

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Waters Committee Meeting Minutes
November 18th, 2021
Online

Attendees: Paul Pisellini (Adams); Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Kendra Kunding (Golden Sands RC&D); Hannah Butkiewicz (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Bob Ellis (Waupaca); Chris Hamerla (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large); Gerry Zastrow (Portage); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Anna James (Adams); Bill Clendenning (Wood).

CALL TO ORDER: Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: No introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Pisellini, and seconded by Ellis, to approve the September 2021 Minutes. Motion was approved unanimously.

NEW PROJECTS: Butkiewicz talked about expanding Golden Sands RC&D's services to include writing Lake Management and 9 Key Element Plans. She also wants to increase the use of groundwater and aquatic invasive species (AIS) lessons in schools.

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION: 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 don't 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. The multi-county groundwater coalition is planning a full-day water symposium and several shorter educational programs.

COUNTY AND STAFF UPDATES:

Marquette: Buffalo Lake applied to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to be allowed to raise the dam operating levels. It was also discovered that areas of the dam and spillway are crumbling so repairs are needed. There is a plan to rebuild the spillway to handle a 500-year flood because there have been several instances when flooding has occurred. The county's lake group has a new leader.

Adams: The county combined its Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) and Planning/Zoning Department. Evans is finalizing the results and report of the most recent aquatic plant survey for Peppermill Lake. She is working with the Arkdale Lake District to prepare a Boating & Recreational Facilities grant application that's due on February 1st, 2022, for dredging the boat ramp and navigational channel. An offer has been made to fill the position for managing the 9 Key Element Plan. James finished drafting the recommendations for beach clubs on the Tri-Lakes to deal with shore issues and is also working on setting up AIS workshops for 2022.

Waushara: The LWCD will be presenting its Soil and Water Resource Management Plan to the Natural Resources Board next week. They are wrapping up fall activities and are also discussing how to use some of the pandemic funds that were received.

Waupaca: Ellis received several complaints about the higher level of aquatic plant growth in the Chain O' Lakes.

Taylor: The LWCD is finishing up fall outdoor activities. Goats are being used again to help control invasive species such as buckthorn. The county's tree sale is ongoing.

Wood: Leichtnam mentioned that high nitrate levels in subdivision wells around Grand Rapids have recently been discovered. Clendenning has been knocking on doors in that area to gain more samples.

Portage: The Board recently passed a wellhead protection ordinance that had previously failed to pass.

Kundinger/Hamerla: They are wrapping up the outdoor season. Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) mapping was done on two lakes. Phragmites was discovered in Wood County. They will be finishing up the old regional AIS grant before the end of the year. Hamerla discussed the purchase of a boat. He announced that Green Lake will now install a boat washing station, which was the project that Anna Cisar was working to complete before leaving Golden Sands RC&D.

Thorstenson: Invoices will be sent soon to the lake groups that worked with Golden Sands RC&D on the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program this summer.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Leichtnam, and seconded by Tomandl, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans
Recording Secretary