

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Regular Business/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
March 16th, 2023
Wood County River Block/Online

Attendees: Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Gary Beastro (Member-at-Large); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Kendra Kundinger (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amanda Burzynski (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Al Drabek (Marathon); Brooke Sperberg (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Steve Bradley (Portage); Shane Wucherpennig (Member-at-Large); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large); Jenn Chakravorty (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Nicole Rayome (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Diane Hanson (Marathon).

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Hernandez at 11:22 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Tomandl, which was seconded by Clendenning, to approve the minutes from the January 2023 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was emailed prior to this meeting. Dispersals and receipts were routine. Information on the credit card use was also made available. Invoices for the members of Golden Sands RC&D were sent out. Adams County, Juneau County, Monroe County, Wood County, and the Wisconsin Farmers Union have not paid dues for this year. Marquette, Portage, and Waushara Counties paid less than the full amount. A reminder will be sent to the counties who have not paid dues. A motion was made by Clendenning, which was seconded by Walker, to accept and file the treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin sent a letter and information on the Endowment Fund Golden Sands RC&D has. There was an overall loss of \$4,745.87 for 2022, resulting in a drop in market value from \$29,899.05 to \$25,153.19. However, there is a distribution amount available that Golden Sands RC&D could draw of \$1,169.96. A motion was made by Evans, which was seconded by Wucherpennig, to reinvest the distribution amount into the Endowment Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Groundwater Legislation: Leichtnam reported that nothing has gone on legislatively recently. The Wood County citizen groundwater group will meet next Monday with Representative Katrina Shankland to develop a plan for meeting with Wisconsin legislators on April 25th. On April 6th, the 6-county groundwater consortium will be sponsoring a public presentation (from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at 480 Underwood Avenue in Montello). The results of a three year study about nitrates and PFAs in Central Sands groundwater will be discussed, as well as plans for addressing the issues. Attendance online will be available for those who cannot attend in person.

NEW BUSINESS:

Conflict of Interest Policy: Board members and officers need to sign a copy of Golden Sands RC&D's Conflict of Interest policy. This is required by the 990-tax form.

2022 Overhead and Administrative Actuals: A sheet comparing 2022 overhead actuals to the proposed 2022 budget was made available to attendees. Kundinger explained there was a negative balance of \$8,453 between the actuals and estimated budget amounts and some reasons for the differences.

2023 Proposed Overhead and Administrative Budget: Kundinger presented the proposed 2023 overhead and administration budget and explained some of the entries. The gross revenue is expected to be over \$1 million for 2023. A motion was made by Walker, which was seconded by Tomandl, to approve the proposed budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution on 2023 Farm Bill: Sperberg presented a proposed resolution about the upcoming 2023 Farm Bill. Currently, its draft proposes that more money go to conservation activities, including some for actions such as urban agriculture. Federal discussion has just started and is expected to last several months. Sperberg asked council members to review the proposed resolution and contact her with any suggestions or changes. The updated draft will be presented at the May 2023 council meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel/Finance Committee Report: Evans reported that the treasurer's report was voted to be sent on to the full council. The committee voted to recommend reinvestment of the endowment fund distributions available and sent the decision on to the full council. The actuals for the 2022 overhead and administration budget were reviewed. Committee members voted unanimously to send the proposed 2023 budget on to the full council with a recommendation for approval. Kundinger discussed templates she had drafted for officer and board positions, as well as other positions that might need a similar document. The idea was to outline the duties and expectations for each position so that future members could have a better idea about each position. The 2022 Highlights draft is being reviewed. Thorstenson sent out the February newsletter and expects the March one to go out next week. Honoring Al Barden was also discussed. An invoice for the National RC&D dues was received.

Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report: Walker reported that the proposal farm bill resolution was discussed and was sent on to the full council. Fluor updated the committee on recent activities of the two terrestrial invasive species groups. Several NRCS Co-employment staff introduced themselves and described their duties. Invitations have gone out for the Neighborhood Gardens in Stevens Point. Golden Sands RC&D is looking into a NACD technical assistance project, which might include some financing for grazing plans. The committee voted to send a proposed new project to the full council for review.

Water Committee Report: The Waters Committee heard from Hamerla, who indicated that the AIS Coordinators had been making several outreach appearances at various events. The grant reimbursement request for last year's AIS grant was sent to the WI DNR for review and payment. Hiring for Clean Boats, Clean Waters is ongoing. AIS staff participated at several events.

Leichtnam talked about the upcoming presentation on Nitrate and PFAS in Central Sands. County reports were made. There were no new projects to consider.

NEW PROJECTS: Kunding discussed the new project, that involves a contract with Grassworks, to hire a part-time Regenerative Agriculture Specialist. This would be a joint project with Golden Sands RC&D and Lumberjack RC&D in the Great Lakes Basin. The total projected cost is \$140,250. A motion was made by Walker, which was seconded by Beastrom, to approve the project. The approval was unanimous.

STAFF/PROJECT UPDATES: Staff reports were sent out electronically before the meeting.

AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS: None

OTHER BUSINESS: None

NEXT MEETING: The May 25th meeting will be in Wood County at the River Block Building.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans
Recording Secretary