

**Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.**  
**Waters Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**July 22nd, 2021**  
**Lake Helen Park/Online**

**Attendees:** Pat Kilbey (Marquette); Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large); Paul Pisellini (Adams); Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D); Amanda Burzynski (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Bob Ellis (Waupaca); Chris Hamerla (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Diane Hanson (Marathon); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Kendra Kunding (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Dustin Ladd (Juneau).

**CALL TO ORDER:** Kilbey, acting as Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Everyone introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion made by Tomandl, seconded by Leichtnam, to approve the May 2021 Minutes was approved unanimously.

**NEW PROJECTS:** None

**GROUNDWATER PROTECTION:** Leichtnam said that he is frustrated with the failure of the Wisconsin Senate to act on the 13 water-related bills that were left hanging last year when the legislature stopped meeting, so he has moved on to make federal contact. Senator Tammy Baldwin's chief legislative assistant and another member of her staff attended the last meeting of the Wood County Groundwater Group. The multi-county groundwater group is in the process of hiring a person to collate research on groundwater issues, including PFAs and neonicotinoids.

**COUNTY AND STAFF UPDATES:**

**Hamerla:** Anna Cisar left Golden Sands RC&D. Kendra Kunding, who originally joined as a LTE, has been working with Hamerla to complete some of the work formerly done by Cisar. There is also another new LTE, Ricky Xiong, working with Hamerla. He has been working on getting commitments from various counties to continue to work with Golden Sands RC&D on aquatic invasive species (AIS) issues, so that the new grant structure from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) can be used to continue AIS work in those counties. He also reported that there is plenty of match to complete the reimbursement requests for the current grant.

**Thorstenson:** Clean Boats, Clean Waters is about halfway done for the season. All the originally hired interns are still working and will likely complete the season. She sent Buckatabon Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil for their control project.

**Burzynski:** Reported that the number of AIS and groundwater lessons taught to 5th graders this year increased. She provided 50 AIS/groundwater lessons to 1,344 students this past school year. Last year she taught 32 lessons to 1,212 students. Hernandez indicated Waushara County would like to resume groundwater lessons in the fall semester for this upcoming school year. Kilbey said Marquette County might also be interested in lessons.

**Wood:** Leichtnam said he has nothing further to report for Wood County.

**Taylor:** Tomandl said that the Taylor County Fair is happening this week. Trempealeau County is

completing its 20th year of private well water testing. Stream testing is also going well this season.

**Waupaca:** Ellis described the biggest lily pad bloom he's seen on the Chain O' Lakes in 40 years.

**Adams:** Pisellini said that the first part of the reconstruction of the Adams County Courthouse is expected to be completed in August 2021. There will be only one entrance into the building when the new section opens. Interviews for a manager for the 14 Mile Creek 9 Key Element Plan are being conducted. There is a public hearing coming up on establishing a county forest. The county will be starting its private well testing project soon.

**Marathon:** Hanson said that Marathon County is working on DNR Surface Water grant applications for two watersheds. There have also been some changes in staff.

**Juneau:** Ladd said that the Clean Sweep is going on in Juneau right now. Several dam and streambank repairs are in progress. They are starting groundwater testing for PFAs and nitrogen. A proposed 9 Key Element Plan for the Lake Redstone watershed is in progress. There is a plan to also do one for the Lemonweir River Watershed.

**Waushara:** Hernandez said that Waushara County finished this year's private well water testing and that he is working on a webinar to present results. His department is completing the revision of the county's Land and Water Resource Management Plan to present at the November 2021 Land and Water Conservation Board meeting. Conservation Field Days will be held on September 30 and October 1. The LWCD Committee is scheduled to tour various projects in September 2021. He is hoping to use some of the pandemic relief funds for different projects.

**Evans:** There are protests going on in Minnesota about Enbridge Line 3 and its potential danger to water quality on several Native American Reservations. Part of it also goes through Northern Wisconsin. Work on Enbridge Line 5, which goes further south in Wisconsin, is also planned. Landowners on Jordan Lake have sued the Town of Jackson in Adams County, claiming that when the Town raised the level of a road in 1935, it caused flooding that damaged the landowners' property. The next court activity on that case isn't set until July 2022. There is still ongoing litigation about the payment Friendship Lake District made for the dam on that lake.

**Marquette:** Kilbey said that high water levels in natural lakes in Marquette County have resulted in several complaints and pumping/drainage projects. The Healthy Lakes Program is strong, with 13 projects installed to date in 2021 and 5 more planned.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Kilbey adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans  
Recording Secretary