Greg said the town public works department does not use fertilizer in the town and has no intention of using it in the grassy areas of the park. In addition, the Town of Germantown owns the land to the water. They do not have the 100 foot WRPCO easement. There was some discussion among the members for a memorial in the park dedicated to Rick Potter, perhaps a butterfly garden or pollinator habitat. Colette will get with Rick's wife, Sam for ideas. Colette will draft a letter and distribute to board directors for support of this project without committing financially. We believe this is what the ask is of the Town Chair at this point.



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DNR TMDL Update:

Pat Oldenburg joined us on our call and said we are approaching the 1 -year anniversary of the approval of the Wisconsin River TMDL!! The Site – Specific Criteria (SSC) Rule is currently under review with the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. The committee will be making a decision by the end of April.

Wastewater: As a group, in 2019 the point source loading above Lake Petenwell was within 10% of the TMDL goal based on the proposed site-specific criteria. About 15% of permits in the WI River Basin TMDL area have been issued based on the TMDL. Hopefully around 40% of the wastewater treatment facilities will have TMDL based requirements by this time next year. They may not be meeting limits at that time, some will be in the process of coming into compliance and some may receive variances due to the cost associated with facility upgrades. Several counties and wastewater treatment facilities are participating in the phosphorous multi-discharge variance (MDV) program in the basin this year and have applied for funding in future years. Under the MDV program wastewater dischargers who are not able to afford to upgrade to meet their phosphorus limits, pay money to the counties based on how much phosphorus they discharge. The money is dispersed to the participating counties bas on how much of the discharger’s watershed is in their county. The counties then use the MDV funds to implement nonpoint source projects to reduce phosphorus runoff. Counties in the WRB who signed up for 2020 funding; Juneau, Lincoln, Marathon, Monroe, Sauk, Taylor and Wood. For 2020 there is about \$170.000 available for counties to implement nonpoint projects, nearly half of the money was allocated to Sauk County.

Stormwater: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit was issued May 2019. In about two years from now these permittees will need to update their stormwater mapping and modeling to see where they are relative to the TMDL goals and then one year later they will need to submit a plan on how they will move forward on implementation. Several municipalities (Merrill, Kronenwetter, Marathon co, Marshfield, Mosinee, Schofield and Weston) in the WRB received funding from the DNR this year to work on modeling and planning. The DNR is working on bringing these communities together to discuss how best to move forward. COVID 19 pandemic has put everything on hold temporarily. The DNR will be working remotely to continue communications.



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NonPoint: The 14 Mile 9 Key Element Plan has not yet been approved by the EPA. Wood County has received a targeted runoff management grant to implement the Mill Creek 9 Key Element Plan. Shane Wucherpfennig, Wood County Conservationist, is anxious to get some projects off the ground in his county.

Lake Redstone received a lake planning grant to develop a lake Plan and 9 Key Element Plan for their watershed. This project has kicked off in earnest with the assistance of Sauk and Juneau County.

The City of Mauston has received a lake planning grant to develop a Lake Plan and 9 Key Element Plan for Lake Decorah in Mauston. Lake Decorah is on the Lemonweir, with its watershed going up past Tomah. It's a large watershed, so they will need to discuss how much of the watershed the plan should cover.

Marathon County is beginning the process of developing their next County Land and Water Plan. These are 10-year plans that serve to direct county non-point activities. About 45% of the cropland above Petenwell is in Marathon County and they are #2 in the state for number of cows. They also have engaged ag and citizen community through the Eau Pleine Partnership for Integrated Conservation (EPPIC) and others. So, developing and implementing this plan should be a major step forward in the TMDL implementation.

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

Other: Peter Manley discussed his work monitoring the water on Lake Petenwell. He has been monitoring the lake water for the past twelve years. Three to four times a year he monitors for chlorophyll. If you are interest in lake monitoring, please let Peter know and he can help you get started.

Meeting Adjourned 11:26 am.

Next Meeting Date:

May 15, 2020

9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Colette Camerano
Secretary