

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Regular Business/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
March 21st, 2024
Hancock Agricultural Research Station/Online

Attendees: Gary Beastrom (Member-at-Large); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Jacob Fluor (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); 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); Jennifer Glad (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Asher Maliepaard (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Erin Richards (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Kevin Munkwitz (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Dave Benson (Marquette); Steve Bradley (Portage); Al Drabek (Marathon); Brian Haase (Waupaca); Todd Morris (Green Lake); Shannon Rohde (CWWP); Josh Saykally (Waushara); Jodi Schappe (Adams); Colton Wolosek (Adams).

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Vice President Walker at 11:00 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Leichtnam, which was seconded by Tomandl, to approve the January 2024 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Information will be available at the next council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Groundwater Legislation: Leichtnam announced that the Wisconsin Legislature will not be in session again until January 2025. The legislature adjourned before taking any action on water-related bills. He announced that the Wood County Citizens Water Group panel presentation titled "The Future of Clean Drinking Water in the Central Sands" was held on March 18th, at the McMillan Library in Wisconsin Rapids. There were four panelists. The session lasted over 2 hours.

WI RC&D Association Update: Walker announced that the next state RC&D meeting will be held in April 2024. He is the current state president but will be stepping down. He invited anyone who is interested in participating in the state RC&D council to contact him. There are four state members: Glacierland; Golden Sands; Lumberjack; and River Country.

NEW BUSINESS:

2023 Overhead Actuals: Information will be available at the next council meeting.

2024 Overhead/Administrative Budget: The 2024 overhead and administrative budget is available upon request. The proposed use of the Employee Retention Credit is outlined on the budget sheet.

Conflict of Interest Policy: Glad reminded council members that a copy of the Conflict of Interest policy must be signed and submitted by council members every two years. Copies of the policy were made available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel/Finance Committee Report: Evans reported on the meeting. The committee voted to reinvest the funds that accumulated in 2023 from the Endowment Fund. Glad noted that apparel and office furnishings, listed to be paid from the Employee Retention Fund, were purchased. Other items, such as additional outlets, setting up an additional workstation, etc., may be delayed until funds are actually received. Most of the office furnishings purchased were second-hand. Many open positions have been filled since the last meeting in January. At this point, Golden Sands RC&D employs 25 people full-time. There are still 2 full-time positions and 10 seasonal positions that need to be filled. A new position was approved for the Team Resource Leader. An organizational chart was approved by the committee, as was a new schedule for PTO (paid time off) accumulation.

Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report: Walker reported on the meeting. Splitting this committee into two committees was discussed. There was an open event at the Marathon County demonstration forest. Field season events are being scheduled. The new coordinator for the Northeast Invasive Species group was introduced. Several NRCS co-employees discussed their field season plans. Tree shelter mailings were sent out to prior customers. Event planning for the NACD field season is ongoing and requests for grazing plans are coming in early due to the mild winter. The Waupaca County Field Day is set for September 27th. The Water Appreciation Day Event is set for May 17th.

Water Committee Report: Evans reported on the meeting. Thorstenson is hiring CBCW interns for the summer season for four lakes. Hamerla and Senderhauf reported on upcoming 2024 AIS projects, including harvesting purple loosestrife plants for biocontrol efforts. Gurklis taught several AIS and groundwater lessons, but there are still several scheduled. There are already 11 contract-for-hire projects set for this season. Reports were given from Wood, Waupaca, Green Lake, Adams, Marquette, and Taylor Counties.

NEW PROJECTS: None.

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

AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS: Rohde, from the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP), presented a powerpoint about the organization, its history, and its current operation. He currently works with a number of partners, including the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers, the Vegetable Processing Industry, DATCP, and UW- Extension. Trees and shrubs planted are one to two years old and the CWWP takes care of or replaces them for a period of three years. CWWP currently operates as a self-sustaining organization, administered through Portage County. Recently, CWWP has been working with the Wisconsin DOT for road windbreaks while continuing to work with landowners for living snow fences and field windbreaks.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans
Recording Secretary