

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Regular Business/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
May 19th, 2022
Jordan Park's East Lodge / Online

Attendees: Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large); Gary Beastrom (Member-at-Large); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Hannah Butkiewicz (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amanda Burzynski (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Al Drabek (Marathon); Sarah Fleck (Juneau); Diane Hanson (Marathon); Joe Tomandl (Taylor).

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Hernandez at 11:35 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Rosenthal, and seconded by Tomandl, to approve the minutes from the March 2022 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report for March and April was emailed prior to the meeting. Hilgart noted that there were three pay days in April, which made expenses higher than usual. Other dispersals and receipts were routine. The checking account balance, as of April 30th, was \$15,788.92 and the money market account balance was \$342,531.37. The savings account balance, as of April 30th, was \$56,353.69 since the \$18,819.00 was transferred into the savings account (as previously approved). Value for the endowment fund went down slightly to \$28,235.09. Information on the credit card use was also made available. A motion was made by Clendenning, and seconded by Evans, to accept and file the treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

Elections:

New At-Large Member: Gary Beastrom applied to become an At-Large Member since he is no longer on his county board. A motion was made by Evans, and seconded by Walker, to approve the membership. Motion carried unanimously.

President: Hernandez announced that he was willing to give up being Council President but was also willing to continue. A motion was made by Rosenthal, and seconded by Evans, to nominate Hernandez to continue as president. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer: Walker, Evans, and Beastrom indicated that they were willing to continue in their current positions. Evans announced that this would be the last time she would agree to continue to be Secretary. A motion was made by Rosenthal, and seconded by Drabek, for all to continue in their respective positions. Motion carried unanimously

Additional Personnel/Finance Committee Members: Al Barden resigned his position with Golden Sands. Hanson and Wuchepfennig are willing to continue their positions on the committee. A motion was made by Evans, and seconded by Walker, for them to continue on the committee. Motion carried unanimously.

State RC&D Delegates: After some discussion, it was decided to delay this appointment until the July 2022 meeting, so that it could be determined whether all three members (who are currently representing Golden Sands RC&D at the state meetings) wished to continue as voting members. Butkiewicz intends to continue to attend meetings, whether she has a voting position or not.

CWWP Representatives: A motion was made by Walker, and seconded by Evans, to have Butkiewicz and Clendenning continue as Golden Sands RC&D representatives for CWWP. Motion carried unanimously

Committee Chairs: Elections for committee chairs will be placed on committee agendas for the July 2022 meetings.

OLD BUSINESS:

Groundwater Legislation: Leichtnam reported that water has not been chosen as one of the nine study topics for the Wisconsin legislature this coming summer.

Wisconsin RC&D Update: Butkiewicz reported that the most recent state meeting was held virtually. It was decided that, except for the annual meeting in October, all future meetings will be virtual to cut down on costs and time for delegates to attend. A representative from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced two new possible funding sources. One has a \$2 million cap for cooperative positions for five years and the other will support urban community gardens. The state map for RC&D offices was updated. Updating the state RC&D brochure and website is being discussed. The next meeting will be on August 2nd, 2022.

50th Anniversary Planning: Butkiewicz said that there has been a change of direction for the 50th anniversary celebration. Instead of a "Party in the Park" in September, there will be a Pub Party at District 1 Pub from about 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on October 15th, 2022. This will substantially save costs and staff time, since the pub already has a music duo scheduled for that night and a food truck as well. The t-shirt and photo contests will continue as part of the celebration. There is room for up to five tables that could showcase Golden Sands RC&D's work. This will also free up some money that can be used for more advertising of the event.

NEW BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel/Finance Committee Report: Evans reported that the treasurer's report was sent to the full council for review. The standard administrative fee was reduced from 20% to 19.5%. Golden Sands RC&D's website was redesigned with updated photos and bolder color choices. It will be promoted using a Facebook promotional boost. Substantial discussion occurred about partnering with Syngenta, a large agricultural biochemical company. It was decided by consensus not to move forward at this time. It was also announced that Al Barden is resigning from Golden Sands RC&D after 31 years. A card was available for signatures to thank him for his long service.

Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report: Walker reported that there will be a bird-related demonstration forest event, on May 28th, in Marathon County. Outreach for deer management assistance is being planned. Work on Karner Blue Butterfly habitat is planned for a day in June. There is an invasive species workshop this weekend. Another one is planned in the fall at the Green Bay Botanical Gardens. Clendenning intends to buy the remaining bluebird houses. Bat houses are sold out. A new source for lumber, and groups that might build new bluebird and bat houses, will be sought. There were over \$12,300 in tree shelter sales this year. There are a few spots still open in the community gardens. Priest is working on her certification as a grazing planner. A conservation field day is set for this fall in Waupaca. Ideas are being researched for terrestrial invasive species control on municipal lots.

Water Committee Report: Evans reported that a new project for a point intercept survey and Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) survey, plus mapping, for Pearl Lake was approved. This is a fee for service. Hamerla reported that the beginning of the aquatic invasive species (AIS) season was slowed down by cold weather. He and Kunding both have purple loosestrife projects going on. Several outreach events have already occurred and will continue. There are several Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) trainings set for this year. The boat will start being used on Monday; there are already 12 days of use scheduled. Burzynski taught 31 groundwater and 19 AIS lessons so far this spring. The groundwater lessons were in Waupaca, Waushara, and Wood Counties. The AIS lessons were in several counties. Thorstenson is culturing EWM weevils for the project on a lake up North. All the CBCW positions for this year have been filled, except for Big Bass Lake. After training next week, the interns will start on Memorial Day weekend. Wood County is extending its private well testing for another year and concentrating on ones that tested high for Nitrates five years ago. Their tiller and roller are booked into June; showing the increase in cover crops and no-till practices. Waushara County got \$200,000 of ARPA money approved by the county board to help the installation of reverse osmosis systems, with the county covering 80% of the costs. The funds will first be offered to landowners who participated in county testing and had high Nitrate results; if there is money left, it will be offered to other landowners with high Nitrate levels. Juneau County is beginning Nitrate testing again. Two 9 Key Element Plans are in progress. Two floating ramps are being installed. Marathon County had seven staff changes since December 2021 and a new conservation program manager recently started. They are hoping that the county board will approve use of some ARPA funds for work on Fenwood Creek and the Big Eau Pleine watersheds. Taylor County recently hosted Maple Fest. Fifth graders participated in the Buckthorn Bash to help eradicate both types of buckthorn. Native trees and shrubs are being planted in areas previously cleared by the goats. There is more interest in CBCW projects this year in Marquette County. The county lake association set aside \$5000 to help lake groups get involved; three lake groups have already applied. The lake level in Buffalo Lake is so low this year that people are having trouble launching their boats. They are trying to work with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to have a higher water level. The gravel pit request was turned down, but they can appeal by June 6th. Adams County recently held two public information meetings about the 14 Mile Creek Watershed 9 Key Element Plan. The Town of Rome is holding a conservation day on June 4th. Private well testing will start. Since the reorganization of the LWCD department into Planning and Zoning, the county is not sure if it will continue with Golden Sands RC&D.

NEW PROJECTS: The Pearl Lake project was approved for \$6,147 (which will start in July) upon a motion that was made by Evans, and seconded by Rosenthal.

STAFF/PROJECT UPDATES: Staff reports were sent out electronically before the meeting.

AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS: None

OTHER BUSINESS: Butkiewicz will reach out to the Farmers Union about participation.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be July 21st, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Rosenthal, and seconded by Beastron, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans
Recording Secretary