

Golden Sands Resource, Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Forestry / Agriculture / Wildlife Committee Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2019
Golden Sands RC&D Office, Stevens Point, WI

Attendees: Al Barden (Member-at-Large); Kevin Munkwitz (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Joshua Benes (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Gary Beastrom (Marathon); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Luke Melotik (Taylor); Bob Walker (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 10:05 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone attending verbally identified themselves and named the organization and/or county being represented.

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

PROJECT UPDATES:

Demo Forests: Benes explained that there was not too much to update since the last meeting. He passed around printed brochures he had available that summarized the 2019 updates about the project that he has been handing to landowners. He plans to complete updated brochures this winter. Clendenning asked if there were any requirements for landowners to be accepted into the Demonstration Forest Program. Benes explained that there are no requirements, but that he always checks with the DNR forester for the county to be sure it would suffice as a Demonstration Forest.

NRCS Cooperative Agreement: Starting a new Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Conservation Technician in the Medford office. Position announcement is open and closes Dec. 2nd. Employee would start in January.

Bluebird And Bat Houses: There is a good supply of the bird houses. Need to get wood for bat houses. Wouldn't be able to get them in the spring. Chuck Pogorelnik has some 2x4x8s and 1x4x8s pieces of wood that are the correct size for the bird and bat houses. Thomas and Leslyn Jacobs didn't have any available wood right now. Benes is working with Chris Hamerla on a possible source. Benes will document all potential donors for future contacts.

Tree Shelters: A 2020 promo flyer has been sent out. There isn't new pricing for 2020.

Stevens Point Area Neighborhood Gardens (SPANG): Thorstenson discussed fall clean-up. One high school student worked on this. Benes and Amanda Burzynski helped with putting

down fabric and fresh mulch. Looking for funds to have someone maintain the site. Might be able to write a grant proposal for this.

Woods & Wildlife For Today & Tomorrow (WWFTT): Benes completed follow-up meetings with landowners. He may have two more this coming spring with landowners in Rose (Waushara) and Farmington (Waupaca). Benes provided information about a workshop series that he is organizing that will take place in the Mead Wildlife Center. The workshop “Cooperating for Wildlife Habitat” will take place on April 18th, “Cooperating for Invasive Species Control” will take place on May 2nd, and “Cooperating for Forest Management” will take place on May 30th.

CWIP: Plonsky talked about the workshop that was held on September 28th. There was 15 attendees. Participants learned about invasive plant ID and invasive species management. There was a Steering Committee meeting on Nov. 7th. Plonsky updated the bylaws, wrote a strategic work plan, and has been doing outreach to county LCC groups.

Fox Valley Cisma: Plonsky established a meeting to organize a new Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (Cisma) in the Fox Valley. This will include Waupaca, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties. Brown and Fond Du Lac Counties may be added. More than 22 people have already RSVP'd. The invitation has been sent to many organizations such as land trusts and the Wisconsin DNR.

NACD Technical Assistance Project: Benes finished the previous project (732). Benes concluded all landowner follow-up meetings that were part of the project. For the new NACD project, Rachel Bouressa has been writing grazing management plans for local farmers. Grazing plan writing will expire June 30th, 2021. The rest of the project is set to expire June 30th, 2020, but may be renewed.

Managed Grazing Program: Thorstenson summarized the new contracted project through Grassworks. Time for Grazing Planner to write new plans and overseeing new resources on Grasswork's website. New training resources and updated media. Bouressa also completed enterprise workshops, a final evening on the farm, and has written one contractual EQIP grazing plan.

RCPP Lafayette County: This project just concluded. Dana Lawrence has returned computer and name tag. Benes put in a request for project reimbursement.

Waupaca County Conservation Field Day: Amanda Burzynski was the Environmental Educator on this project. Field Day was September 27th. There were 308 students from different schools. Students got a name tag, were broken up into groups of 7-8, and went to different stations to learn about topics such as agriculture and forestry. Total of 20 stations. Sponsors: Whitetails Unlimited, Waupaca County, Parfreyville United Methodist Church, and Friends of Hartman Creek State Park. Looking for one more sponsor in 2020. Sponsorship level is at \$4,000. Would like to bump it up to \$5,000.

NEW PROJECTS:

New projects were reviewed.

- Grassworks Project (2019-2022): Start date is Oct. 1st, 2019.
- NACD Urban Ag Technical Assistance Project: Wood, Portage, and Waupaca Counties. Promote urban agriculture. Likely start date is March 1st, 2020.
- Motion by Clendenning, second by Beastrom, both projects approved.

Resolution tied to NACD Urban Ag Grant reviewed

- Motion by Beastrom, second second by Clendenning, to approve resolution and send it off to full council.

ADJOURN: Motion to adjourn at 10:46 a.m. by Walker, seconded by Becker.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Munkwitz

Temporary recording secretary