

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Personnel/Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
July 17th, 2025
Boston School Forest/Online

Attendees: Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Gary Beastro (Member-at-Large); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Jennifer Glad (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amanda Gurklis (Golden Sands RC&D Staff). Bill Clendenning (Wood) also attended.

CALL TO ORDER: Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Beastro, which was seconded by Leichtnam, to approve the minutes of the May 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION: A motion was made by Walker, which was seconded by Leichtnam, to go into closed session at 9:03 a.m. Motion carried.

OUT OF CLOSED SESSION: A motion was made by Walker, which was seconded by Beastro, to come out of closed session at 9:15 a.m. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Hilgart presented the treasurer's report. A motion was made by Walker, which was seconded by Beastro, to accept the treasurer's report and recommend for full council approval. Motion carried.

FEDERAL FUNDING STATUS: Glad reported that the NRCS co-employment contract has been "unpaused" and extended, following some changes in language within the agreement.

EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT: Glad reported the long-awaited Employee Retention Credit from the IRS has been received, along with interest. The credit was based on keeping staff on payroll through the period when many employers laid off staff due to Covid concerns.

CONFERENCE ROOM EQUIPMENT: A motion was made by Leichtman, which was seconded by Walker, to spend up to \$700 for a new smart TV and related equipment, to be used in the Golden Sands RC&D Stevens Point office conference room (Suite 140). Motion carried.

STAFF & MEMBERSHIP: Glad reported that phased-in re-hiring is underway for positions affected by layoffs when NRCS contracts were suspended earlier in 2025. Jacob Abrahamson, a former NRCS affiliate, has been hired for a staff position. Katherine Jaeger, former executive director at Glacierland RC&D, has been brought on board as a part-time, limited term employee for the position of Admin Resource Coordinator.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Glad encouraged counties that have not paid 2025 membership dues to do so. Unrestricted income from dues is important to Golden Sands RC&D to cover expenses that project grants often cannot.

AL BARDEN TRIBUTE: An event was planned but needed to be postponed. A new date has not yet been set.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE: No report.

PR & COMMUNICATIONS: Gurklis reported that the June newsletter was sent out, and that work is underway on the July newsletter.

OTHER BUSINESS: Glad gave a status update on the Vista Sands solar project. Golden Sands RC&D continues to have an active role in the project's development.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Walker, which was seconded by Beastrom, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Minutes by: Bob Walker, Secretary