

Golden Sands Resource, Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Waters Committee Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2020
Jordan Park's West Lodge

Attendees: Amanda Burzynski (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Reesa Evans; (Member-at-Large); Chris Hamerla (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Shawn Henby (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Pat Kilbey (Marquette); Selina Walters (Golden Sands RC&D Staff). Paul Pisellini (Adams) attended via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Kilbey called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Rosenthal, seconded by Leichtnam, to approve the May 2020 Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF CHAIR: Hernandez nominated Rosenthal to be chair of the Waters Committee and Tomandl to be the Vice-Chair. Evans seconded the nominations. Motion carried unanimously.

PROJECT UPDATES: There are no new gold sheets for the Waters Committee. Hamerla was congratulated on winning an Invader Crusader Award along with his dog, Cisco.

UPDATE ON GROUNDWATER PROTECTION:

Leichtnam reported that he recently spoke with Representative Kristina Shankland. 160 bills that were passed by the Assembly, including 13 water-related bills, were scheduled to go to the Wisconsin Senate on March 24, 2020. However, that meeting was cancelled. Senator Fitzgerald says he will not have the Senate meet for an extraordinary session to deal with the pending bills, despite some pressure from various sources. The Wisconsin Counties Lobbyist said that a session will not occur until after the November 2020 election. In response, the Wood County Board passed a resolution calling for the Senate to meet and deal with the pending bills. Juneau County and up to 30 other counties have passed a similar resolution. The Wood County Board sent a copy of its resolution to all Wisconsin Counties, to all State Senators, and to several State Representatives.

COUNCIL & STAFF UPDATES:

Hernandez: The Waupaca County Board will be considering the resolution described by Leichtnam. The longstanding manure storage citation is still outstanding, with the court ordering the landowner to produce documents by a specific date. Hand pulling for Eurasian Water Milfoil occurred on Gilbert Lake. Although the county did not get a grant to do a third round of private well testing, it intends to continue this fall and may consider approaching the Wood County Laboratory for processing.

Hamerla: The pandemic has made getting aquatic invasive species (AIS) volunteers, whose time is usually used for match on the AIS grant, difficult. The current AIS regional grant will expire at the end of 2021. AIS funding through a regional grant will no longer be available because of the coming change in WDNR Surface Water Grants. Hamerla noted that the counties currently covered

by the grant will have to start thinking of how services from Golden Sands RC&D can continue under the new grant program.

Kilbey: Marquette County wants to continue using services from Golden Sands RC&D. Despite the pandemic, Marquette County boat ramps have been very busy.

Tomandl: He mentioned that Golden Sands RC&D might be able to apply for a Covid-19 small business grant. Many activities in Taylor County have been postponed due to the pandemic. Private well testing through the county continues to be popular. Stream monitoring has been ongoing for five years. The heavy rain events have caused so much soil loss that the streams have turned brown from the dirt.

Leichtnam: The Wood County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) has gone back to work. Instead of regular cutting of roadside growth, the Wood County Highway Department is spraying a growth inhibitor. Some of the chemicals have ended up in local water bodies and is causing significant local concern. Wood County is also interested in having AmeriCorps assist with some natural resources work.

Pisellini: The Adams County Board will be reviewing the resolution that was discussed by Leichtnam in this month's meeting. The 14 Mile Creek 9 Key Element Plan is mostly approved, although some changes need to be made. He is the new LWCD Committee Chair. The former chair had to resign due to health problems.

Kilbey: His department is still doing some work remotely, with no more than two employees in the office at a time. Masks are to be worn in the county offices and halls, except in private offices, due to the pandemic. The resolution Leichtnam discussed has already cleared the Marquette County LWCD Committee and will go before the county board this month.

Rosenthal: No beetles were available to control purple loosestrife in Marquette County this year, so it has been growing well. The County Lake Group will meet soon for the first time in several months. Several lakes are experiencing heavy aquatic plant growth. Buffalo Lake has traditionally had two levels, one for summer and one for winter, but this year things have been so low that getting boats in has been difficult. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has been asked to change the dates of the two different levels to stop that problem from occurring.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans
Recording Secretary