

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

Attendees: Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large); Al Barden (Member-at-Large); Gary Beastro (Member-at-Large); Amanda Burzynski (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Pat Kilbey (Marquette); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Paul Pisellini (Adams); Hannah Butkiewicz (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Kyle Kettner (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Bob Ellis (Waupaca); Darren Schroeder (Columbia); Robert Ashbeck (Wood); Sam Welch (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Merlin Becker (Member-at-Large); Al Drabek (Marathon); Diane Hanson (Marathon); Dustin Ladd (Juneau); Gerry Zastrow (Portage).

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Hernandez at 11:17 am

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Leichtnam,, seconded by Tomandl, to approve the minutes from the May 2021 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report for the past two months was passed around. Hilgart indicated dispersals and receipts were mostly standard for this time of year. Motion made by Evans, seconded by Tomandl, to accept and file the treasurer's reports. Motion carried unanimously

OLD BUSINESS:

Groundwater Legislation: Leichtnam reported that he had gotten frustrated with the lack of activity by the State Senate and its failure to take up water-related bills that were pending when things were suspended for the pandemic. He contacted Federal Senator Tammy Baldwin's office and two members of her staff and attended a meeting of the multi-county groundwater group.

Golden Sands RC&D Voluntary Membership Dues: Butkiewicz reported that all members have paid towards their membership fees except for one corporate member. The amount received is within \$8 of what was estimated in the budget for 2021.

NEW BUSINESS:

Group Benefits: The switch from Anthem to Hartford STD/LTD, Life, and AD&D insurance is almost done. All full-time employees have filled out the necessary paperwork.

50th Anniversary Planning: 2022 will be the 50th Anniversary for Golden Sands RC&D. Ideas for the celebration were discussed, including: a t-shirt design contest, a photo contest, a video contest, and a wine tasting. There may need to be two events with one being focused on the contests and younger crowd and other one directed towards adults and potential donors. Anyone who is interested in helping with planning should contact Butkiewicz.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel/Finance Committee Report: Evans reported on the meeting. Hilgart passed out the treasurer's report, along with separate sheets outlining credit card specifics. Several orders for tree shelters were received. Some orders for Plantra products had to be refunded because items became unavailable due to the pandemic. The commercial loan account was closed by the bank, so alternatives are being investigated. All members have paid something towards their membership fees except for one corporate member. The switch for various employee benefits from Anthem to Hartford is almost done and all full-time employees have filled out the necessary paperwork. Three people still have not signed the conflict of interest policy. The 2020 Highlights were recently sent out. A July newsletter is being planned. 2022 will be the 50th Anniversary for Golden Sands RC&D. Ideas for its celebration were discussed.

Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report: Butkiewicz reported on the meeting. There are no new projects. For the Cooperating For Woods and Wildlife program, contacts are being made with landowners to gather interest in education about habitat management. There are deer habitat management meetings set up in six counties in August. Two Demonstration Forest events are happening in Adams and Taylor. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grants have been submitted for more invasive species work. Two new Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) co-employee introduced themselves. An application was recently submitted to fund future NRCS cooperative agreements. If funded, this project would provide \$4.8 million in funding, for over four years, to support various staff. Nothing new about bluebird and bat houses. There were about \$23,800 in tree shelter sales this season. The in person Waupaca County Conservation Field Day (WCCFD) is set for September 24th, with a severe weather date for October 1st. With the increased activity in requests for grazing plans, more funding is being sought. Additional funding for the Little Plover River Appreciation Day is being sought. There is a work day planned for the Cornell/Whitney Community garden July 24th, with a rain date of July 25th.

Water Committee Report: Kilbey reported on today's meeting. There weren't any new projects. Leichtnam gave an update on various water-related legislation issues. He is frustrated with the lack of action by the state senate, so he reached out to Federal Senator Tammy Baldwin's office. The multi-county groundwater group hired a person to collate water-related research. Thorstenson said that the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program is halfway through its season. She provided weevils to attack Eurasian Watermilfoil in Buckatabon Lake. Burzynski provided 50 aquatic invasive species (AIS) and groundwater lessons to 1,344 5th graders, which was a significant increase from last year. Tomandl reported that the Trempealeau County Fair is going on and that there is a LWCD booth there. The county is starting its 20th year of private well water testing. Ellis described a big lily pad bloom on the Chain O' Lakes this year, which is the largest he has seen in 40 years. Pisellini indicated that Adams County is interviewing for a manager for its nine Key Element 14 Mile Creek plan. There is a hearing on a planned county forest. The first phase of courthouse remodeling should be done in August. Private well testing will be starting up soon. Hanson said her department is working on lake grant applications for two watersheds. Ladd announced that its clean sweep program is happening. Dam and streambank repairs are ongoing. Testing for PFAs and nitrogen in the groundwater is occurring. Work on a nine Key Element Plan for Lake Redstone is in progress and one for the Lemonweir watershed is planned. According to Hernandez, Waushara has completed its private well water testing for this year and is putting together a webinar. A tour by the LWCD is scheduled for

September. Kilbey outlined 12-18 Healthy Lakes Projects in Marquette County this year. Lake levels are still high. Evans talked about protests going on for Enbridge lines that go through Minnesota and Wisconsin. The Town of Jackson has been sued by people owning property on Jordan Lake, claiming property damage from the high lake level. Litigation about payment for the Friendship Lake Dam is still in progress. She is working on a lake grant application with Arkdale Lake District. Portage County hired an engineer to look at a groundwater/CAFO issue in Nelsonville. The county is also looking at mapping nitrogen concentrations in groundwater.

NEW PROJECTS: None

STAFF/PROJECT UPDATES: Staff reports were sent out before the meeting via email. Paper copies are available today.

AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS: None

OTHER REPORTS: Butkiewicz discussed her desire to lengthen the amount of time allotted for the Personal/Finance Committee. The same overall time frame could be followed if the P/F Committee meeting went from 9 am to 10:30 am, the committee meetings went from 10:30 am to 11:30 am, with the regular business meeting went from 11:30 am to 1 pm. Rescheduling will start for the September meeting by consensus.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Barden, seconded by Kilbey, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:52 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans
Recording Secretary