

**Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.**  
**Regular Business/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**September 16th, 2021**  
**Jordan County Park's East Pavilion/Online**

**Attendees:** Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Gary Beastro (Member-at-Large); Diane Hanson (Marathon); 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); Darren Schroeder (Columbia); Scott Wilhorn (Juneau); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Bob Ellis (Waupaca); Shane Wucherpennig (Wood); Asa Plonsky (Golden Sands RC&D Staff).

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President Hernandez.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Everyone introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion made by Clendenning, seconded by Barden, to approve the minutes from the July 2021 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report was emailed prior to the meeting. Hilgart discussed the beginning and ending balances for each of the organization's accounts. She then summarized the Endowment Fund. Motion made by Clendenning, seconded by Wucherpennig, to accept and file the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Groundwater Legislation:** Leitchnam expressed concern about groundwater legislation. A virtual meeting occurred with Senator Tammy Baldwin and Congressman Ron Kind.

**Wisconsin RC&D Update:** Butkiewicz announced that Walker volunteered to be the President of the State Association. Butkiewicz also mentioned that Golden Sands RC&D can have three representatives and that there is still one spot open. Contact Butkiewicz if you're interested in being a representative.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**50th Anniversary Planning:** Thorstenson talked about ideas for the celebration and asked for volunteers to join the planning committee. A discussion followed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Personnel/Finance Committee Report:** Hanson reported that the committee discussed pay increases, purchasing a boat, paid time off/holiday use, and a document retention policy. The committee made a change to the project approval process. There will be a \$5000 or more threshold for bringing Gold Sheets to future Council meetings, which will make approvals more efficient and timely.

**Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report:** Walker reported that forest demonstration days have been held and upcoming forest demonstrations are being planned for the Cooperating for Woods and Wildlife project. There is an upcoming field day and workday

planned for the Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP). A workshop was held and promotional brochures were created for the Northeast Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (NEWIP). CRP enrollments are underway and a demonstration field day was held. Interest continues to be seen for tree shelters. The Waupaca County Conservation Field Day (WCCFD) will be held on September 24th or, if needed due to hazardous weather, October 1st. Special measures have been developed to minimize risks of exposure to COVID. A Managed Grazing grant application was completed and a workshop was held. The Stevens Point Area Neighborhood Gardens (SPANG) had a successful year, with both gardens at full capacity. Interest has already been expressed for 2022. Butkiewicz reported that two employees have accepted positions with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

**Water Committee Report:** Rosenthal reported the new aquatic invasive species (AIS) grant program, which starts this upcoming year, was discussed. Hamerla indicated that he may not be able to provide the same types of services that he was able to in previous years due to the new funding.

### **NEW PROJECTS:**

Four gold sheets were brought forward.

Thorstenson presented the gold sheet for the NACD TA 2021 MOA. This is a continuation of the previous NACD Technical Assistance agreements and will continue providing grazing plans, pasture walks, and will now include soils walks as well. The total project budget is \$125,088 (\$99,874 MOA funds, \$25,214 match).

Butkiewicz presented the gold sheet for the 2022 LMPN Regional AIS Program. This project provides technical and educational support to counties and lake groups, with a focus on preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. The total project budget is \$159,088.42.

Plonsky reported on two new projects. The first one is for the NEWIP Sustain our Great Lakes 2021 project. The project will work on lands surrounding Mud Lake to conduct habitat assessments, monitor and control invasive species, and provide educational outreach and land management guidance to landowners. The total project budget is \$6,907.62. The second one is for the CWIP Sustain our Great Lakes 2021 project. The project will work in several counties to conduct habitat assessments, monitor and control invasive species, and provide educational outreach and land management guidance to landowners. The total project budget is \$22,819.87.

A motion carried unanimously to approve the four new projects.

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

**AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS:** None

**OTHER REPORTS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Burzynski  
Temporary Recording Secretary