

**Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.**  
**Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**November 20th, 2025**  
**Golden Sands RC&D Office/Online**

**Attendees:** Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Jennifer Glad (Golden Sands RC&D); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D); Brooke Patrick (Golden Sands RC&D); Asher Maliepaard (Golden Sands RC&D); Robert Bauer (Golden Sands RC&D); Gary Beastrom (Member-at-Large); Ben Babcock (Golden Sands RC&D).

**CALL TO ORDER:** Tessmer called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Everyone introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Beastrom requested edits to the spelling of his name in the minutes. A motion was made by Beastrom, which was seconded by Tessmer, to approve the amended September 2025 minutes. Motion carried.

**STAFF & COUNTY MEMBER UPDATES:**

**Tessmer (Taylor):** Updates included activities for land and water conservation, including finishing up cost-share contracts for the year for nutrient management and cover crops, doing as-builts of completed structural practices, and making payments to participants.

**Patrick:** She explained that she completed three grazing plans and six site visits since the last meeting. She also talked about the various events that have taken place so far this summer such as the GrassStock farm tour and the Waupaca County Conservation Field Day. Plans are being made for a Beef Marketing Workshop in Columbia County in April 2026. She described her upcoming plans for parental leave.

**Babcock:** He explained that he has resumed working as an NRCS affiliate in the Westfield NRCS Office and explained that he was working as a Regenerative Agriculture Specialist during the government shutdown.

**Bauer:** He explained that he completed two grazing plans since the last meeting and has four plans in progress and waiting to be signed. A second episode of the grazing podcast was edited by Angel Rakow, Media Production Intern, and is awaiting approval to be released.

**Maliepaard:** He explained his progress on wrapping up the Sustain Our Great Lakes grant. There is a pasture walk at the Richardson Farm next month. He also summarized efforts to seek funding to sustain the Regenerative Agriculture Specialist position.

**Glad:** She provided an update on upcoming outreach efforts, including plans to three staff present at the GrassWorks Conference. She also described an upcoming presentation to the annual Grazing Coalition meeting and a group involved with the Vista Sands project. She explained efforts to diversify funding sources to compensate for the loss of funding from the

agreements to host affiliate staff with the WI NRCS. She also provided updates on urban agriculture and community garden initiatives, including composting 2768 lbs of squash at the first annual Pumpkin Smash event last weekend.

**NEW PROJECTS:** None.

**STAFF/PROJECT UPDATES:** Glad provided an update on progress with developing a grant proposal focused on wildlife connectivity, firebreaks, and trail maintenance in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Taylor County. She explained that Golden Sands RC&D is looking for a partner organization to provide free tree stock for the proposed project.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Beastrom, which was seconded by Tessmer, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Minutes by: Robert Bauer