



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

Minutes of PACRS Member Conference Call

April 16, 2021 at 9:45 a.m.

Conference Call In Toll Free

(844) 875-7777

Access Code 309003#

OnLine Meeting ID: pacrsinfo

Join the Online Meeting:

<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/pacrsinfo>

In attendance:

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

Members and Guests: Shane Wucherpfennig, Scott Provost, Mayo Ewanowski, Dustin Ladd, Chris Zindorf, Sam Warp, Rachael Whitehair, Gail Rollins

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

Secretary's Report: Colette distributed the March minutes by email and mail. Colette provided a recap of the March meeting. Shane's (Wood County Conservationist) 2020 accomplishments have been posted to our website. Scott Provost's, DNR, report on the project downstream of 10 Mile Creek has also been posted to PACRS website. Lynda Everson made a motion to accept the Secretary Minutes for March. Peter Manley seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Taylor reported on the current balances of PACRS savings and checking accounts. We had \$328.00 in minor expenses for April. Thrivent Choice Dollars program may add additional funds in May. Colette Camerano made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Mark Diedrich seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed

Communications Report: Scott Bordeau thanked board members for their quick response on the letter sent to the Village of Plover.

- We now have 895 "Likes" on Facebook.
- A big thanks to Mayo Ewanowski for working with Anna James on the PACRS21 Instagram account.
- The 14 Mile Watershed Alliance will have their "State of the Lakes" event on August 7th.



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- Rick Georgeson and John Eron were guests on the Podcast “Fishers and Farmers” Use this link to hear the podcast. <https://v7player.wostreaming.net/6516> When the page opens in the upper right - hand corner click on “The Mid-West Farm Report Podcast” Then click on Fishers & Farmers – Neighbor to Neighbor – Mill Creek . It aired on April 15th. This podcast is 25 minutes and I am sure you will find it interesting and enjoyable. Thanks Rick and John!

What are Neonicotinoids – Scott Provost, WDNR, discussed Neonicotinoids aka Neonics insecticides. They were developed in the early 90’s as a safer alternative to other insecticides. According to the USDA 3.9 million acres of corn seeds in Wisconsin are coated with neonics. 500 products in Wisconsin are approved for neonics. 90% of neonics reach the environment and are highly water soluble. USGS detected them in 74% of all water tested. DATCP reports 5.7% of wells in ag areas detect neonics. Central Sands area is more likely to have neonics in soil. While neonics are highly effective to control vegetation pest, they are highly effective on non-target insects. They bind with the nervous receptors of insects. They over stimulate the nervous system and bees are very susceptible. Neonics that are the size of one gram of sugar can kill 600 million bees. Previous sampling has shown Carter and 10 Mile Creek with the highest known concentrations. DATCP is currently sampling 14 Mile Creek Watershed and Leola Ditch. Organic farmers do not use neonics. Colette made a comment that very recently Walmart announced their commitment to restoring pollinator habitats and reversing nature loss. By 2025, Walmart will source 100% of its fresh produce and floral from suppliers that adopt integrated pest management practices. As part of the initiative, Walmart will encourage fresh produce suppliers to phase out use of chlorpyrifos, and nitroguanidine neonicotinoids (imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, clothianidin, dinotefuran) where applicable unless mandated otherwise by law, and to avoid replacing them with other products with level I bee precaution rating.

Conservation Reports:

Wood County: Shane reported their annual tree sale was today and they sold 26,000 trees. The no-till drill has been rented 3 times already this year. One is a repeat farmer and the other 2 are new farmers. His department has purchased a trailer for the roller crimper and it should arrive end of April. Shane said the no-till drill rents for a flat \$60.00 and \$6.00 per acre. The Wood County Land and Water website is a great resource for videos from producers. The no-till drill was rented from March 2020 until the end of October. During this time frame, the drill sat unused for 16 days. The cost to rent the roller crimper will be a flat \$50.00 fee plus \$5.00 per acre.



