



***Minutes of PACRS Virtual Member Meeting  
March 18, 2022 @ 9:45 a.m.***

Conference Call-In Toll Free

(844) 875-7777 Access Code 309003#

OnLine Meeting ID: pacrsinfo

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**Board Members:** Scott Bordeau, Steve Taylor, Peter Manley, Colette Camerano, Rick Georgeson, Virgil Miller

**Members and Guests:** Jim Carpenter, Shane Wucherpfennig, Dustin Ladd

**Call to Order:** President, Scott Bordeau, called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

**Secretary's Report:** Last meeting was a virtual meeting held on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Minutes were mailed and emailed on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Colette gave highlights from that meeting. Rick Georgeson made a motion to accept the Secretary's report. Virgil Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Steve Taylor reported on current balances in our checking and savings accounts. In the past month, donations of \$1,000 were made to Wisconsin River Alliance and Wisconsin Land and Water. Steve said he received a very nice thank you note from Allison Werner, Executive Director, of the River Alliance. A motion was made by Colette Camerano to accept the Treasurer's Report and Peter Manley seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed. Steve mentioned that in the past, PACRS has paid for registration fees for any PACRS members attending the upcoming Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Conference in April. Scott Bordeau said he would be attending virtually. Rick Georgeson said he is going to register for at least a day. Colette said she has already registered to attend all three days. Steve Taylor made a motion to reimburse members for registration fees. Rick Georgeson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed. Colette indicated that she registered for early classes and the evening social events. She will be staying in a hotel for two nights and asked if PACRS would reimburse her for the hotel expense. Scott Bordeau made a

motion to reimburse Colette for her hotel expense. Rick Georgeson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**Communications Report:** Scott Bordeau reported that there were 11 social media posts in the past 60 days that reached 200 people per post. We now have 1100 “Likes” on Facebook. The previous 2 months events were discussed.

- Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability: Scott attended the virtual meeting held on February 25<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion with a farmer from the Menominee area regarding the carbon credits programs. He had been no-tilling and using cover crops for a number of years and did not think it was fair to award compensation to new farmers just starting these practices and not the ones at it for years. The farmer was attending a USDA meeting the end of March. There may be another program to provide for farmers over the years. Colette attended the session on February 15<sup>th</sup>. That session included discussions among a student panel on the Next Generation of Farmers and Agriculture Professionals. What their experiences have been year to date and their goals for the future. Another session was held on March 17<sup>th</sup> with Matthew Oehmichen from Short Lane Agriculture Supply LLC. Matt’s discussion was on interseeding and using companion cover crops. What type of cover crop (Spring Green or Winter Kill) and the differences between the two. Shane Wucherpfennig commented that crop insurance does not cover 2 crops planted simultaneously. The dual crops provide resilience and diversity over the years but insurance companies are not on board yet insuring more than one crop. There is SB677 (current status unknown) that would provide crop insurance rebates of \$5.00 per acre and also create a hydrogeologist position in Madison. Here is a link to the bill <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/related/proposals/sb677>
- 2022 Wisconsin Cover Crop Conference. PACRS was a sponsor of this event held in Rothschild on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Rick and Colette attended this one-day conference. Keynote speaker was Dr. Abbey Wick, Soil Health Specialist from North Dakota. She talked about soil health practices that fit the logistics of the farm. The breakout sessions focused on cover crops and types to use if having little success with another. All sessions were conducted by a panel of farmers describing their own practices
- Wisconsin Land and Water Virtual Conference. Rick and Peter attended this conference. PACRS was a sponsor. This conference is well attended by the state’s county conservationists. Rick found the presentation on sonar, the measuring of the slope of the land, interesting. This tool addresses flooding on the land. Peter listened to session on climate change and ground water studies.
- Common Ground EPPIC Event March 10<sup>th</sup> at Rock Ridge Orchard in Edgar WI. Rick and Colette attended this evening gathering of local stakeholders to foster

new conversations for soil resources and water concerns. Rick said he talked with the owner of the orchard and he said the orchard was built from scratch 20 years ago. He sends 400 bushels of apples to local schools that are served in their cafeteria. At our dinner table was Trevor Meyer, a 500 dairy cow farmer from Clark County. Trevor is learning about no-till and cover crop. Rachael Whitehair joined us and also and a high school Agriculture teacher named Becky. Host for the evening was Paul Daigle, County Conservationist from Marathon County. They had speakers that gave brief presentations on their experiences.

- 14MWA 9 Key Element Plan was attended by Scott and Rick in Plainfield, the most eastern part of the watershed. Kyle and Anna, Adams County Conservation Dept, presented. 30 people attended. Next session is March 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Town of Rome. Their State of our Lakes will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Town of Rome Hall.
- Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Water Week is April 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> in Stevens Point. You can register online and attend in person or virtually.
- New PACRS brochure has an updated design. Thanks to Scott, Colette, Rick, Peter and Jim for their assistance working on this project. Scott presented pricing to have them printed. Virgil made a motion to print 3,000 brochures at a cost of \$1440. Rick seconded the motion. Scott said there will be an editing fee of approx. \$200.00

### **Conservation Reports -**

**Wood County** - Shane Wucherpennig said 2021 was a good year. Shane has been busy with Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGCC). This is a collaboration with 6 counties studying groundwater contamination. The group has received a Groundwater Quality Grant from DATCP. The grant allows the CSGCC to perform a gap analysis on existing groundwater quality data for nitrate and neonicotinoids and use the analysis to develop recommendations for addressing groundwater contamination in the Central Sands and in the future. Shane said his department has been renting the no-till drill and roller crimper. More concerning is getting funding for 9Key Element Plans. PACRS was key in getting the Wisconsin River TMDL approved. This requires the DNR to work with the county conservationists on 9Key Element Plans. However, many counties are denied funding due to lack of funds available. DATCP helps with county funding but it is not enough. More and more Land and Water Departments are doing 9Key plans and funding is not made available.

**Juneau County** – Dustin said the event held in Baraboo on February 8<sup>th</sup> with Gabe Brown was very successful. They had 150 attendees and 5 watershed groups represented. The recording of the presentations will be coming out soon. Guardians of Lake Decorah (GOLD) is working on a 9Key Element Plan for their watershed. GOLD was recently selected to receive the 2022 Wisconsin Top Rural Development Initiative Award. This award recognizes the contribution GOLD has made to the quality of life

and prosperity of rural Wisconsin. Juneau County will be doing another round of water testing. They will be sending out 3,000 letters to property owners to get their water tested.

**Other:** Colette said she is working on a letter to mail to PACRS members who have not yet renewed. She would like to include the new PACRS brochure only if it keeps postage at one stamp.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

**Next Meeting Friday April 22,2022  
Lester Public Library of Rome  
1157 Rome Center Dr.  
Nekoosa, WI. 54457**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Colette Camerano - Secretary