



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

***Minutes of PACRS Member Conference Call
December 4, 2020 at 9:45 a.m.
Conference Call In Toll Free
(844) 875-7777
Access Code 309003#***

In attendance:

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

Members and Guests: Rachel Whitehair, Anna James, Shane Wucherpfennig, Jim Carpenter, Allison Werner, Bill Clendenning, Pat Oldenburg, Paul Pisillini, Bill Pegler, Sam Warp

Call to Order: President, Scott Bordeau, called the meeting to order at 9:47.

Secretary's Report: Colette distributed the October meeting minutes on October 28th. October minutes were sent via email and regular mail. Colette provided a recap of the October meeting including officers to serve for the next year; Scott Bordeau, President, Peter Manley, Vice President, Steve Taylor, Treasurer and Colette Camerano as Secretary. Virgil Miller made a motion to accept the Secretary Minutes for October. 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. PACRS check to the Wisconsin Lakes Conference sent back in January was never cashed. Steve talked to their treasurer and they returned the check which was 6 months old and Steve reissued a new check. PACRS received a deposit of \$8.54 from Smile.Amazon. PACRS is a verified charity with Amazon and receives a little revenue when customer select our charity and purchases are made thorough Smile.Amazon. A motion was made by Peter Manley to approve the Treasurer's Report. Rick Georgeson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Communications Report: Scott Bordeau attended the Watch Party on November 5th of the movie "Kiss the Ground". Rachael Whitehair hosted a discussion after the movie. The movie is about releasing carbon into the air. It is a Netflix movie and highly recommended to watch.

On November 6th, Scott accompanied Shane Wucherpfennig, County Conservationist for Wood County, to present PACRS Conservation Award to Roth's Golden Acres. Bill and Tom Roth took



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over the farm from their Dad in 1973. They are dairy farmers. They cropped 1,000 acres in 2020 of which 800 acres were planted using no-till. The remainder of the acres consist of woods for wildlife habitat. The Roth's are very conscience about their farm management and soil loss. They have been practicing no-till for over ten years.

Facebook likes are up to 824 from 744 in October. We had 3 posts in the last 28 days. Posts were made for our December meeting, Central WI Farm Profitability Expo and a post about a regenerative family farm in Boerst in the Upper Fox TMDL which is 15 miles NE of Waupaca.

Scott has been working with Chris Hamerla, Golden Sands RCD on the tracks for the Wisconsin Lakes Conference. Track 1 will be led by Rick Georgeson and he will discuss building relationships with agriculture, especially with the Farmers of Mill Creek. Also, in that track, a presentation from Big Eau Pleine Citizens Organization (BEPCO) and Eau Pleine Partnership for Integrated Conservation (EPPIC). Second track will be on wetlands and the third track will be WDNR's Pat Oldenburg and Scott Provost on the WI River TMDL update and what can it do for us.

Vote for Clean Water: Allison Werner, Policy and Advocacy Director for River Alliance of Wisconsin joined our meeting. Allison has been working closely with PACRS ever since we formed as a citizens group. She joined us to tell us about a River Alliance campaign to secure rights to clean water in Wisconsin. County by county, they are asking that Wisconsinites demand Clean Water Now through local referendum. The campaign was inspired by the success of voters in Oneida County. In 2018, 62% of voters (by referendum) elected to protect their waters by opposing the dangerous mining of a known mineral deposit. Allison is asking members to get involved. They would like to see this referendum on ballots in 2021. The referendum statement can be as simple as: "Should the State of Wisconsin establish a right to clean water to protect human health, the environment, and the diverse cultural and natural heritage of Wisconsin?" Allison is working with Adams and Wood counties currently.

