

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

Attendees: Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Gary Beastro (Member-at-Large); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Jacob Fluor (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amanda Gurklis (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D); Shane Wucherpfennig (Member-at-Large); Jennifer Glad (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Chris Hamerla (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Morgan Jansen (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Kendra Kunding (Wood); Kevin Munkwitz (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Andrew Senderhauf (Golden Sands RC&D Staff).

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Hernandez at 11:03 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Hilgart presented the treasurer's report for November and December 2023. Balance in the Associate Bank checking account at the end of December 2023 was \$5,654.99. Most expenses are paid from this account. The ending balance for the Associated Bank money market account was \$322,431.40. The ending balance for the Associated Bank savings account was \$56,362.70. The Simplicity Bank account ended with a balance of \$151,845.31. The Simplicity Bank savings account has an ending balance of \$100.02. A motion was made by Walker, which was seconded by Clendenning, to accept and file the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Groundwater Legislation: Leichtnam passed out a sheet outlining the chronology so far for Senate Bill 58. It was recently voted out of the Senate Agriculture and Tourism Committee and now can be scheduled for consideration by the Wisconsin Senate. He asked that Golden Sands RC&D consider sending a letter or resolution of support for this bill. Golden Sands RC&D staff will work with him to draft a resolution for consideration for the March council meeting.

He also passed out a document for the 6-county Central Sands Groundwater Collaborative. 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.

WI RC&D Association Update: Walker announced that the next meeting is set for next week.

Outagamie County: The county sent an email indicating it was transferring to Glacierland RC&D. Despite requests, no further information was provided.

2024 Meetings: Room 206 in the Wood County River Block building has been reserved for all 2024 meetings. Glad suggested that, if possible, the March meeting could be held at the Hancock Agricultural Research Building and that the July meeting could be held at the Mead Wildlife Refuge.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review of 2023 Council Delegates: Thorstensen asked that attendees review the list of 2023 Council delegates.

2024 Overhead/Administrative Budget: A draft 2024 overhead and administrative budget was presented by Glad. She explained that the budget was balanced before Golden Sands RC&D received word that, due to its steady employment and operation during the COVID epidemic, the organization should be receiving a one-time payment of later this year. Glad and the staff have prepared a suggested allotment of most of these funds, with an emphasis on the long-term development of Golden Sands RC&D.

2024 Membership Dues: Invoices for 2024 dues will be sent out soon. The suggested amount for counties is \$1,900 while the suggested amount for organizations is \$350.

Special Election for President: Ed Hernandez resigned as Council President. During the Personnel/Finance Committee meeting, the committee recommended that Shane Wucherpfennig be elected to fill that position until the end of Hernandez's term. Wucherpfennig agreed to accept that position. A motion was made by Hernandez, which was seconded by Walker, to elect Wucherpfennig as Golden Sands RC&D's President to complete Hernandez' term. Motion carried unanimously. Hilgart asked if Wucherpfennig should be added as a signatory for Golden Sands RC&D's bank accounts. After a short discussion, the Council unanimously voted to omit the resigned Ed Hernandez and then return to only 2 signatories; leaving Denise Hilgart (Administrative Manager/ Finance Director) and Gary Beastrom (Golden Sands RC&D Board Treasurer) maintained on all of the bank accounts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel/Finance Committee Report: Evans reported on the meeting. The P/F Committee voted to send the Treasurer's Report to the full council for consideration. Golden Sands RC&D has served as fiscal sponsors for several community non-profits and still does so. However, two organizations have been dissolved. After some discussion, the P/F Committee voted to transfer any remaining funds for those organizations into an account for the Water Appreciation Day. The Friends of Mill Creek is still under fiscal sponsorship and recently paid a 5% administration fee for services. A 5% administration fee will be charged annually for organizations covered by Golden Sands RC&D's fiscal sponsorship. Three new people were hired. There are still six full-time positions and about ten part-time positions to be filled in the next few months. Evans gave an update on honoring Al Barden. She has been working with Eagle River to determine options available. Thorstenson reported that a newsletter went out last month and the one for this month is being worked on. Glad announced that she received a scholarship for a series of trainings as part of the Nonprofit Leadership Institute.

Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report: Walker reported on the meeting. Planning for forestry events is in progress while 2023 projects are being wrapped up. Fluor reported on the terrestrial invasive groups. There are still some outstanding demonstration forest issues to be dealt with. Several NRCS reports on various topics were presented at this meeting. Information about tree shelters for this year is going to be sent out. A full-time coordinator for the neighborhood gardens is being hired. Work for NACD 2023 is being wrapped up and prairie walks are being planned. This committee has two new projects for the full council to consider.

Water Committee Report: Evans reported on the meeting. Hamerla and Senderhauf reported on the upcoming 2024 AIS projects and are also finishing reporting for 2023. Senderhauf introduced himself as the new AIS Coordinator. Hamerla will cover most of the northern counties with Senderhauf covering the southern counties. Glad noted that she is hoping that Golden Sands RC&D can expand its contracted services, since it is currently having to turn inquiries away. There is an especially large demand for aquatic plant management plans. AIS & Groundwater lessons are being scheduled. County reports were given. The Water Committee had no new projects.

NEW PROJECTS:

- The Monarch & Pollinator Habitat Collaboration involves a wide range of partners. The project goal is to restore and enhance a total of 1,000 acres of habitat for monarchs, as well as other threatened and endangered species.
- The NACD TA 2024 project is for the continuation of previous NACD Technical Assistance projects in Golden Sands RC&D's service area.

A motion was made by Evans, which was seconded by Walker, to approve the new projects.
Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF/PROJECT UPDATES: Staff reports were sent out prior to the meeting and paper copies were available during the meeting.

AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS: None

OTHER BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. upon a motion that was made by Clendenning and seconded by Walker.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans
Recording Secretary