

**Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.**  
**Regular Business/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**January 19th, 2023**  
**Online**

**Attendees:** Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Gary Beastro (Member-at-Large); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Kendra Kunding (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amanda Burzynski (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Al Drabek (Marathon); Robert Bauer (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Steve Bradley (Portage); Shane Wucherpennig (Member-at-Large); Todd Morris (Green Lake); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Amalia Priest (Golden Sands RC&D Staff).

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President Hernandez at 11:02 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Everyone introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Rosenthal, which was seconded by Clendenning, to approve the minutes from the November 2022 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Hilgart walked the group through the balances for each account. A motion was made by Leichtnam which was seconded by Wucherpennig, to accept and file the treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Groundwater Legislation:** Leichtnam reported that he heard from two Representatives, Rozar and Krug. The Republican Caucus is working on a flat tax. There are some mixed reviews on whether groundwater issues will be brought forward.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Voluntary membership dues:** Invoices will be sent out soon, as well as a summary of accomplishments in each county for 2022. This information will also be available on Golden Sands RC&D's website.

**Virtual Council Member Binder:** A link will be made available to council members.

**Board of Directors List:** Thorstenson gave an update regarding the Board of Directors List. She asked each county to confirm members and will contact counties with vacancies.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Personnel/Finance Committee Report:** Walker reported that the committee held a closed session. The Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved to be sent to the full council for approval. The January newsletter was sent out. The online publication for the 2022 Highlights is underway.

**Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report:** Walker reported on the CWIP and NWIP projects. Grant opportunities are currently being evaluated. Bauer introduced Rick Nitz as the new NRCS hire working out of the Union Grove office. Work continues under conservation plans. Promotional preparations for 2023 tree shelters were discussed. Fencing has been installed in one of the Stevens Point area gardens. Follow up on NACD plans were discussed. Several project plans are being considered. A winter microbial workshop was held with approximately 25 in attendance. Golden Sands RC&D will have a booth at the Grassworks Conference in February. Additional events for 2023 are being planned. A \$3000 grant for wildlife lessons is being considered through the James E. Dutton Foundation.

**Water Committee Report:** Hamerla reported that staff have been busy working on renewals for CBCW watercraft inspector positions this summer. AIS staff are currently completing grant reporting. 2023 planning with each county will be forthcoming. The Wetlands Conference will be held February 21st-23rd in Stevens Point and Golden Sands RC&D will have a booth there. Purple Loosestrife biocontrol planning is going on. Wolosek will be working on "Project Red", as well as more outreach on lakes that are having carp issues. The Taylor County tree sale went well and engineering projects continue. Wood County discussed its tree sale. Wucherpennig gave an update on their 5 year water testing study. The 9 Key Element plan continues. Marquette County is moving forward with Nitrate testing. Green Lake County gave updates regarding water quality project planning, 9 Key Element plan, and boat wash station construction. Waushara County continues to meet with the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance and discuss upcoming projects. Discussing with Waupaca County the possibility of becoming part of the Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration project.

**NEW PROJECTS:** Burzynski reviewed the terms and conditions for a grant from the James E. Dutton Foundation, which is providing \$3,000 for the implementation of wildlife lessons for 5th graders. A motion was made by Walker, which was seconded by Rosenthal, to approve the James E Dutton Foundation Grant Terms, Conditions, and Understandings. Motion approved unanimously.

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

**AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS:** Bauer gave NRCS updates. The Ag Census is due February 6th. The Conservation Stewardship Program has a deadline of February 10th. Nitz gave a brief introduction about himself.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** The March 16th meeting will be in Wood County at the River Block Building.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Hernandez  
Temporary Recording Secretary