



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

Minutes of PACRS Member Meeting August 20, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m. The Necedah Town Hall

Board Members: Scott Bordeau, Peter Manley, Rick Georgeson, Virgil Miller, Mark Diedrich, Colette Camerano, Steve Taylor, Gerry Ganther,

Members and Guests: Tom Camerano, Sam Warp Jr, Sue Taylor, Pat Oldenburg, Jim Parrett, Terry Taft, Sarah Fleck, Anna James

Call to Order: President, Scott Bordeau, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Secretary's Report: Last meeting was held at the Lure on July 16th. Minutes were emailed and mailed to members. The proper term to use is "accepts" the treasurer's report according to the "Roberts Rule of Order". A motion to approve the July minutes was made by Virgil Miller. Peter Manley seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Taylor gave the Treasurer's report. Current balances on savings and checking were reported. We also have a new tax-exempt number from the state. A new letter is available when seeking donations. Rick Georgeson moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mark Diedrich seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Communications Report: Scott Bordeau reported we had 10 Facebook and Instagram posts for the past month. 3300 people were reached by social media posts. Scott made a presentation to the homeowners of Longview Point on July 17th. Twenty-five homeowners attended their annual meeting.

On July 17th, PACRS directors; Rick G, Peter, Mark and Colette worked along side WI Backcountry Hunters & Anglers to remove dilapidated duck blinds on Castle Rock Lake. This effort was organized by BHA and WRPCO. We worked with 12 people who volunteered their time and energy to clean up our environment. This gave PACRS members access to a part of the river not seen before. Mark said this was instant gratification as the clean up happened in a matter of hours. Rick and Peter felt it was a pleasurable experience and it made them feel good to be a part of it. Colette made mention that PACRS can and should partner with WRPCO and others to protect our lakes.



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

The 14 Mile Watershed Alliance held their “State of our Lakes” meeting at the Rome Town Center on August 7th. Approximately 60 attended the event. The rain definitely affected the turnout for this event. Soon after 10:00 am the rain started and never stopped. The gazebo and tents provided some shelter from the rain. Speakers for the morning were Scott Provost, WDNR, Tracy Hames- Executive Director of WI Wetlands Assn and Dave Trudeau – Healthy Lakes program. They had door prizes and a silent auction. Chatt-R-Box served lunch. The denitrification project in the 14 Mile Watershed also starts this week.

Scott, Tom and Colette attended a Guardians of Lake Decorah (GOLD) meeting on August 10th. The purpose of this meeting was to form a second farmer led council in Juneau County. Dustin Ladd explained the program to approximately 5 producers. This council would be for the Lemonweir River Watershed. The Lake Redstone producers will have a Field Day on Tuesday, September 14th in Mauston.

Scott attended the EPPIC Field Day in Edgar WI. Scott spent some time talking with Ryan Stockwell of Indigo Agriculture. Indigo Carbon is about using no-till and cover crops to keep carbon dioxide in the ground. Learn more about carbon by watching <https://kissthegroundmovie.com/> Scott said it was great to listen to farmers discuss what they did and hearing comments and questions from other farmers.

TMDL Update: Patrick Oldenburg, TMDL Project Manager, joined us to provide the latest information on the WI River TMDL. Pat’s discussion started out with inquiries of PFOS present in Lake Petenwell and the fish eating advisory. Recently, Petenwell PFOS consumption advisory was added for yellow perch (previously was just for bluegills) . Go to this DNR link for more information <https://widnr.widen.net/s/lxhdnp5jtn/choosewisely>

- Water Quality
 - Waiting for this season’s water quality data to be collected. No new analysis of trends since last winter
 - Updated list of Impaired Waters – two new listing up north for excess algae, Wisconsin River between Nekoosa Dam and Petenwell proposed for poor biology (bugs), and the Biron Flowage and Petenwell proposed for (perfluorooctane sulfonic acid) PFOS in fish tissue.
- Wastewater
 - **Stormwater** – First iteration of municipal stormwater plans due Spring 2022. Plans will include updated maps and modeling to evaluate how the municipality is



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

doing relative to their waste load allocations. If they are not achieving their TMDL goals, they are required to submit implementation plans by Spring 2023.

