

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Waters Committee Meeting Minutes
January 18th, 2024
Wood County River Block/Online

Attendees: Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large); Gary Beastrom (Member-at-Large); Jennifer Glad (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Chris Hamerla (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Shane Wucherpennig (Member-at-Large); Andrew Senderhauf (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Kendra Kunding (Wood).

CALL TO ORDER: Tomandl called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Leichtnam, which was seconded by Wucherpennig, to approve the November 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW PROJECTS: None.

COUNTY AND STAFF UPDATES:

Hamerla: He and the new AIS Coordinator are working on activities under the 2024 AIS funding and preparing the 2023 reimbursement. The reports for 2023 activities will be sent to the respective counties and the WDNR. 2024 AIS work will cover 12 counties.

Senderhauf: He introduced himself as the new AIS Coordinator and outlined his background. He will be covering the southern counties for AIS while Hamerla will serve the northern counties.

Glad: Indicated she wants to expand water-related contracted services, especially for aquatic plant management plans. The WDNR is currently requiring updated APM plans for grantees to be eligible for any AIS treatment. Golden Sands RC&D is having to turn down requests right now due to lack of needed staff.

Gurklis: Glad reported for Amanda Gurklis. AIS & Groundwater lessons are being scheduled. There is a wait list already for AIS lessons.

Adams: Evans reported that the county tree sale is ongoing. The LWCD office has gone through several changes and has become part of the Planning & Zoning Department.

Marathon: Beastrom reported that snowmobile trails are not open yet. PFAs are a hot topic in the county. The county tree sale is ongoing.

Taylor: Tomandl reported that the county tree sale is ongoing. Nutrient management plans are being worked on.

Waushara: Hernandez reported that a new county conservationist was hired since Hernandez has retired. The county may be hiring an agronomist.

Wood:

Kundinger reported that Nepco Lake formed a lake district. It is working on a lake management plan that will include monitoring and protection actions. Nutrient management classes are being held at several places in the county.

Wucherpennig reported that \$600,000 was gained for the Mill Creek Watershed TMDL. Four years of groundwater testing has been completed. There are about \$1,200 in funds remaining that can be used for well nitrate testing. His office is now trying to determine what can be done with the identified high nitrate areas. UW Extension has hired a groundwater educator.

Leichtnam reported that Senate Bill 58 was recently voted out of the Senate Agriculture and Tourism Committee and now can be scheduled for consideration by the Wisconsin Senate. He hopes that Golden Sands RC&D will consider sending a letter or resolution of support for this bill. He believes this bill may make it to the governor for signing because several legislators have indicated support for it. He announced that the 6-county Central Sands Groundwater Counties Collaborative is still active. The Wood County Citizens Water Group will be holding a panel presentation titled "The Future of Clean Drinking Water in the Central Sands" at 6 p.m. on March 18th, at the McMillan Library in Wisconsin Rapids. There will be four panelists. A question-and-answer period will follow, conducted by the Wisconsin Rapids League of Women Voters. One of the panel members will be Katie Rosenberg, Mayor of Wausau. She was successful in gaining \$17.5 billion to build a PFA treatment facility. This facility will start operation once a new filtration system is installed.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Wucherpennig, which was seconded by Beastron, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans
Recording Secretary