

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Meeting Minutes
November 19th, 2020
Online via Zoom

Attendees: Rachel Bouressa (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Al Drabek (Marathon); Al Barden (Member-at-Large); Joshua Benes (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Amanda Burzynski (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Hannah Butkiewicz (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Asa Plonsky (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Tommy Enright (Wisconsin Farmers Union).

CALL TO ORDER: Tessmer called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion from Barden, seconded by Clendenning, to approve the minutes from the September meeting was passed unanimously.

PROJECT UPDATES:

Cooperating For Woods and Wildlife/Demo Forests: Butkiewicz is working on final revisions for the Hendrickson and Pinevilla Tree Farm Demonstration Forests. She held all of the CFWW County planning meetings and is working on preparing for a winter cooperative landowner meeting. Butkiewicz has also continued to enroll new landowners into DMAP cooperatives. There are now just over 2,000 acres that have been enrolled. Since the previous meeting, she has also presented at a Clean Green Action meeting and attended both a DMAP invasive species workshop and UMISC. Butkiewicz worked with her coworkers to share the Cooperating for Woods and Wildlife video series with various partners.

US Forest Service Habitat Restoration Grants: Benes completed two grant applications through the United States Forest Service (USFS) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). One focused on oak wilt. The other dealt with the restoration of properties impacted by storm damage and planting trees on a property donated to the Boys and Girls Club in Green Lake County. Unfortunately, the two applications were not funded this year. Benes will seek feedback from the US Forest Service on the application and provide information to Butkiewicz to consider applying next year.

Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP): CWIP's Mapping Blitz event is finished. Volunteers participated in a training webinar and then signed up for specific routes. They drove those routes, between July 21st and September 30th, and reported invasive plants growing along the roadside. A total of 72 hours were logged by six volunteers who mapped 13 routes (about 325 miles) across six counties. 241 invasive species reports were submitted to EDDMapS for seven different species. The Multisession Forest Invasives Webinar event is also finished. The webinar was held on September 26th. Sessions focused on identification of common, less common, and early detection forest invasive plants and mapping/monitoring. The sessions had an average of 95 attendees. You can watch the sessions and see accompanying identification PDFs on the CWIP website (<https://www.cwippartnership.org/webinars>). As part of the forest invasives surveying and control project through the Emmons Creek DMAP Cooperative, three days of black locust control were completed. The small Japanese knotweed

contracted services project for a landowner in Portage County is finished. The last treatment was September 10th and the invoice was paid. The DNR-funded Early Detection and Response Project for Japanese knotweed on the Tomorrow River in Portage County is just starting. Most landowners have been notified of grant funding and plans are being made to dispose of the plant material properly. CWIP held a steering committee meeting on October 28th, and discussed project updates and new project ideas. Current work focuses on the next US Forest Service GLRI grant application, which is due December 11th.

Northeast Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (NEWIP): Plonsky has been reaching out to potential partners in hopes of building support. Two NEWIP meetings were held recently. The first was held on October 19th and focused on formative aspects of the group, including group structure and goals. At this meeting, the group name was changed from the Northeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Coalition (NEWISC) to the Northeast Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (NEWIP) to avoid confusion with other group acronyms. The second meeting was held on November 9th and focused on grant projects. Discussion focused on current funded projects and future project ideas. NEWIP is planning a contracted services project to control Japanese knotweed for a landowner in Waupaca County. The site visit is complete and Plonsky will work on writing a contract. Current work focuses on the next US Forest Service GLRI grant application, which is due December 11th.

NRCS Cooperative Agreements: A new agreement is drafted with the NRCS Soil Conservationists. Benes completed interviews and selected a candidate (Lindsie Hagen) to fill a Soil Conservationist position in Mauston, serving Juneau County. The four existing Soil Conservationists from an old agreement will be transferred over to the new one when the old agreement expires around this time next year.

Wisconsin Tree Farm Website: Burzynski reported that her part of the project is complete.

Bluebird And Bat Houses: No recent sales.

Tree Shelters: Benes is waiting for Plantra to provide us with their pricing for 2021.

Stevens Point Area Neighborhood Gardens (SPANG): Gardens are closed for the season. No updates.

NACD Technical Assistance Project/Managed Grazing: Bouressa reported that all of the grazing plans are complete for the 2019-2020 NACD grant. Pasture walks and the workshop have also been completed. All events were well-attended, with about 100 participants for the virtual workshop, "Economics of Managed Grazing", which was held on October 27th. Completing the follow-up visits is the remaining portion of that grant project, which will be the focus next spring. For the 2020-2021 NACD grant, 8 of 10 plans are in progress. 3 of the 6 pasture walks were completed this season. Subsequent follow-up visits from these plans will also be a priority in the spring as the plans are implemented.

Little Plover River Appreciation Field Day: Burzynski discussed the field day with Benes and Butkiewicz. More planning and funding is needed. The Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) provided \$200 so far.

Waupaca County Conservation Field Day (WCCFD): This is the first year that the WCCFD took place online instead of at Hartman Creek State Park. Burzynski reported that seven schools from Waupaca County participated in the event on September 25th. About 300 participants viewed four presentations about grazing, fisheries, forest fires, and aquatic invasive species (AIS). The students asked approximately 230 questions in total during the live Q&As with the presenters that were featured in the pre recorded videos.

NEW PROJECTS:

No new projects were proposed.

MEMBER REPORTS: None

OTHER BUSINESS: Clendenning mentioned that wild cucumber is causing trouble on roadways. It outcompetes other species and takes over. He mentioned that the status of the plant may change to “noxious weed” in both Wood and Portage County. This may be a future project opportunity for Golden Sands. Clendenning will provide an update at the next meeting based on updates from CWWP. Benes was unsure how it would fit into our current grant sources since the species isn’t invasive.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Clendinning, second by Barden, to adjourn at 10:38am. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Butkiewicz
Temporary Recording Secretary