

Golden Sands Resource, Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Water Committee Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2017
Golden Sands Office, Stevens Point, WI

Call to Order: Brian Haase, acting chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Attendance: Anna Cisar, Everett Eckstein, Reesa Evans, Brian Haase, Chris Hamerla, Ed Hernandez, Bill Leichtnam, Ed Miller, Paul Pisellini, Wally Sedlar, Amy Thorstenson, Joe Tomandl, Shane Wucherpfennig.

Minutes: Motion made by Leichtnam, seconded by Eckstein, to approve minutes of the last meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

New Projects: Thorstenson read the gold sheets for new projects:

- (1) Purple Loosetrife Control at Mead Wildlife Center: in cooperation with Wisconsin Public Service Commission, GS will provided PL plants & pots and necessary information and a mass rearing cage for Mead Wildlife. WPS will provide \$632.69 in 2017 for startup. If the program is successful, it will commit to giving \$500 per year for continuation.
- (1) Lake Wausau APM update: GS will work with the Lake Wausau Association to do a PI survey and recommend updates in its aquatic plant management plan. Estimated cost is \$26,886.
- (2) 2017 CBCW Silver Lake: this continues an already establish CBCW program at Silver Lake in Waushara County. Estimated total cost is \$5346.
- (3) 2017 Pearl Lake CBCW: this continues an already establish CBCW program at Pearl Lake in Waushara County. Estimated total cost is \$5346.
- (4) Co-employment of Watershed Planner in Waupaca County: assist in writing a watershed management plan in Waupaca County. Total estimated cost: \$24,542

Motion made by Ellis, seconded by Eckstein, to approve the projects and send on to the full council. Motion carried unanimously.

Project Updates:

Main Street Parks: Thorstenson noted the Main Street Parks project needed to be closed out. Although this was part of Golden Sands in 2016, it seems to be a better fit for the Create Portage County organization, which has agreed to take it over. Motion made by Evans, seconded by Ellis, to close out the project for GS. Motion carried unanimously.

Leichtnam (Wood): Leichtnam reported on a large liquid manure leak of several months in the LaCrosse area was discovered in March 2017. The county health department there notified up to 2000 people of possible contamination of their wells from this leak. Waushara County passed a resolution in March 2017 encouraging state legislators to support legislation for

groundwater protection. Wood County just passed the same resolution this Tuesday. Both counties sent copies to all state legislators. He would like to see GS and all the counties involved in GS to pass a similar resolution and forward to state legislators. He also thinks that Republican leadership should be approached in these issues in both houses and perhaps the Democratic minority leaders as well. He thinks GS should keep groundwater issues as a permanent agenda item. Senate Bill 76, loosening restrictions on high capacity wells, passed both houses.

Pisellini (Adams): The Tri-Lakes Management District and the Town of Rome are working together on issues of water quality and water quantity. Free well testing for up to 120 properties has been offered to local residents.

Hamerla (Golden Sands): He described mass rearing cages that can be used for raising Purple Loosestrife beetles that can be borrowed from the WDNR. These are 12 feet square and can hold many plants, making raising more efficient. He participated in the Buckthorn Bash with 5th graders in Taylor County and will also have a youth day with other Taylor County youth. Helen Lake is working on a plan for removal of EWM. Hamerla is working on flowering rush control in 2 counties. The State Trappers Convention, held in Marshfield, has asked for an AIS presentation. Invasive *Phragmites* was found at Sentry Insurance.

Cisar (Golden Sands): Anna started with GS on 4/15/17 and is the AIS Coordinator for Green Lake, Marquette, Waupaca and Waushara counties. She previously worked with the South East Planning Commission. Besides purple loosestrife projects, she has been involved in an estuary restoration project on Green Lake that involved planting 27,000 native plants.

Thorstenson (Golden Sands): She will work with Bill Leichtnam on the wording of a letter about groundwater to go to legislators. She has mostly been doing the paperwork and hiring connected to the gold sheet projects. The Invaders of the Waters lesson plans packet is currently in its final editing phase and should be ready soon, available to anyone who wants to use it.

