

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Waters Committee Meeting Minutes
November 17th, 2022
Wood County River Block / Online

Attendees: Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Shane Wucherpfennig (Member-at-Large); Chris Hamerla (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Diane Hanson (Marathon); Kendra Kunding (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Colton Wolosek (Golden Sands RC&D Staff).

CALL TO ORDER: Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves. Colton Wolosek introduced himself as the new AIS Coordinator. He is coming in to take over some of the workload as Kunding shifts much of her time to Executive Director duties.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Tomandl, which was seconded by Hernandez, to approve the September 2022 Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW PROJECTS: N/A

COUNTY AND STAFF UPDATES:

Hamerla: Reported that he was busy with waterfowl outreach this fall and taught a station at the Waupaca County Conservation Field Day. Lakes are reaching out to us for services, so the boat has proven to be a worthwhile investment so far. Questions and a discussion occurred about what rates are charged for boat use, how much a point intercept survey costs, and why a lake would invest in such a service. It was pointed out that the WI Department of Natural Resources (DNR) does not routinely monitor lakes, and lake groups need to request and contract this service if they want it.

Kunding: Reported that the Lake Management Planning Network multi-county application was submitted as planned and on time. AIS contracted services are complete and invoices are going out to close up the 2022 field season. The Silver Lake pontoon tour took place with local 7th graders. Staff participated in Waushara County Conservation Field Days and provided support for the Pittsville rusty crayfish trapping project again. There is a new teacher taking that project over, but she is continuing the program and the class hauled in traps full of rusty crayfish. It is an important invasive species removal project. Kunding also attended the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) online this year.

Thorstenson: Reported that she attended UMISC and presented on the Lake Joanis predation exclusion research, to promote exclusion cages as a potential tool to support biocontrol of Eurasian watermilfoil.

Wolosek: Introduced himself further. He is from Wisconsin Rapids and graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a B.S. in Environmental Resource Management. He worked for the DNR as an intern in the Bureau of Fisheries. He started Monday as the new AIS Coordinator.

Marathon: Hanson reported that they had some significant manure spills this fall. They have a large-scale lake management grant to produce a watershed plan for Fenwood Creek, and

secured a producer-led grant. Still pursuing funding for a groundwater plan. Hanson was happy to report her department is fully staffed again.

Marquette: Rosenthal reported it seems like everything is in flux, with a new County Administrator overhauling the budget. Most ARPA funds are going towards a broadband project. He congratulated Hamerla for a nice presentation at the Marquette County Lakes meeting, where there seemed to be new enthusiasm and new members stepped up to fill officer positions. Rosenthal announced that he will be out of state during the January meeting. He appointed Tomandl (Vice-Chair) to chair the January meeting.

Taylor: Tomandl reported that the county meetings are all about the budget right now.

Waushara: Hernandez reported they partnered with the Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance, under a subaward from the USDA, to hire an agronomist that is likely to be a multi-county position. There will be a meeting in early December to discuss farmer-led watershed groups, no-till drill, and cover crops. The county owns a dissolved oxygen meter and they are making it available to lake groups to collect data on their lake. Their groundwater testing program has baseline data for 300 wells and they plan to do follow up testing of those wells.

Wood: Wucherpennig reported that the county is working on cover crops and a no-till drill. They are part of the 6 county collaborative for groundwater - the data is coming out from USGS soon. They hope to work with USGS to keep the dataset together in order to continue to build on that baseline in future years. They put in an ARPA request with the county and are asking for a drone, test plots, and reverse osmosis systems for people whose wells exceed 10 ppm. Waiting to see what's approved.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Hernandez, which was seconded by Tomandl, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Thorstenson
Temporary Recording Secretary