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Juneau County: Dustin Ladd reported that in 2020 his department spent the most money on conservation projects. They are planning a Field Day with Rick Clark. Rick Clark is the producer from Warren County Indiana that practices regenerative farming. He was the keynote speaker at the Central WI Farm Profitability Expo in December. The date is June 19th. Rick Clark will present and they will have cover crop, low disturbance manure injection and roller crimper demonstrations on Lake Wisconsin.

Dustin said the project in Wilderness Park is completed. It is on their Facebook page. They restored 500 feet of shoreline. Prior to restoration it was a 10' vertical drop. Now it is sloped back with an access trail into the water.



Juneau County will have their “Clean Sweep” on Saturday, July 31st at the Juneau County Highway Shop.

The Department of Defense has sent out letters to neighboring farmers around Volk Field that there is PFAS contamination around the military installation. The county board will discuss next week. His department and the health department want to do water testing around Camp Douglass and New Lisbon to determine the extent of the contamination.



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Adams County: Anna James is at the Adams County tree sale today but sent an email update.

Citizens Lake Monitoring supplies are ready for pickup. Anna will send emails out to the volunteers with details and the 2021 sampling season will kick off in May. They are still making progress with the producers in the Big Roche-A-Cri watershed and the formation of a producer

led watershed group. There has been mention of PACRS and the good things that the producers have been hearing about in their advocacy for conservation- based agriculture.

Megan Steckelberg and Anna will be hosting summer conservation programs for local youth and encourage everyone to share the good news! There will be a separate poster for each program that outlines the program details, activities, sign-up, etc.

Youth Education: Rick Georgeson has been in contact with Beth Schaller from Necedah Charter School. The teacher reached out to PACRS from our website. She shared that she is working with her class on a 4 to 5 week project of the Wisconsin River. Rick presented a power point presentation to her class and explained the mission of PACRS. She shared that her class was meeting with Dustin Ladd at the Wilderness campground on Monday, April 19th to see the restoration project and a demonstration of the rainfall simulator. Rick is going to meet in person with the class and encourage their studies.

Shoreland/Lake Lot Surveys: Peter Manley attended the Lakes Conference and the topic was how do we handle lake parcels to control erosion and pollution. The Lake Tomahawk project cased each lake lot from a pontoon. It took 3 – 4 months to complete. Results were mapped and identified lake parcels that needed the most work. Another approach the DNR started was a self-survey and is based on a Michigan model. Users log into a program and analysis their own lake lot. Educational materials are available to the lake lot owner to improve their lot. This is currently being developed for Wisconsin but not yet released. This would be a great tool for Petenwell and Castle Rock Lake owners and should be available this summer!

Sculptures By Erway: Mayo Ewanowski has been in contact with the family of Mr. Erway who passed away. Mr. Erway hand made sculptures with light houses and the family would like to donate his art to PACRS. He lived on the west side of Lake Petenwell and his shore line is filled with lighthouses, boats, lobster traps etc. Mayo is going to pick up the sculptures and



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thinks PACRS can use this art for raising funds and encouraging membership. More to come on this.

Other:

- The Town of Armenia has a new Chairman and 2 new supervisors.
- The “Right to Harm” movie will be released by the Sierra Club.
- A solar electric development is being built in what would have been the Golden Sands Dairy in the Town of Saratoga
- Jess Roloff from WRPCO has sent out an email asking if anyone is interested in a clean-up activity that will pick up trash from the islands on Petenwell and Castle Rock Lakes. Removing dilapidated old duck blinds is part of this effort. They are looking for volunteers to help with the clean-up. Please let me know if you would like to be a part of this effort. You will join volunteers Rick G, Peter M and Mark D.

Future PACRS Meetings: There was some discussion if we are able to meet in person. The Town of Rome Library will not be available for meetings until at least August. Wood County has a meeting room that is 3 times the size of the library and would be made available to us. Please let Colette know your thoughts on a face to face meeting or keeping it virtual for a while.

Meeting Adjourned 11:36 a.m.

Next Meeting Date:
May 21, 2021
9:45 Conference Call

Respectfully Submitted,
Colette Camerano - Secretary