Central WI Farm Profitability Expo: . Rick Georgeson attended the webinar. He said Rachael Whitehair did a great job facilitating this first session on farm profitability. Rick Clark, a fifth-generation farmer from Warren County, IN was the key note speaker. Rick and his family farm the land he grew up on. For 64 years, chemicals were applied to the crop land. Rick credits Dr Erin Silva from UW Madison, for much of the way he manages the farm today. 5 years ago, after hearing Dr Erin Silva speak, Rick took some huge steps to change what



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he does to his land. In the past, decisions were made on yield, today, decisions are made on what will build my soil health. Rick plants green, every acre has cover crop. Every acre is no tilled, the species of cover crop he plants is directly related to what cash crop follow the next spring. Doing so builds the soil health and results in no need for chemical usage. Chemicals can wipe out so many beneficials. Rick Clark advised to stop using chemicals. This year his farm used zero chemicals and he is proud of that. His soil has reached what he referred to as balance. His soil ph is 6.8 and he has used no lime in 6 yrs. He states "I'm proud to be a farmer, but prouder of how I farm." Repeated several times over: Change is good, Change is necessary, Change is the answer. Don't scorch the ground with chemicals.

Rick Clark full presentation can be heard at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyLOsSAhciY>

Conservation Reports:

Adams County: Anna James attended our meeting. Anna shared that their department is forming a committee for a new watershed group for the Big Roche a Cri area. There has been some interest from people. Looks like it will be a producer led group. Anna has received a winter salt watch pack that allows her to test the Roche a Cri Creek to see how salt effect the watershed.

Wood County: Shane Wucherpfennig, County Conservatist, said his department will be purchasing a roller crimper this Spring. A few producers have already been asking when it will be available. One organic farmer has purchased a crimper for his farm. His crop land went organic 2 years ago and he is trying to control the weeds. Shane steered him toward a cover crop that will help with the weed suppression. Shane is gathering his numbers from this past summer on PH reduction, no-till and cover crop acres and results from water quality testing in Mill Creek. Once he has his numbers finalized, he will share with PACRS. Shane said the PACRS Conservation Award was well received by Roth's Golden Acres. They were thrilled to receive the award and it will have a place in their man cave. Peter Manley commented that we should not underestimate how much these farmers appreciate receiving these awards. Many farmers are honored when they are recognized for their hard conservation work. Shane shared that John Eron was recently awarded the Aldo Leopold Award for his water conservation system installed on his crop land. John is the lead farmer in the Farmers of the Mill Creek Watershed. This award recognized his conservation efforts prior to when the watershed group was even formed. Congratulation to John and Melissa Eron and thanks for all your conservation work.



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Other: Joe Stuchlak, PACRS board member, announced he has opened a 2nd bait store. The new store is located at 1903 Bighorn Dr. Arkdale, WI. Joe invited PACRS to have a meeting at his store in 2021. Joe is also active in Muskies Matter Inc. That group hosted a fish stocking on September on Castle Rock Lake. All muskies were pit tagged with funds donated by PACRS. 300 muskies were released in the Lemonweir River just below the Mauston dam. Another 300 muskies were released in the Wisconsin River where the Lemonweir River meets the Wisconsin River. 1,000 perch were released into Kline Creek. Muskies Matters donated 1,000 blue gills that were released into Goose Lake. The group thanks PACRS for our support this past year.

Shane would like to bring Bill and Tom Roth of Roth's Golden Acres to a PACRS meeting this summer when we are able to meet at a restaurant.

On November 19th, Scott met with Rick Georgeson to present him with a jacket and shirt that had been embroidered with the PACRS logo and his name. A picture was posted on Facebook. Scott thanked Rick for his long - term leadership and dedication to PACRS. PACRS will have an in-person celebration at some point when COVID 19 is not an obstacle. Rick thanked the Board Members for such a thoughtful gift and expressed his appreciation for all the support PACRS members have given him over the years.

Pat Oldenburg, WDNR, commented that the Little Plover River group has received a producer led watershed grant similar to what Mill Creek has received.

Meeting Adjourned 11:10 a.m.

Next Meeting Date:
January 15, 2021
9:45 Conference Call

Respectfully Submitted,
Colette Camerano - Secretary