

**Forestry / Agriculture / Wildlife Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**September 19, 2019**  
**Golden Sands RC&D Office, Stevens Point, WI**

**Attendees:** Al Barden (Member-at-Large); Amanda Burzynski (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Joshua Benes (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Gary Beaström (Marathon); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Hugh O'Donnell (Member-at-Large); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Merlin Becker (Member-at-Large); Asa Plonsky (Golden Sands RC&D Staff).

**CALL TO ORDER:** Barden called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Amanda Burzynski introduced herself as the new Environmental Education and Outreach Coordinator for Golden Sands RC&D and Asa Plonsky introduced herself as the new Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator and Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership Coordinator for Golden Sands RC&D. Everyone else in attendance introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion to approve the minutes from the July meeting was passed unanimously.

**PROJECT UPDATES:**

**Demo Forests:** Benes met with new demo forest owners in Taylor, Outagamie, and Adams and relocated old signs to their properties. Benes will work with these landowners to create brochures that landowners will be able to provide to visitors this winter. There are two signs left, one brand new and one in fair shape. Need more lumber. Would need to get four more signs if we do a demo forest in every county. The Landscape Scale Restoration Grant through the US Forest Service will seek funding to install six new Demo Forests and hold events at one in each major ecological landscape. Becker emphasized need for securing signs sufficiently. A landowner in Waupaca that's very involved in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs and land management is interested in having a demo forest on her land. There's already a demo forest in Waupaca. Funding could be available through Waupaca County community foundation grants. Benes asked if it we should have more than one demo forest in a county if a very interested landowner wants to have one. Motion to go forward by Clendenning, seconded by Beaström, to allow for more than one Demo Forest in a county if specific funding allows for it in that county. Motion carried unanimously.

**NRCS Cooperative Agreement:** Job announcement going out soon for Medford Soil Conservationist Technician position.

**Bluebird And Bat Houses:** Benes said that Hamerla may have a contact for wood. Seeking donations from hardware/lumber places, thinking of maybe doing a Facebook post. Bat houses currently out of stock. Plonsky and Hamerla will help coordinate.

**Tree Shelters:** Plantra won't have a price list until later this year. Counties are getting tree sale info out. Handout about tree shelters directs people to the website for updated info. Order form has "prices subject to change".

**Stevens Point Area Neighborhood Gardens (SPANG):** Rain barrel sale money is going towards cleaning up gardens. High schooler (former volunteer) put on payroll to assist with this project. Seeking grant funding to get someone to spend 6-8 hrs/wk to keep it tidy. Franklin is small enough, stays tidy.

**Woods & Wildlife For Today & Tomorrow (WWFTT):** Follow-up meetings with co-ops went well, especially after site visits. Follow-up meetings have taken place in six counties. Monroe and Wood are coming up soon. Planning on three workshops promoting value of co-ops this spring. Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) grant - Sent Landscape Scale Restoration Grant application to state, waiting to hear if they'll move forward to a federal application. Planning to meet with DNR Division of Forestry and Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) staff soon to discuss project improvements.

**CWIP:** Landowner workshop coming up on September 28, 2019, in Mount Morris at Dick Hansen's property. Working on governance documents. Finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and bylaws, work plan, strategic management plan, and priority species list. Signing on formal members: Schmeeckle Reserve, North Central Conservancy Trust (NCCT), Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards (PACRS), University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) herbarium. First steering committee meeting November 7, 2019. Planning on applying for Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) grant for Japanese Knotweed in Amherst

**NACD Technical Assistance Project:**

Follow-up site visits are wrapping up. Finished pasture walk-related stuff. Newer grant is outreach and writing plans for the NRCS. Bouressa is ready to start writing plans.

**Managed Grazing Program:** Bouressa did a workshop with Grassworks and a pasture walk that's affiliated with it is happening soon. She wrote one plan as a contracted Technical Service Provider (TSP).

**Smart And Connected Communities:** Wants to make an app for the DMAP program. UWSP sounded interested in collaborating. Entities weren't ready to submit an application this year. Benes suggested removing this item until next year. Agreement to remove this project off of the list by the committee.

**RCPP Lafayette County:** Lawrence is wrapping up project, running out of funding soon. Possible that this project could pick up again at another time.

**Waupaca County Conservation Field Day:** Five schools will attend. Burzynski contacted caterer, presenters, volunteers, teachers, and press. She made student schedules and will make nametags today. The event will be on September 27, 2019.

**County Forest Administration Grant Program:** Burnette wants to change state definition of forester so the county can apply for state grants. New definition would include people with a two year degree.

**OLD PROJECTS:**

**Forest Product Placemats:** Account is negative. Haven't been printed in over 10 years. Motion to discontinue by Clendenning, seconded by Barden. Motion carried unanimously.

**Solar Farm and Home:** Balance is about \$1000. Last tour was about 2-3 years ago. Could use the money to leverage another grant. Program will continue and will get Bouressa involved.

**NEW PROJECTS:** New projects were reviewed and approved by all council members at the Business Meeting.

**ADJOURN:** Motion to adjourn at 11:04 a.m. by Barden, seconded by Becker.

Respectfully submitted,

Asa Plonsky

Temporary recording secretary