- **Wastewater** -40% of Wastewater permits basin wide have been reissued under the TMDL.
- **Multi Discharger Variance (MDV)** – Dischargers who cannot afford to meet their water quality based phosphorous limits may be eligible. One option under the MDV is to provide funding for counties to implement agricultural BMPs. Funding provided is based on the amount of phosphorous discharged.
 - Some implementation delays due to COVID and growing pains associated with new BMP tracking system
 - Marathan County Example – Marathon worked with 5 farms (1200 acres) in the Fernwood Creek Watershed to reduce P losses from Fields. Reduction in farm average Phosphorous indexes averaged 40% across all farms, with two farms having reductions in the 70% range.
- Grants:
 - Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grants – Wood County LWCD & Serenity River, LLC \$40,425.
 - Surface Water Grants:
 - \$240,000 in funding to (Tri-Lakes and Adams County)
 - \$725,000 in Wisconsin River Basin total
- Tracking
 - **BMP Implementation Tracking System (BITS)** – used to track MDV and DNR funded BMPs. System allows for mapping of installed practices.
 - **NRCS Data** – Data sharing agreements allow NRCS to provide BMP information to DNR at the HUC12 scale. HUC12 is a 12 digit hydrologic unit code which are water sheds with an average size of 20,000 acres.
 - To get a better understanding of overall BMP adoption rates, DNR and several counties are exploring the use of the **Normalized Differential Tillage Index (NDTI)** as one tool to understand trends in tillage practices. Similar tools can be used to track cover crop usage. Combining these data with the USDA's cropland data layer (updated annually) should provide a more complete picture of cropping and implementation trends throughout the basin. This is still a work in progress.
- Dam/Reservoir Operations
 - Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corporation (WVIC) five year look in – working of further improving collaboration by having more frequent meetings with, especially during drought conditions.
 - Castle Rock Dam Operation- working with WRPCO to improve operations under lower flow conditions to protect fish and mussel populations downstream of the dam.



Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards

Conservation Reports

Juneau County: Sarah Fleck joined our meeting. Their Clean Sweep, hazardous waste day held on July 31st had 200 cars come through. Their department is working on a 9 Key Element Plan for Lake Redstone. It should be completed in a month or two. Sarah discussed their effort in forming the 2nd farmer led council in Juneau County. Their meeting with producers in early August was very successful. The Producers of Lake Redstone Field Day is Tuesday, September 14th from 4:00 – 8:00 pm. They are touring Voss Family Farms and Powers Family Farms. Dinner will also be provided. The event is at no cost but you need to register. Contact sarah.fleck@usda.gov or call her at 608-847-7221 ext 113.

Other: Peter Manley brought in a couple Erway sculptures. The sculptures have been donated by the Erway family to PACRS. Anyone who has been on the west shore of Lake Petenwell would surely know his pier with boats and lobster traps on the shore. Mr. Erway was a glass blower and the lighthouse sculptures are all handmade by him. Please let Colette know if you are interested in purchasing a sculpture.

Adams County Conservation Day for 5th Graders is September 23rd from 8:30 to 2:30. Megan Steckelberg is the program coordinator and she is reaching out to PACRS for helpers. They are also accepting donations to support this event. In the past, PACRS members volunteered their time serving the students breakfast and guiding them to stations. Rick Georgeson made a motion to donate \$200.00 to Adams County Land and Water for their Conservation Day. Anyone who would like to volunteer for the day should email Colette at pacrs2014@gmail.com

Meeting Adjourned at 12:25 pm

Next Meeting is our Annual Meeting!!

Saturday, September 11th

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

At Lester Public Library of Rome 1157 Rome Center Dr. Nekoosa, WI

Respectfully Submitted,
Colette Camerano - Secretary