

**Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.**  
**Regular Business/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**November 19th, 2020**  
**Online via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Al Barden (Member-at-Large); Gary Beastrom (Member-at-Large); Joshua Benes (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amanda Burzynski (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Pat Kilbey (Marquette); Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Al Drabek (Marathon); Robert Bauer (Golden Sands RC&D); Gerry Zastrow (Portage); Tommy Enright (Wisconsin Farmers Union); Paul Pisellini (Adams); Hannah Butkiewicz (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Anna Cisar (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Jen Schmitz (Monroe).

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President Hernandez at 11:02 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Everyone introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion made by Clendenning, seconded by Barden, to accept the minutes from the September 2020 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Hilgart discussed the most recent treasurer's report. There have been five payroll periods since the last report. Credit card statements for September and October were also available. The most recent report of the endowment fund shows an increase in the investment. Motion made by Clendenning, seconded by Barden, to accept and file the treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Wisconsin RC&D Update:** Benes indicated that no in-person state meetings have been held since January 2020. A tentative virtual meeting will be held sometime in January 2021.

**Groundwater Legislation:** Leichtnam reported that he recently spoke with Representative Katrina Shankland. He does not see any traction with the 13 currently pending water bills. It is likely that they will be brought up during the next session.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**By-Laws:** Benes made changes to resolve confusion about the term "member" in the by-laws. This was sent for review by the committee made up of Leichtnam, Barden, Walker, Evans, Beastrom, and Benes. The committee indicated that there were no additional edits and it could be passed as is. Motion made by Leichtnam, seconded by Rosenthal, to accept the revised by-laws. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Personnel/Finance Committee Report:** Benes reported on today's meeting. Most of the expenditures have been payroll and project-related. The most recent report of the endowment fund showed an increase in the investment. A new employee, Lindsie Hagen, was hired to serve as a Soil Conservationist in the Mauston Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. Butkiewicz was selected to be the next Executive Director of Golden Sands RC&D, and the official transition will occur at the next council meeting. A health insurance option is being investigated for staff. P/F would like to provide a higher contribution based on hours full-time employees work, but are currently unsure of how options may impact costs to current staff who are getting their insurance off of the marketplace. A new handbook was reviewed that was created through the ThinkHR system, which will allow for easier and more frequent updates. Voting on this item was deferred until the next meeting. Adams, Juneau, and Monroe Counties were given updates to their Land Conservation Committees (LCCs) last week by Benes. New council members were appointed by Monroe County, filling a long-standing vacancy. The new primary council member of Monroe County, Jen Schmitz, introduced herself at the end of the report.

**Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report:** Benes completed two grant applications through the United States Forest Service (USFS) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Unfortunately, the two applications were not funded this year. A mapping blitz for the Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP) is finished. The Multisession Forest Invasives Webinar event is also finished. The webinar was held on September 26th. The sessions had an average of 95 attendees. Two NEWIP meetings were held recently. The first was held on October 19th and focused on the formative aspects of the group. At this meeting, the group name was changed from the Northeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Coalition (NEWISC) to the Northeast Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (NEWIP) to avoid confusion with another group's acronym. The second meeting was held on November 9, 2020, and focused on grant projects. Benes is waiting for Plantra to provide their pricing for 2021. The Neighborhood Gardens are closed for the season. The 2020 pasture walks and the workshop are complete. About 100 participants attended the virtual workshop, "Economics of Managed Grazing", which was held on October 27th. More planning and funding is needed for the Little Plover River Appreciation Field Day. The online Waupaca County Conservation Field Day (WCCFD) took place online, for the first time, on September 25th. About 300 participants viewed four presentations about grazing, fisheries, forest fires, and aquatic invasive species.

**Water Committee Report:** Rosenthal reported that the committee had reviewed and approved a new project. Leichtnam provided a report on groundwater protection and discussion was extended. Golden Sands' staff reported on their project updates. Rosenthal stated that more information about the committee meeting would be provided in the Waters Committee minutes.

#### **NEW PROJECTS:**

There was one new gold sheet from the Waters Committee.

1) Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grant: Waushara County asked if Golden Sands would be their grant sponsor. Golden Sands would be responsible for submitting the grant application and would charge \$726.00 for this contracted service to cover staff and administrative time. Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Leichtnam, to approve the project. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS:** None.

**OTHER REPORTS:**

**Thanks:** Hernandez thanked Benes for his dedication and commitment to Golden Sands RC&D.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion made by Barden, seconded by Beastro, to adjourn the meeting.  
Meeting adjourned at 11:35am.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Butkiewicz  
Temporary Recording Secretary