

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Regular Business/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
November 16th, 2023
Wood County River Block/Online

Attendees: Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Gary Beastro (Member-at-Large); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Jacob Fluor (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amanda Gurklis (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Dave Benson (Marquette); Diane Hanson (Marathon); Al Drabek (Marathon); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D); Shane Wucherpennig (Member-at-Large); Jennifer Glad (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Chris Hamerla (Golden Sands RC&D Staff).

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Hernandez at 11:03 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made and passed unanimously to approve the minutes from the September 2023 meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The most recent financial reports were sent out prior to the meeting. Hilgart reported on the amounts for all open accounts. A motion was made and passed unanimously to accept and file the treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Groundwater Legislation: Leichtnam reported on Senate Bill 312.

WI RC&D Association Update: Walker reported that there is a meeting next week.

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Director: Glad introduced herself.

Draft Budget: In order to improve, this is the first year the draft budget is completed in November instead of early in the new year. The budgeted amounts for office furnishings, advertising, publicity, and training has increased. Golden Sands RC&D is also planning to pay dues to the WI Association of RC&Ds as well as the National Association of RC&Ds.

2022 Federal 990 Filing: The 2022 990 form was completed. The ending balance was negative due to some projects being reimbursement based to front-loaded now.

Outagamie County: A notification was sent twice without a reply.

Time and location of 2024 meetings: Wucherpennig reserved the Wood County River Block for 2024 meetings, which will be held on January 18th, March 21st, May 16th, July 18th, September

19th, and November 21st. Glad discussed various potential meeting places as well. Concerns were discussed. Will continue discussion at January 2024 meeting

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel/Finance Committee Report: Gurklis reported on the meeting. The treasurer's report and the 2024 draft overhead/admin budget were reviewed. The budgeted amounts for office furnishings, advertising, publicity, and training will increase. The current health insurance stipend is only enough for employees to purchase a catastrophic policy. A discussion was had about the possibility of increasing the stipend. The 990 form for 2022 was completed. The ending balance was negative due to some projects being reimbursement based to front-loaded now. The Whistleblower Policy was approved. Two NRCS co-employment staff will start in December. The Soil Conservationist, AIS Coordinator, and the Community Gardens Field Manager positions are still open.

Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report: Walker reported on the meeting. A demonstration forest sign was installed. Invasive control field work was completed on private lands adjacent to State Natural Areas. There was an event in Green Bay and a soil health field day in Milwaukee. Tree Shelter planning is underway for the 2024 season. Golden Sands RC&D is seeking candidates for a full-time community gardens coordinator. The WCCFD was successful and about 300 students attended. A pasture walk was held.

Water Committee Report: Gurklis reported on the meeting. Hamerla is reviewing AIS Coordinator resumes. The 2023 CBCW project is finished. Acrylic blocks are finished. AIS and Groundwater lesson planning for 2024 is underway. Marathon County is planning to remove all of the lead pipes in the county. Taylor County water testing is complete. Waushara County has a no-till drill that will be delivered next week. Hernandez is retiring in January 2024. Wood County had a sewage pipe that burst in Marshfield that took about 12 hours to clean up.

NEW PROJECTS: None

STAFF/PROJECT UPDATES: Staff reports were sent out prior to the meeting and paper copies were available during the meeting.

AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS: None

OTHER BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m. upon a motion that was made and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Gurklis
Temporary Recording Secretary