

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

Attendees: Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Mara Lince (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amanda Gurklis (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Jared Mader (Marathon); Shane Wucherpennig (Wood); Nancy Eggleston (Portage); Chris Hamerla (Golden Sands RC&D Staff).

CALL TO ORDER: Leichtnam called the meeting to order.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Wucherpennig, which was seconded by Eggleston, to approve the September 2025 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

NEW PROJECTS: None.

COUNTY AND STAFF UPDATES:

Portage (Eggleston): The county is developing a well head ordinance. The county groundwater plan was approved.

Wood (Wucherpennig/Leichtnam): Final ARPA funds were allocated. Focus on private wells with nitrate levels greater than 20 ppm. Thirteen funded. Continued work with producers with focus on nitrogen reduction and harvestable buffers. Soil Health Day planning for 2026 (networking opportunity). Wood County added fruit trees to their tree sale event. Working on operations ordinance for large scale animal farms.

Marathon (Mader): County applied for surface water grant to continue Mader's position. EPPIC (Eau Pleine Partnership for Integrated Conservation) received a grant to continue their efforts. Animal waste ordinance is going to vote in December, with hope to be implemented in 2026. Healthy Lakes grant completed 8 shoreline practices on Big Bass Lake. 10 are scheduled for 2026.

Thorstenson: Acrylic block specimen work continues. An order was placed from the WI Center for Environmental Education.

Gurklis: The Waupaca County Conservation Field Day was a success with approximately 450 students. This is an increase of ~100 students and there were 6 additional presenters. Additional funding for Waupaca ground water lessons.

Lince: Waushara Conservation Field Days went really well. She is continuing to work on Buffalo Marquette Co 9 Key Element plan. Working with Wood and Adams Counties to develop AIS education specific to cranberry growers. LMPN program reporting. Spiny waterflea surveys on Big Green Lake with GLA staff, WDNR, and Hamerla.

Hamerla: New LMPN planning. Current LMPN reporting. Waupaca Field Day AIS station went really well. Spiny waterflea surveys on Big Green Lake with GLA staff, WDNR, and Lince.

Pennywort monitoring on Twin Lake in Green Lake Co. Waterfowl hunter outreach at the Mead Wildlife Area

OTHER BUSINESS: Potential groundwater lessons in Portage Co.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Wucherpfennig, which was seconded by Eggleston, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Minutes by: Chris Hamerla