

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Waters Committee Meeting Minutes
January 20th, 2022
Online

Attendees: Paul Pisellini (Adams); Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Kendra Kunding (Golden Sands RC&D); Hannah Butkiewicz (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Chris Hamerla (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large); Gerry Zastrow (Portage); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Anna James (Adams); Shane Wucherpfennig (Member-at-Large).

CALL TO ORDER: Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: No introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Leichtnam, and seconded by Hernandez, to approve the November 2021 Minutes. Motion was approved unanimously.

NEW PROJECTS: None

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION: Leichtnam reported that nothing went on legislatively since the last Golden Sands RC&D Council meeting.

COUNTY AND STAFF UPDATES:

Marquette: Rosenthal reported that Marquette County is interested in having groundwater education in their 5th grade classrooms. Pat Kilbey is attending a Board of Adjustments meeting today about the proposed gravel/asphalt plant. The town and other agencies have already turned it down. No hearing has been held on the proposed restoration plan either. Rebuilding the spillway to handle a 500 year flood is expected to be completed by July. This will allow larger trucks to travel the spillway without damaging it. There will also be several fishing piers built. Whether some of the pandemic money can be used for private well testing is unclear.

Adams: Courthouse renovations are expected to be done by February 6th. The county forest program is being finalized. It is hoped that the private well testing program that the county wants to start can at least be partly funded by pandemic funds. Evans reported that Easton Dam was damaged by a log that got stuck between the gate and trash guard; it also resulted in an unexpected draining of the lake itself. The county submitted a request to its insurance company to cover the costs of repairs and \$18,000 for restocking the lake (after the \$2500 deduction). She is working with Arkdale Lake District on a recreational boating grant that's due on February 1st.

Waushara: Hernandez's office is planning field work for the coming season and working on annual reports. He is expecting to work with Hamerla for PI aquatic plant surveys and shoreland surveys for use in lake management plans. He does not expect to have a summer intern this year.

Taylor: The county tree sale is ongoing. The county is in the process of hiring a new conservation engineering technician. During Maplefest, which will be held in May, sugar maple trees will be distributed.

Wood: Leichtnam reported that Wood County is interested in having groundwater education in their 5th grade classrooms. UW-Extension is looking for funds to help. The county recently reviewed the results of private well testing. While most areas of the county have nitrate well levels below the problem level, some "hot spots" did show up, including around Lake Wazeecha. The well testing results were from two years of testing private wells with 75% participation. It is hoped that follow-up testing on the hot spots can be done. Wucherpfennig will be having summer intern interviews next week. Data from the six county groundwater coalition has been sent to the researcher. A new jail is being built.

Kundinger/Hamerla: Kundinger explained the shift in focus from the prior Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator grants to the new Lake Monitoring and Protection contracts. Virtual training for Clean Boats, Clean Waters and Citizen Lake Monitoring are being planned. In-person training will be available if requested. Participation in state-wide AIS events like the Landing Blitz, the Drain Campaign, Waterfowl Hunters, Snapshot Day, and similar events will still occur. She and Hamerla will be contacting the individual counties to get a more specific idea of each county's needs. Hamerla noted that they are looking to hire a 3rd LTE AIS Coordinator this year for the season.

Thorstenson: The Clean Boats, Clean Waters projects will be coming up soon. Most of the lakes that previously worked with Golden Sands RC&D are expected to return, so there will likely be eight LTEs needed for the season.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Leichtnam, and seconded by Pisellini, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans
Recording Secretary