

Golden Sands Resource, Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Regular Business/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2019
Golden Sands RC & D Office, Stevens Points, WI

Attendees: Gary Beastrom (Marathon); Brian Haase (Waupaca); Al Barden (Member-at-Large); Gary Beastrom (Marathon); Shane Wucherpfennig (Wood); Maria Lewandowski (Wood); Hugh O'Donnell (Member-at-Large); Steve Bradley (Portage); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Tyrone Larson (NRCS); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Ed Miller (Outagamie); Kason Morley (Adams); Paul Pisellini (Adams); Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Mike Kapp (Waupaca); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Josh Benes (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff). Marcia Noble was also present.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Barden at 11:12 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: At the request of O'Donnell, everyone attending verbally identified himself or herself and named the organization and/or county being represented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Clendenning, seconded by Barden, to accept the minutes of the May 2019 meeting as written. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report for May and June 2019 was passed around. Hilgart indicated read the beginning and ending balances for each account. Dispersals and receipts were fairly standard. No use of the contingency fund. Review of procedures: all reimbursements are deposited into the Money Market Savings Account, then money is transferred to checking as needed for payroll and bill pay. Endowment report reflects the \$5K added in spring, total principal investment \$20K, current balance \$21,6660.58. Motion made by Leitchnam, seconded by Tomandl, to accept the treasurer's report and place on file for review.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wisconsin RC&D Update: Presentation by Shankland on AB21, which expands State support to citizens who need a new well. Discussion regarding drafting a letter in support of many of the items addressed by AB21. Funding opportunities with NRCS were discussed. Discussion on providing assistance/services to unrepresented counties (those with no RC&D) and the need for open communication with each other when RC&Ds work outside their normal service area. Walker provided a draft communications plan for how the RC&Ds can coordinate communications to State representatives, discussion decided to get input from individual Councils and report back. State Association approved the purchase of an annual membership to Instrumentl, a grant search database, to be split between the 3 active RC&Ds using it. Discussion from group clarified that the communication plan from the State Association *suggested* (not *required*) coordinated communications from individual Councils. Agreed by consensus this was a good plan.

Groundwater Legislation: Revised letter to send to legislators (mentioned above) was going to be from State Association, signed by all 4 active RC&Ds, but Glacierland backed out, stating

that AB21 was not going anywhere, doesn't do much for RC&Ds to send letters. AB21 is penned, letter says it's a good 1st step. Each individual RC&D will submit letters separately if they wish to send one. Motion by Barden, seconded by Leitchnam, to send letter and add to the recipient list: Governor, WI Counties Association, WI Towns Association, WI Land & Water. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

New Golden Sands RC&D Video: Benes debuted the newly-completed RC&D "Who We Are" video. Uses some of the old video and added lots of new video and photos. It's currently on the website (www.goldensandsrcd.org), YouTube, and will get a boosted post (advertising) on Facebook.

Council meeting times/member recruitment: Some new Council delegates have day jobs. Discussion about switching to evening meetings. Drawbacks to that. Discussion about board structure. Benes was recently at a training workshop about board recruitment. Benes would like volunteers for a workgroup to meet once or twice this fall - passed around a sign-in sheet. Some discussion, but further discussion was saved for the workgroup.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel/Finance Committee Report: Thorstenson reported on this morning's meeting. Went into closed session, 5 minutes, back to open session. Hilgart presented treasurer's report, no unusual charges, no use of contingency, balance of endowment is \$21,660.58. Hilgart reported that with our bank becoming Associated, she reviewed banking options and GS will stay where we are. Discussed updates needed for organizational flow chart and personnel flow chart, for September agenda. Benes reported that all 12 counties have received presentations or reports this year. Staffing changes include the Admin Assistant leaving, and new Environmental Education & Outreach Coordinator, Amanda Burzynski, being hired. Discussion about personnel review process needs to be shorter so they can be done more often. \$100 will be spent on boosting posts of the new video, \$600 will be spent on creating and printing a new GS brochure. Discussed liability questions with people on payroll who want to volunteer some time. Summer e-newsletter went out. Discussed draft letter regarding groundwater issues in AB21 that was presented to full Council.

Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report: Benes reported on today's meeting. New Soil Conservationist hired for Taylor County. Looking for funds/donated wood for bat houses. 16 tree shelter orders so far this year, decided to continue sales 1 more year. Neighborhood gardens have most plots rented, need tools donated. Woods & Wildlife project has meetings for landowners to assist finding leadership structure, met with biologists for State and want to expand statewide. Central WI Invasives Partnership (CWIP) established a steering committee: County delegates, at-larges, 1 fiscal agent (GS). New Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator hire, Asa Plonsky. NACD technical assistance project - old funding wrapping up, pasture walks done, new funding mainly supports the grazing specialist's, Rachel Bouressa's, work, including workshops. Smart and Connected Communities project is re-focusing and will look into working with researchers to develop an app for landowners to communicate and document wildlife sightings, wildlife harvests, add data to DMAP. RCPP grant transferred from SW Badger

RC&D to GS, Dana Lawrence is the staff person continuing on that project, now on our payroll. Waupaca County Conservation Field Day planned for Fri, Sept 27th, Harman Creek State Park, catering booked, new EE Coordinator finalizing field stations. The Committee approved 4 new projects to go to full Council.

Water Committee Report: Rosenthal reported on today's meeting. No new projects this period. Discussion of groundwater bills, AB21 SB137, hearing yesterday. County reports mostly focused on lake levels, high water, blue-green algae appearing. Wild parsnip and giant hogweed discussion on what to do. Purple loosestrife beetles were raised and pupae now hatching.

Motion by Barden, seconded by Leitchnam, to accept the Committee reports as presented.
Motion passed unanimously.

NEW PROJECTS: Monitoring invasive species in Wisconsin - to focus on data collection, some control work, \$12K, funding is Pitman Robertson funds (DNR), starting 8/1/19 - 6/30/20.

CWIP USFS GLRI grant - Great Lakes side of counties, develop early detection and rapid response efforts, educational workshops, \$40K (\$59K with in-kind), Aug 1 - 6/31/2021.

NACD technical assistance 2019 - CSP cost-sharing promotion, EQIP Forestry promotion, starts 6/20/19 for 1 yr with possibility to renew up to 3 yrs, \$77K total (\$15K in-kind, \$61.8K cash from MOU).

Woodland Invasive Species Workshop - Coloma workshop, CWIP project, 4 parts for landowners at different levels of identification skills, \$2K (\$2670 with in-kind), 8/1/19 - 6/30/21.

Motion by Barden, seconded by Beastron, to approve the new projects. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF/PROJECT UPDATES: Written staff reports were sent out electronically before the meeting and are available at the front table in hard copy.

AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS: Ty Larson of the NRCS reported that wind damage is a concern right now, opportunity for invasives to spread, can NRCS cost-sharing help landowners handle new resource concerns? CSP funding being announced today or tomorrow, EQIP funding 3rd round wrapping up, RCPP was re-authorized, tweaking rules, RFP coming out soon. WINRCS getting funding for floodplain easements (mirrors WRP), perpetual easements.

OTHER REPORTS: None.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Sept 19, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m. on motion by Clendenning, seconded by Rosenthal.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Thorstenson
Advising Director, Golden Sands RC&D