

**Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.**  
**Regular Business/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**November 18th, 2021**  
**Online**

**Attendees:** Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large); Gary Beastron (Member-at-Large); Amanda Burzynski (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Paul Pisellini (Adams); Hannah Butkiewicz (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Bob Ellis (Waupaca); Al Barden (Member-at-Large); Robert Bauer (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Al Drabek (Marathon); Jen Schmitz (Monroe); Gerry Zastrow (Portage); Anna James (Adams); Rachael Whitehair from UW-Extension in Wood County and Tyrone Larson from the NRCS in Outagamie County also attended.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President Hernandez at 11:31 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Everyone introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Rosenthal, and seconded by Barden, to approve the minutes from the September 2021 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report was emailed prior to the meeting. Dispersals and receipts were fairly routine. Information about credit card use and the endowment fund was also made available. A motion was made by Barden, and seconded by Ellis, to accept and file the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Groundwater Legislation:** Leichtnam reported that the State Senate had a hearing on November 10th about two proposed bills: Senate 677, which covers funding for a nitrate reduction pilot program and cover crop insurance and Senate 678, which is about funding for well compensation. Clean Waters, River Alliance, and the Wisconsin Farmers Union opposed these bills because they do not provide adequate safeguards and funding for the programs covered. Those organizations have suggested a better strategy would be to approve, fund, and implement the revised NR151.

**Wisconsin RC&D Update:** The State RC&D met in October and will meet again on January 18th, 2022, at 1 p.m. in Birnamwood, WI.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**IRS Form 990:** The form was made available. There was an approximate \$80,000 increase in revenue. However, expenses were also greater due to a staff increase. The 990 showed a negative balance of \$9,304. Some, or all of this, was likely due to a delay from receiving reimbursements.

**50th Anniversary Planning:** Butkiewicz discussed ideas for the celebration. Ideas include a “picnic in the park” at Riverfront Park in Stevens Point. Events for both children and adults will be planned. Activity contests should start in January or February 2022. There will be music at the event, as well as games and perhaps a beer and wine tasting. It is hoped that these activities will help spread the word about Golden Sands RC&D’s services. Anyone who wants to be a part of the planning committee should contact Butkiewicz or Thorstenson. Clendenning asked if donations for these activities would be tax-deductible. It was determined that donations would be deductible if there aren’t any services provided in return (such as free advertising, etc).

**Supporting SB 346 regarding Wild Parsnip:** This bill supports funding for fighting wild parsnip and assigning the Natural Heritage Conservation Bureau with responsibility for control/eradication actions, which include: mapping, controlling, eradicating, monitoring, and minimizing its spread. A motion was made by Clendenning, and seconded by Zastrow, to forward the resolution in support for this bill. Motion carried unanimously.

**2022 Meeting Dates:** The meetings were set for January 20th, March 17th, May 19th, July 21st, September 15th, and November 17th.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Personnel/Finance Committee Report:** Evans reported that the committee approved raising the capitalized asset limit from \$500 to \$5,000. This does not change how Golden Sands RC&D conducts business, but will save money by not requiring accountant time for purchases up to \$4999. Walker is the new state RC&D president. Committee members previously approved the purchase of a boat. That purchase has been completed and is in temporary storage. Staff are searching for a ground-level storage unit that’s large enough to store the boat and other items that are currently in a second-story unit. Various options for Paid Time Off were discussed and one was approved. Butkiewicz will make the appropriate changes on the policy/personnel manual and forward it to P/F committee members for final language approval. Thorstenson is almost done with the latest newsletter.

**Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report:** Walker reported that several outreach events took place for the Central Wisconsin Invasive Species Partnership and the Northeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Partnership (NEWIP). Three Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Co-employment staff members have engaged a significant number of landowners in conservation practices. Although tree shelter prices have increased, orders are still coming in. About 350 fifth grade students attended the Waupaca County Conservation Field Day. Managed grazing plans are still being written. A pasture walk is scheduled for December. A discussion occurred about incorporating invasive species issues into forestry and agriculture management plans.

**Water Committee Report:** Evans reported that Butkiewicz talked about expanding Golden Sands RC&D’s services to include writing Lake Management and 9 Key Element Plans. Invoices will be sent to the lake groups that worked with Golden Sands RC&D on the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program this summer. High nitrate levels in subdivision wells around Grand Rapids in Wood County have recently been discovered. An applicant has been offered the position of manager for the 14-Mile Creek Watershed 9 Key Element Plan. There has been a higher level of aquatic plant growth in the Chain O’ Lakes this year. Goats are being used to help control buckthorn in

Taylor County. Waushara County will be presenting its Soil and Water Resource Management Plan to the Natural Resources Board next week. Adams County has combined its Land & Water Conservation Department and Planning/Zoning Department. An aquatic plant survey report for Peppermill Lake is being finalized. Portage County recently passed a wellhead protection ordinance that had previously failed to pass. The discovery of phragmites was found in Wood County. There are several problems connected to lake levels in Buffalo Lake. Green Lake will be installing a boat wash station.

#### **NEW PROJECTS:**

Butkiewicz presented the gold sheet for the 2022 NEWIP GLRI. This project will help to improve habitat for wildlife (including the endangered Karner blue butterfly) and reduce the spread of terrestrial invasive plants in Waupaca, Outagamie, Winnebago, Brown Counties. The total cost is expected to be about \$62,500, with \$50,000 coming from a grant. This project is expected to start on April 1st, 2022. A motion was made by Evans, and seconded by Barden to approve the project. Motion carried unanimously.

Butkiewicz presented the gold sheet for the 50th Anniversary Celebration. The Personnel/Finance Committee already approved the use of \$5000 from council funds, but the full council needed to vote on it as well. A motion was made by Evans, and seconded by Barden, to approve this project. Motion carried unanimously.

**STAFF/PROJECT UPDATES:** Staff reports were sent out electronically before the meeting.

#### **AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS:**

Whitehair, from UW-Extension in Wood County, is new to the area and wanted to join the meeting because they had heard good things about Golden Sands RC&D.

Larson, from the NRCS in Outagamie County, reported that a new NRCS Co-employment staff member started last week and is already setting up soil demonstrations. November 19th is the first deadline for EQIP fund applications.

**OTHER REPORTS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Barden, and seconded by Leichtnam, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans  
Recording Secretary