

**Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.**  
**Regular Business/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**November 17th, 2022**  
**Wood County River Block / Online**

**Attendees:** Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Gary Beastrom (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); Anna James (UW-Extension); Amalia Priest (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Colton Wolosek (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Diane Hanson (Marathon). Excused Absence: Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large).

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President Hernandez at 11:07 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Everyone introduced themselves.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report for September and October 2022 was passed around. Hilgart walked the group through the balances for each account. No use of the Contingency Account this period. A motion was made by Clendenning, which was seconded by Rosenthal, to accept and file the treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Groundwater Legislation:** Leichtnam reported that it will be the New Year before the legislature goes to work.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2023 Meeting Dates were set as follows:**

- January 19th, 2023
- March 16th, 2023
- May 25th, 2023 – Note this is the 4th Thursday of the month instead of the 3rd
- July 20th, 2023
- September 21st, 2023
- November 16th, 2023

Discussion about dates. A motion was made by Beastrom, which was seconded by Wucherpennig, to approve the meeting dates for 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Personnel/Finance Committee Report:** Walker reported that the Committee held a Closed Session. Travel rates for hotels was increased to \$130/night when traveling for contracted service projects. A number of small changes were made to the employee handbook and the employee benefits statement. Thorstenson reported about 50th anniversary activities and the 50th anniversary T-shirts for sale. Information is available on our website ([Events Page](#)) and [Facebook page](#). The 990 tax reporting form was reviewed in detail.

**Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report:** Walker reported that grants are being sought for both CISMAs (NEWIP and CWIP). We have a new hire for the NRCS co-employment agreements, Adam Skadsen. One of the neighborhood gardens got a new sign. The NACD TA project is wrapping up grazing plans and events. There will be a [Winter Workshop about Microbes](#) on December 8th. The Waupaca County Conservation Field Day wrapped up. There are three new projects for approval.

**Water Committee Report:** Thorstenson reported that staff have been busy with waterfowl outreach and teaching at the Waupaca County Conservation Field Day, Waushara County Conservation Field Days, and the Silver Lake Pontoon Day. End of season invoices for AIS contracted services are going out, and lakes are reaching out to us for services, so the boat has proven to be a worthwhile investment so far. The Lake Management Planning Network multi-county application was submitted as planned. Staff attended the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC). Thorstenson presented on the Lake Joanis predation exclusion research at UMISC. Wolosek introduced himself as the new AIS Coordinator. Counties gave their reports. The counties that are involved in the 6-county groundwater collaboration are awaiting results of data analysis by USGS. They plan to continue building on the baseline data. Some counties are still heavily working on the budget process, submitting requests for use of ARPA funding.

### **NEW PROJECTS:**

Three new projects from the Forestry/Ag/Wildlife Committee:

- Grassworks is subcontracting with Wisconsin RC&D's over a three-year period. Beginning November 2022, each subcontracted RC&D will be compensated for Regenerative Agriculture specialists. The total estimated cost is \$127,350.
- Golden Sands RC&D's grazing team will host pasture and soil walks, write grazing plans, and provide follow-up support for producers. Golden Sands RC&D's forestry team will host forest walks and promote cost-sharing programs. The total estimated cost is \$156,000.
- This project coordinates with Grassworks and other RC&Ds to identify and develop early career grazing professionals. The total estimated cost is \$5,250.

A motion was made by Walker, which was seconded by Clendenning, to approve the projects. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS:** Anna James introduced herself. She is the new Natural Resources Educator for UW-Extension and will be working across multiple counties on groundwater health and watershed health. She can help with 9-key element plans.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** The 990 tax form was received from the accountant recently. Thorstenson walked the group through the important parts of the form. She noted that the form gets posted publicly to a website called Guidestar. Funders and donors can look up organizations on Guidestar. Golden Sands RC&D keeps information on Guidestar up to date and achieved a gold star rating of transparency.

**NEXT MEETING:** The January 19th meeting will be held indoors in Wood County.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Clendenning, which was seconded by Drabek, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Thorstenson  
Temporary Recording Secretary