

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Meeting Minutes
November 18th, 2021
Online

Attendees: Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Al Barden (Member-at-Large); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Asa Plonsky (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amanda Burzynski (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Jen Schmitz (Monroe); Robert Bauer (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Hunter Hart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Sam Welch (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amalia Priest (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Jacob Fluor (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Hannah Butkiewicz (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Al Drabek (Marathon).

CALL TO ORDER: Tessmer called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion from Clendenning, seconded by Barden, to approve the minutes from the September 2021 meeting was passed.

PROJECT UPDATES:

Cooperating For Woods and Wildlife: Butkiewicz reported that meetings with landowners were held in various counties, a forest demonstration day was held, and that Golden Sands RC&D is working with partners on potential opportunities involving county-owned property in Monroe County.

Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP)/Northeast Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (NEWIP): Plonsky reported progress and activities for both groups. Invasive plant treatment was completed in Portage and Waupaca Counties. Efforts were made to promote contracted services with private landowners in both partnerships. Muir Park Invasive Plant Field Day was held on October 2nd in Montello. Outreach efforts were made at the Green Bay Botanical Garden's 25th Birthday Party on September 25th, Lakeshore Invasive Species Management Area on October 27th, and at the Lions Club Convention on November 6th in Green Bay.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Cooperative Agreements: Welch, Bauer, and Hart summarized work being done through the cooperative agreements. They have engaged a significant number of landowners in conservation practices through new conservation plans and certification of existing plans, pasture walks and grazing plans, evaluation of applications from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and other activities.

Bluebird And Bat Houses: No updates.

Tree Shelters: Burzynski reported that, despite price increases from the supplier, interest in tree shelters remains high. Butkiewicz reported that tree shelter sales for 2021 were over \$18,000, with expenses around \$16,000.

Waupaca County Conservation Field Day (WCCFD): Burzynski reported that the event was held on September 24th. Approximately 350 fifth graders participated. Special measures were developed to minimize risks of exposure to COVID.

NACD Technical Assistance Project/Managed Grazing: Priest reported that a pasture walk was held, grazing plans are being worked on, and an event is being planned for December.

NEW PROJECTS: Plonsky presented a gold sheet for a project in the NEWIP service area, which is designed to promote invasive species control, as well as habitat development for Karner Blue butterflies and other species. The total project budget is \$62,500 (\$50,000 grant). A Motion was made by Clendenning, and seconded by Drabeck, to recommend approval to the full council. Motion carried.

MEMBER REPORTS: None

OTHER BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Clendenning, second by Drabeck, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Walker
Recording Secretary