



***Minutes of PACRS Member Meeting
August 19, 2022 @ 10:00 a.m.
The Lure Bar & Grill***

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

Members and Guests: Tom Camerano, Karin Ganther, Kyle Kettner, Lisa Manzardo, Susan Jett, Sandy Jett, Dennis Glidden, John Endrizzi, Star Ann Lemar, Jacki Koll, Joan Salmon, Brad Strobel, Dustin Ladd, Shane Wucherpfennig

Call to Order: President, Scott Bordeau, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. with introductions.

Secretary's Report: Colette reported the July meeting was held on July 15th at Shipwreck Bay. Minutes were mailed to members on July 18th, we had 24 attendees. Scott Provost was our guest speaker and discussed blue green algae. Steve Taylor reported on current bank balances. Conservation reports were given by Sarah Fleck from Juneau County. The clean water referendum will be on the November ballot. Kyle Kettner gave the update for Adams County. Several field tours with local farm groups are planned for July and August. Scott Provost, WDNR Water Resource Specialist, discussed how nutrient loads are moving down the river and BGA is tied to flows, temperature and nutrient dynamics. The Central Sands Region has the highest nitrogen in the state. A motion was made by Rick Georgeson to accept the Secretary's report. Gerry Ganther seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Colette reported on behalf of Steve Taylor. The current balance on our savings account remains unchanged. We deposited \$135.01 in memberships and spent \$228, on office supplies, meeting refreshments and tips. A motion was made by Jim Stewart to accept the Treasurer's report. John Endrizzi seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Clearing House: Kyle Kettner, Watershed Coordinator Adams County, joined us to discuss a concept to start a Central Wisconsin River Basin web site. The site would have input from citizens groups, producers and other organizations concerned about our water and soil health. This would be similar to what the Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance has already done. Their website is FWWA.org Basically, it is a clearing house

where groups could look for information. Kyle called it a coffee bar for conservation and he would manage the web page. Each partner organization would contribute data to it. Jackie Koll said the next round of grant money from the Town of Rome would be in April and this is the sort of project to submit for grant funds.

Healthy Lakes & Rivers Shoreline Survey Tool: Peter Manley Has been monitoring the progress of a shoreland evaluation tool that was adapted from the Michigan Shoreland Stewards. It is a self-evaluation tool that walks you through questions about the physical aspects of your lake or river property, as well as how you manage it. The tool is voluntary. You can register for an account or answer anonymously. Registered users also get to choose whether their information can be shared. PACRS can become a partner and have access submitted on our lakes. The partnership is optional. Rick Georgeson made a motion to become a partner organization. Jim Stewart seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed. Peter Manley will set that up in the system.

Conservation Reports:

Wood County: Shane was please to tell us that lots of producers are practicing conservation. As he drives the roads in Wood County, he sees lots of no-till and cover crops. Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed are moving along on the 2nd implementation of their 9Key Element Plan. Wood County rents a no-till drill to farmers that do not own one and it is being used all year. Multi- Discharger Variance (MDV) funds go direct to the Land & Water Conservation Departments. ARPA dollars are being used for private wells with high nitrate levels. Wood County is part of 6 counties in the Central Sands area with funds for a gap analysis. The county in another 2 months should be receiving a report on nitrites and neonics. On July 26th, Act 223 was signed into law to support farmers with their water quality efforts. This announcement was made at Feltz Family Farms with producers and water advocates to celebrate the signing and implementation of newly passed legislation. The law creates a new nitrogen optimization pilot program to help farmers reduce nitrogen loading and leaching, supports a new cover crop insurance rebate program to help farmers utilize cover crops to improve soil health. The cover crop rebate program will give \$5 back to farmers for every acre they plant cover crops in. In addition, it funds a new Wisconsin State Hydrogeologist position to help local governments find and address local hotspots of contamination.

Juneau County: Dustin Ladd joined us and provided an update for his county. His department is a co-sponsor of the Men's Shed. The Men's Shed Program is to help improve the health and wellbeing of men age 60 and older in Juneau County through social connection, shared interests, skills and companionship. Their first meeting is August 30th. A free lunch will be provided. September 8th, the Farmers of the Lemonweir Valley will host a Field Day in Mauston. The event starts at 4:00 pm and ends at 8:00 pm. Contact Sarah Fleck at 608-847-7221 ext 3 if you are able to attend. Dinner is sponsored by Guardians of Lake Decorah. The Redstone Watershed will host an event on September 28th, Dustin is currently working on the county purchasing a no-till drill to rent to farmers. A program similar to what Shane has done in Wood

County. The John Deer drill will cost between \$35 -\$70K. Dustin will ask the County Board for \$50K of the ARPA funds to purchase the drill. Colette made a motion that

PACRS donate \$2,000 to Juneau County for the purchase of the no-till drill. Rick Georgeson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Communication Report: Scott said PACRS has 1200 Facebook likes. 75% of viewers are 35-64 years of age. Last month we reached 2100 people and half of the viewers were from the Castle Rock Clean Up story.

Rick Georgeson attended the Farmers of Mill Creek Summer Field Day. It was held on August 11th at Bulgrin Grand View Farm in Milladore. The 400-acre farm is entirely no-till.

Adams County Land and Water is hosting a Conservation Day for 5th Graders on September 22nd. Last year, PACRS had 4 volunteers. Past volunteers are already obligated that day. Mark made a motion that PACRS donate \$200.00 for their expenses. Jim Stewart seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Brad Strobel, the refuge wildlife biologist, said the Necedah Wildlife Refuge is open from 8:00am to 4:00 pm. Brad has arranged that PACRS have their annual meeting at the wildlife refuge and Brad will update us on what's happening in the refuge.

Adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Next Meeting:

PACRS Annual Meeting
Friday, September 16, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.
The Necedah Wildlife Refuge (Visitors Center)
N11385 Headquarters Rd.
Necedah, WI. 54646

Respectfully Submitted,
Colette Camerano - Secretary