

**Forestry / Agriculture / Wildlife Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**July 25th, 2019**  
**Golden Sands RC & D Office, Stevens Point, WI**

**Attendees:** Al Barden (Member-at-Large); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Hugh O'Donnell (Member-at-Large); Gary Beastrom (Marathon); Joshua Beneš (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Ed Miller (Outagamie)

**Call to order:** Barden (chair) called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.

**Introductions:** All familiar.

**Last Meetings Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting by Beastrom, second by O'Donnell. Passed unanimously.

**Demo Forests:** Beneš met with Merlin Becker on his property and started drafting a new brochure. Beneš is planning on meeting with Greg Larson next week.

**NRCS Cooperative Agreement:** New agreement will start in September that will employ a Soil Technician in Medford.

**Bluebird and Bat Houses:** No updates to report.

**Tree shelters:** 16 sales this year. Committee decided to continue tree shelter program for next year.

**Stevens Point Area Neighborhood Gardens (SPANG):** Difficult to keep gardens looking presentable with limited funding. Benes and Thorstenson will keep their eyes out for grant opportunities to improve gardens. Franklin street in good shape, and completely full this year. Cornell/Whitney has a few empty beds and can use some work.

**Woods & Wildlife for Today & Tomorrow (WWFTT):** Beneš has hosted a follow-up landowner meeting at the Emmons Creek Cooperative on June 13th. He plans on hosting a few others in August.

**CWIP CISMA:** CWIP had a Steering Committee formation meeting on June 27th. The committee includes all of the County Conservationists (minus Portage County where John Eron is the appointed steering committee member) and at-large members Janet Smith, Reesa Evans, and Eric Olson. The next meeting will be November 7th.

One Steering Committee member within CWIP represents their fiscal sponsor (Golden Sands RC&D). The Forestry and Agriculture committee make this appointment. Motion by Beastrom, second by O'Donnell to appoint Benes to serve in this position.

Benes hired a new CWIP Coordinator, Asa Plonsky, that will start next Monday. She is a recent graduate from UW Stevens Point with a strong background in plant ecology and ecological restoration.

**NACD Technical Assistance Project:**

Rachel Bouressa will be doing more CSP work through a new NACD agreement. This new agreement also entails new pasture walks. Benes is wrapping up the old NACD grant's portion on forestry by hosting landowner meetings this summer.

**Managed Grazing program:** A SARE grant was implemented that trained agency staff on Enterprise Budgeting for grazing operations. Golden Sands will coordinated part of this project, including 1 training workshop for agency staff in Green Lake, and 1 pasture walk for agency staff in Green Lake County. Agency staff in neighboring counties were invited as well.

**Smart and Connected Communities:** Benes is going to reach out to Bob Nack, DMAP coordinator in the DNR, and UWSP faculty to see if there is a way to build a project that is focused on developing an app for landowners to stay connected in cooperatives and log wildlife harvests and sightings through the MyDMAP portal.

**RCPP Lafayette County:** Dana Lawrence continues to do work under the RCPP in Lafayette County.

**Waupaca County Conservation Field Day:** Thorstenson has been training Amanda Burzynski on coordinating this field day, which will take place on September 28th, with a rain date of October 4th. The park is booked, caterer booked, and Amanda is finalizing the field sites and presentations.

**New projects:** A few new projects were presented, including:

- PEDIP - Monitoring and control for select invasive species (#742)
  - Project falls under CWIP, will aid in Early Detection Rapid Response efforts throughout CWIP's 7 counties.
- USFS CWMA GLRI (#743)
  - Invasive species management project focused on Great Lakes Basin side of CWIP's 7 counties.
- NACD TA 2019 (#744)
  - A new NACD TA project focused on providing CSP plans, pasture walks, workshops, and promoting EQIP funding for forest landowners.
- Woodland Invasive Plant Workshop (#745)
  - A 2020 workshop focused on invasive plant ID of forest ecosystems in CWIP's boundaries.

Motion to move all projects to full council by Beaström. Seconded by O'Donnell. Committee votes to move all projects to full council.

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn at 11:01 by Beaström, seconded by O'Donnell.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Benes  
Temporary recording secretary