Hernandez (Waushara): Lakes in his county that applied for funds for DASH did not receive the grants. He is suggesting that they contact GS about integrated management/control of AIS. There were 2 Healthy Lake grants awarded. The county continues to be involved in the development of a management plan for Lake Winnebago.

Sedlar (Adams): He has been involved in several watershed quality group meetings with the Town of Rome and the Tri-Lakes Management District as noted by Paul Pisellini. There are ordinances that could help that are not being enforced. Soil sampling on waterfront lots in that district is ongoing. High nitrates are also being looked at, since it is known that they also contribute to blue green algae blooms. The Fawn Lake dam, owned by Adams County, will be undergoing a complete overhaul this summer that will result in the lake being drawn down to the creek. The state Land & Water Conservation Conference, to be held 10/16,17/17 in Elkhart Lake will have sessions on groundwater quality and quantity. A meeting at one of the local CAFO's went pretty well.

Wucherpennig (Wood): His department moved to a new facility in the first week of May. His office is still working with Portage County on wild parsnip issues and have started mapping it (entering the location information into a national website). They would like to get other counties on board with designating it a “noxious weed” and using that designation to manage Wild Parsnip. There are purple loosestrife beetle-raising projects at multiple sites. The Rusty Wrangler project, dealing with rusty crayfish, is going on at local high schools. His office continues to get complaints about manure pit overflows. Recently, an overflow into wetlands and waters of the state occurred. A violation conference is set for next week, but the county already fined the owner \$1000.

Eckstein (Waushara): The highway commission in his county is using the recently-acquired Humvee for roadside spraying. He attended the Winnebago Watershed meeting and saw some good WDNR presentations.

Tomandl (Taylor): The Buckthorn Bash mostly concentrated on the River Walk in Medford. It involved clipping and chemically treating buckthorn branches. The goals will be returning to attach new buckthorn sprouts. The county tree sale was completed. A youth group is working on raising purple loosestrife beetles. Stream monitoring in agricultural areas has resumed. A project determining the biotic index (using insects) in a stream at the school forest was popular. His county is also getting manure overflow complaints; it would be a good idea to have a list of facilities that could receive overflow.

Miller (Outagamie): Miller said he was attending for education and passed on any further comments.

Evans (at-large) said that the Adams LWCD also completed its tree sale. She has been working on parcel maps to do habitat assessment protocols on all the county lakes this summer, if possible. Zebra mussels have been confirmed in Arkdale Lake. This was expected since this lake is downstream of Big Roche a Cri Lake, where they were verified in 2015. The Town of Rome recently doubled the size of its library, so she is working with local Master Gardeners to plant a rain garden to catch some of the runoff.

Ellis (Waupaca) reported he has had a busy spring. His group has been working with Onterra to plan some whole lake chemical treatments for EWM. There appears to be a lot of garlic mustard in the county this year. Rearing of purple loosestrife beetles is also ongoing. He is also chair of the Sanitary District, which currently seems to be the enforcer on several water quality issues.

Haase (Waupaca): The county has started countywide well testing (at county expense), which the goal being one well tested in each section of the county. Some time ago, a CAFO deliberately dumped manure leachate into public water ditches, causing substantial contamination. The violation finally came to court recently, after almost 3 years, and the corporation was fined \$100,000. A local septic hauler, who has had violation issues before, lost his license to haul septic waste. It was discovered that not only was he continuing to haul waste,

he was depositing it in his backyard. The county health department is offering free well-testing to his neighbors to determine any contamination from his activities.

Thorstenson (Golden Sands): She assured Ellis that a session she attended last year suggested that garlic mustard takes about 5 to 6 years to reach peak population, then the population crashes to a much smaller presence, even without any treatment or other active management. She still wants to get a group grant involving several counties and apply for an EPA grant, so she encouraged each county in GS to contact her with information on needs that could be included in such a grant.

Adjournment: Upon motions by Wucherpennig/Sedlar, the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans
Temporary Recording Secretary