

**Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.**  
**Regular Business/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**March 18th, 2021**  
**Online via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Al Barden (Member-at-Large); Gary Beastron (Member-at-Large); Joshua Benes (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amanda Burzynski (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Pat Kilbey (Marquette); Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Gerry Zastrow (Portage); Paul Pisellini (Adams); Hannah Butkiewicz (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Scott Wilhorn (Juneau); Mike Weyh (Columbia); Greg Baneck (Outagamie); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Tommy Enright (Farmers Union); Mark Gerrke (Common Roots Rising); Dustin Ladd (Juneau); Jodi Scheppe (Adams); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff). State Senator Patrick Testin was also present for part of the Meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President Hernandez at 11:00 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Everyone introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion made by Rosenthal, seconded by Clendenning, to approve the minutes from the January 2021 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report for January and February 2021 was emailed previously. Hilgart indicated that dispersals and receipts were routine and reviewed each of the three accounts. Information on the Endowment Fund was emailed to participants. Motion made by Clendenning, seconded by Walker, to accept and file the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Wisconsin RC&D Update:** Butkiewicz and Benes attended the January 2021 state RC&D meeting. The state organization is requesting \$200 in voluntary dues to support future meetings and the development of a strategic plan. The next meeting will be held on 4/22/2021 in Birnamwood. Clendenning, who also attended that meeting, asked that research be done on how many states still have a state RC&D organization.

**Groundwater Legislation:** Leitchnam indicated he would wait for the Water Committee activities to be reviewed and then augment information as necessary.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Conflict of Interest Policy and Board of Directors:** All staff members have signed the Conflict of Interest Policy. Paper copies were sent out to council members who had not responded to the email request for signing the policy. Butkiewicz indicated she was hoping to have all signatures received by the end of this month. There was one member who expressed some concern about the policy, so they have not signed it. Clendenning suggested getting a legal opinion. Other suggestions about allaying concerns were discussed. Pisellini asked to receive another email to

review the policy. Butkiewicz announced that there were still four empty council member seats: two for Outagamie, one for Green Lake, and one for Taylor.

**Draft 2021 Budget:** The proposed Overhead and Administrative Budget for 2021 was sent via email before the meeting. Butkiewicz indicated that this budget was conservative in that it didn't include grants expected to be applied for during the coming year. Under the current draft, revenues and expenses are within \$10 of each other, but this will change if more grants are awarded. Motion made by Pisellini, seconded by Rosenthal, to accept the draft 2021 budget. Motion carried unanimously.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Personnel/Finance Committee Report:** Evans reported on the meeting this morning. The treasurer's report was passed on for the full council to consider. Voluntary dues of \$200 for the state RC&D was approved to be paid. The 2020 projected and actual budget was reviewed. More revenue was received than projected and expenses were less (partly due to the pandemic), so there is a net of just over \$24,000. It was decided to keep this in the contingency fund. The line of credit applied for was not approved, but that may change with new information. Possible distribution gained from the Endowment Fund will be reinvested until the P/F Committee decides otherwise. There is a new owner for the building, but the rent remains the same until the end of June 2022, which is when the current lease ends. Interviews for full-time and seasonal positions are occurring. A desired timeline for sending the draft meeting minutes was mentioned. The most recent newsletter was about jobs available at Golden Sands RC&D. Butkiewicz is working on developing a document retention policy.

**Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report:** Walker reported on today's meeting. Woods & Wildlife held a virtual event in February. Butkiewicz replaced Benes as the financial agent for both of the Invasive Species Cooperatives. The agreement with the NRCS is being processed. Tree shelter sales will be reviewed to determine if it is financially lucrative to continue providing them for sale. It is undecided as to whether the Waupaca County Conservation Field Day will be virtual or in person. Several managed grazing plans are in progress and pasture walks are being scheduled. There will not be a Little Plover River Appreciation Day in 2021.

**Water Committee Report:** Evans reported on the Water Committee meeting. There were six new projects for Clean Boats, Clean Waters. The lakes included: Big Bass Lake, Waupaca Chain O' Lakes, Silver Lake, Pearl Lake, and Green Lake. Leichtnam gave a report about a \$60,000 grant received from DATCP for a multi-county groundwater consortium. This will involve testing groundwater for neonicotinoids (known to harm pollinators) and nitrogens, as well as fund a position to collate water data from the member counties. There is currently a public comment period, ending 4/10/21, for the economic impact of a proposed change to NR151 about nitrogen limits. Later there will be a public comment about the proposed rule change. Representatives also gave updates from each county present, as well as input from Hamerla and Cisar. Burzynski has been teaching virtual lessons to 5th graders about aquatic invasive species (AIS) to various classes, as well as groundwater lessons to 5th graders in Waupaca and Waushara Counties. Leichtnam indicated that he would email Testin about some issues related to groundwater and the neonicotinoids, since he left the meeting.

**NEW PROJECTS:**

There are six new projects from the Waters Committee for Clean Boats, Clean Waters. All are set to start 2/1/21 and end 10/31/21.

1. Two positions on Green Lake with \$7401 state share and \$3907 match.
2. One position on Pearl Lake with \$3986 state share and \$2078.71 match.
3. One position on Silver Lake.
4. One position of Helen Lake.
5. One position on Chain of Lakes.
6. One position on Big Bass Lake.

Motion by Evans, seconded by Rosenthal, to approve the new projects and authorize Thorstenson to sign them for the Waters Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion made by Barden, seconded by Leichtnam, to adjourn the meeting.  
Meeting adjourned at 11:46 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans  
Recording Secretary