

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Waters Committee Meeting Minutes
November 19th, 2020
Online via Zoom

Attendees: Gerry Zastrow (Portage); Pat Kilbey (Marquette); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Paul Pisellini (Adams); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Chris Hamerla (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Anna Cisar (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bob Ellis (Waupaca).

CALL TO ORDER: Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Ellis, seconded by Leichtnam, to approve the September 2020 Minutes. Motion was approved.

NEW PROJECTS: Cisar presented the gold sheet for 2021 Big Hills Healthy Lakes Grant Sponsor. Golden Sands is doing the project based on a fee for service of \$726. Landowners have requested assistance in grant sponsorship for a Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grant to install four best management practices on their lakeshore property. Motion by Pisellini, seconded by Tomandl, to approve the project and have Cisar sign the gold sheet for the Waters Committee. Motion was approved.

PROJECT UPDATES:

Hamerla: Updating early detection surveys. Hamerla also reported that the annual Lakes Convention will be held in March. Hamerla and Cisar are working with Water Week organizers and will have a presentation.

Cisar: Working with Columbia and Juneau Counties in developing the new Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) model and coordinating aquatic invasive species (AIS) outreach and prevention for the community. Cisar is also working with the DNR and Emery Lake, in Marquette County, after they found Starry Stonewort in the lake which is an AIS that has only been found in a few of Wisconsin's lakes.

Thorstenson: Working with biocontrol and collecting data on weevils. Hatch Lake is a new lake where baseline weevil data was collected with the help of a lake consultant doing their PI survey.

UPDATE ON GROUNDWATER PROTECTION: Leichtnam reported that the Assembly and Senate might meet in December, but might only discuss Covid-19 related issues. Leichtnam is hoping that the Assembly and Senate will meet to discuss water issues during 2021. It is unknown how the 13 bills will be presented. They might be presented as they were or they might be rewritten. He also reported on conversations with Allison Werner, of the River Alliance, concerning a resolution to encourage the Assembly and Senate to address water quality in Wisconsin. The idea is to have certain counties put the resolution on the April ballot to let the politicians know what the feelings are of the people concerning clean water. Wood, Adam, and Marquette Counties are going to work on getting it on their April ballots. They are also looking at the potential costs for placing it on the ballots. Waupaca County will also look at the resolution.

COUNTY AND MEMBER UPDATES:

Hernandez: Construction season is finishing up. Stream bank and barnyard inventory is being completed in Waushara County.

Tomandi: Taylor County is working on its annual tree sale. Covid-19 has been affecting staff at the office. It turns out that mink are vulnerable to Covid-19, with 2,000 mink dying at the county's mink farms. Landspreading of mink manure is on hold because it may spread Covid-19 to wild mink.

Pisellini: The Adams County Manager resigned to take a similar position with the city of Baraboo. The court house addition is coming along well. A new courtroom was added for an additional judge. The 2021 budget is finished and approved. There is money in the 2021 budget to do private well testing. The Adams County tree sale has started. The county will be working on placing the clean water resolution on their April ballot.

Leichtnam: Wood County construction season is wrapping up. The no till drill that was purchased is in high demand. County office staff members have been hit hard with the Covid-19 virus. A group wanted the county to approve and place the question of having Wood County becoming a "2nd amendment sanctuary county" on the April ballot. When the committee vote didn't go their way they became unruly.

Ellis: Ellis will take the information about the resolution back to Waupaca County for consideration.

Rosenthal and Kilbey: Marquette County's last meeting discussed crop damage and setting prices. County meetings are all taking place online via Webex or Zoom. Gary Sorensen did not run for office as Marquette County's Clerk and Treasurer. So, there is a new Clerk and a new Treasurer who have both worked for the County so they know what they are doing. Sorensen has also been acting as the Administrator and will stay on at 80%. The health department is overworked and understaffed from dealing with Covid-19. Kilbey discussed the Healthy Lakes program. There were 12 completed projects in 2020 and 16 have signed up for the Healthy Lakes program in 2021.

Cisar and Hamerla: Golden Sands has funding through 2021 for AIS work. Funding from the DNR after 2021 will be different. Cisar and Hamerla will be contacting the County Conservationists in the near future to talk about future AIS work. Applications will need to be in by September 2, 2021. Hamerla also mentioned that zebra mussels were found in Portage County.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Leichtnam, seconded by Pisellini, to adjourn. Motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Rosenthal
Temporary Recording Secretary