

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Meeting Minutes
May 20th, 2021
Online via Zoom

Attendees: Al Barden (Member-at-Large); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Hannah Butkiewicz (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Asa Plonsky (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amanda Burzynski (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Rachel Bouressa (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Jen Schmitz (Monroe); Al Drabek (Marathon).

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

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

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

PROJECT UPDATES:

Cooperating For Woods and Wildlife/Demonstration Forests: Butkiewicz reported that she has continued to work with landowners in the program, and is encouraging landowners to participate in existing cooperatives and programs. Due to her new responsibilities as the Executive Director, a new employee, Jason Fluor, has been hired to help with this program.

Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP)/Northeast Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (NEWIP): Plonsky reported that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant applications have been submitted and additional grant applications are being worked on for both groups. CWIP met on April 6th. Field season control work is underway, which includes: a work day with 13 volunteers at a Portage County site and consulting work with a private landowner in Wood County. NEWIP met April 8th. A June 3rd meeting is planned. A work day with six participants was held. NEWIP now has a Facebook presence and a website. Plonsky encouraged members to "Like" the Facebook page.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Cooperative Agreements: Butkiewicz reported that new employees have been hired for the NRCS offices in Medford and Westfield.

Bluebird And Bat Houses: No updates.

Tree Shelters: Burzynski reported that 23 orders have been received, the largest of which was about \$3,200. The supplier is out of stock on some sizes. Availability has been updated on Golden Sand's website.

Waupaca County Conservation Field Day (WCCFD): : Burzynski reported that planning is underway for an in-person event to be held September 24th, with a severe weather date of Oct 1st.

NACD Technical Assistance Project/Managed Grazing: Bouressa reported that she is working on new and existing managed grazing plans and that she is planning upcoming pasture walks. Anyone interested in hosting a pasture walk should contact Bouressa.

Little Plover River Appreciation Field Day: Burzynski said that Golden Sands hopes to hold it in 2022 and that funding is being sought.

STEVENS POINT AREA NEIGHBORHOOD GARDENS (SPANG): Burzynski reported that both sites are full for 2021 and volunteer site captains are in place.

NEW PROJECTS: None

MEMBER REPORTS: None

OTHER BUSINESS: Butkiewicz reported that cooperation with CREATE Portage County may result in greater recognition for our organization and theirs, as well as potentially creating some fund-raising activities.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Walker, second by Barden, to adjourn at 10:35 am. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Walker
Recording Secretary