



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

***Minutes of PACRS Member Conference Call
August 21, 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 Bordeaux, Virgil Miller, Lynda Everson, Jim Stewart, Peter Manley, Mark Diedrich, Gerry Ganther

Members and Guests: Larry Everson, Rachel Whitehair, Pat Oldenburg, Jim Carpenter, Paul Pisellini, Shane Wucherpennig

Call to Order: President, Rick Georgeson called the meeting to order at 9:48 a.m.

Secretary's Report: Colette distributed the July minutes to members on July 23rd. In July, Scott Bordeaux gave an update on the 9 Key Element Plan for the 14 Mile Creek Watershed now approved by the EPA. We had updates from our 3 county conservationists. Virgil Miller made a motion to accept the Secretary Minutes for July. Gerry Ganther, seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Taylor reported on the current balances of PACRS savings and checking accounts. Checking account had increased by \$9.52 from a Smile donation. A motion was made by Mark Diedrich to approve the Treasurer's Report. Lynda Everson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Communications Report: Scott Bordeaux is working with Shane in Wood County to recognize the farmer that has been practicing good conservation in Wood County. Scott has received a quote from Neumark. The cost for the sign will be \$200.00. We are waiting for Shane to complete our form to officially nominate the farmer. A few years ago, PACRS members voted to recognize all farmers that were practicing conservation on their land. We designed a sign that could be placed outside on their farm for recognition. Scott attended a ZOOM call held by the River Alliance of Wisconsin. The call was about the 12 elements for clean water. Learn more at www.wisconsinrivers.org



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

Annual Meeting:

Earlier this year Colette was trying to coordinate the PACRS Annual Meeting with the fish stocking memorial event for Ron Von Haden. Colette talked to Don Kempden from Consolidated Musky Club Wisconsin Rapids, who is organizing the fish planting with the DNR and the date has been set for Monday, September 14th at Petenwell County Park. Don said it was too difficult to get this memorial planting done on the weekend. Colette will send more information regarding the memorial as soon as it becomes available. It was then decided to have our annual meeting on our regular 3rd Friday of the month via a conference call since we are not having a fundraiser. The COVID 19 virus has prevented PACRS from any onsite meeting during the pandemic outbreak.

Central WI Farm Profitability Expo: Rachael Whitehair is the coordinator for this event to be held in December. This farmers event is a revival to the Healthy Soil Healthy Water conferences PACRS and others were involved in several years ago. PACRS along with Pheasants Forever, Golden Sands and Eau Pleine Partnership for Integrated Conservation will be sponsoring these webinars. The mission of these webinars is to encourage profitable farming. The first webinar will be kicked off by Rick Clark, a 5th generation farmer from Indiana. Rick farms 7,000 acres and practices, no till, crop rotation and cover crop diversity. This webinar will last 4 hours. Other webinars to be scheduled will be 30 minutes to 2 hours. Farmers may be able to attend the webinar in the auditorium in Shane's office building in Wisconsin Rapids. Shane would have to check on the auditorium availability. Rick G said he heard this speaker at a cover crop conference last year.

County Conservation Reports:

Wood County – Shane said this was a good year for growing crops. It is also the 2nd year that the no till drill has been available to farmers to rent. This year the drill has been used steadily for inter-seeding. This fall, a normal harvest opens up for tons of cover crop plantings. Several farmers have purchased drills. Shane has been working with one group, Golden Acres Farms. They have 1,000 acres, 800 acres of no till and they are going to plant 600 acres of cover crop this fall. Kyle Altman also has 1,000 acres and he will be planting cover crops this fall too. Shane's department is also doing free water testing for nitrates.

Shane discussed his next project is to purchase a roller crimper. Like the no till drill, the roller crimper would be rented to farmers for use on their land. The roller crimpers have been used to flatten and mechanically terminate cover crops in the same direction as cash crop planting. Cover crops are terminated by the roller crimper instead of using herbicide. Shane wants to purchase the crimper so farmers have an option to terminate cover crops. They can terminate and plant all in one pass. The roller crimper will attach to the front of a tractor and flatten to the



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

ground the standing cover crop while at the same time the no till drill is pulled behind the tractor and planting seeds into the flattened cover crop. This allows the farmer to terminate the cover crop and plant the new seeds in one pass across the field. The flattened cover crop acts as weed suppression. The cost of a new crimper is \$7,000 and he will also need a custom- built trailer as the crimper is 14' wide. Estimated cost for both is \$10,000. Rick reminded board members that 2 years ago PACRS made a donation toward the purchase of a no till drill and we should support this effort. Scott Bordeau made a motion to donate \$2,000 to Wood County for the purchase of the roller crimper. Virgil Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

TMDL Update: Pat Oldenburg stated that the monitoring station at Biron dam has recorded a decrease in phosphorous over the past several years. This is consistent with PACRS comments on this year's water quality. The Biron dam is downstream from Mill Creek where John Eron and his group have been doing cover crop and no till planting. Mill Creek is in the TMDL. Rick G asked PACRS members about the water quality where they live. Most members responded with good water quality compared to other years. Rick commented that he has had his sailboat in Barnum Bay Marina since 1987 and today the marina is clear of algae unlike other years.

Other: Colette said she has been in contact with Patt Pisellini regarding a butterfly garden in Twin Lakes in memory of Rick Potter. Colette said this is an ideal spot for a butterfly garden as it is much closer to where Rick's wife, Sam lives. She may also want to tend to it. Paul Pisellini commented that they are working with the Rome Park Committee to build this. Dave Trudeau has a background in monarch butterflies. .

Meeting Adjourned 11:15 am.

Next Meeting Date:
PACRS Annual Meeting
September 18, 2020
9:45 Conference Call
Click here to add to your Google Calendar

<https://calendar.google.com/event?action=TEMPLATE&tmeid=NmQ3MHFXY3YzNW1hbnUxcTNiOW45c2c3NmkgMXVjZzhnNnNuZDM0bGhmbmFkODJ1cHE2NGdAZw&tmsrc=1ucg8q6snd34lhfnad82upq64g%40group.calendar.google.com>

Respectfully Submitted,
Colette Camerano - Secretary