

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Waters Committee Meeting Minutes
January 19th, 2023
Online

Attendees: Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Shane Wucherpennig (Member-at-Large); Chris Hamerla (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Kendra Kunding (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Colton Wolosek (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Todd Morris (Green Lake).

CALL TO ORDER: Tomandl called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Leichtnam, which was seconded by Rosenthal, to approve the November 2022 Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW PROJECTS: N/A

COUNTY AND STAFF UPDATES:

Hamerla: Reported that the Lake Monitoring and Protection Network (LMPN) 2022 reporting was being completed and that 2023 funding was secured. 2023 Wetlands Conference is February 21st-23rd in Stevens Point. He will be attending and Golden Sands RC&D will have an educational booth. There is a Pet Surrender Event at Schmeckle Reserve on February 25th; Golden Sands RC&D will co-host.

Kunding: Reported that the 2022 LMPN funding was being wrapped up and the 2023 funding was awarded. Project summaries will be going out to counties and partners.

Thorstenson: Reported that she is drafting project renewals for recurring CBCW (Clean Boats, Clean Waters) contracts. She will share position announcements when they are ready.

Wolosek: Reported he is doing AIS planning. Specifically, he is doing outreach to increase involvement with Project RED (Riverine Early Detection). He is also looking to see if there are AIS opportunities in some of the Southern partnering counties in dealing with common carp issues.

Green Lake: Morris reported that they are doing a lot of water quality project planning. They are doing 9 Key Element funding planning. The boat wash station water well is complete and the pad to park the portable wash station is scheduled to be poured. The wash station unit is ready to go.

Marquette: Rosenthal reported that the Marquette County Lakes Association was moving forward and had good energy from the new leaders. The county is moving forward with nitrate testing. The county budget worked out so employees raises will be an option and furlough days should be avoided.

Taylor: Tomandl reported that the tree sale went very well and the county engineer is busy planning new projects.

Waushara: Hernandez reported that they partnered with the Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance, under a subaward from the USDA, to hire 4-5 agronomists. Still looking into involvement with the farm network, no-till drill, and cover crops. Their groundwater testing is complete. They plan to do follow up testing on private wells which tested >10 PPM. Tests will continue for the next five years to develop a long term trend. Cost of these tests will be covered. Hernandez also shared that their Inner Agency meeting will be held January 26th in Wautoma. Additional news about groundwater will be shared. Katrina Shankland plans to attend (in person or virtually).

Wood: Wucherpennig reported that the tree sale is final. They typically sell approximately 20,000 trees. They had issues with some varieties selling out or were not available. The five year nitrate study is complete and will be sharing results. The county is applying for funding to continue their 9 Key Element plan as they move into their 4th year. They are part of the 6 county collaborative for groundwater nitrates. The data is final and a report is coming out soon. A public meeting is scheduled for sometime between March 9th through early April. They hope to work with USGS to keep the dataset together in order to continue to build on that baseline in future years.

Leichtnam reported that the political priority of groundwater didn't look good right now, as comments varied, based on communications with Representatives Rozar and Krug. Flat tax proposal is a much higher priority. He also mentioned ARPA money available right now for citizens with contaminated wells.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Leichtnam, which was seconded by Rosenthal, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hamerla
Temporary Recording Secretary