

**Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.**  
**Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**January 16th, 2025**  
**Golden Sands RC&D Office/Online**

**Attendees:** Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D); Brooke Patrick (Golden Sands RC&D); Asher Maliepaard (Golden Sands RC&D); Gary Beastrom (Member-at-Large); Ken Borzick (Marquette); Brady Albers (Golden Sands RC&D); Robert Bauer (Golden Sands RC&D); Thor Gustafson (Golden Sands RC&D); Nichole Kirk (Golden Sands RC&D); Adam Skadsen (Golden Sands RC&D); Kristin McAdow (Golden Sands RC&D)

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

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Everyone introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Tessmer, and seconded by Borzick, to approve the minutes from the November 2024 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**STAFF & COUNTY MEMBER UPDATES:**

**Taylor:** Tessmer gave updates on Taylor County including that the tree sale is going well, the collaborative multi-County Nutrient Management program for farmers is working well and he reported on other grant work. Hilgart added that publicizing the Nutrient Management opportunities for area farmers would be appreciated. Glad added that GS RC&D sells tree shelters and those are a great compliment to the tree sales so please help us promote that product.

**Marquette:** Borzick reported that Marquette County is not part of the multi-County collab for Nutrient Management planning but they have their own successful program for their County. They offer a course and training for free to farmers. He also commented that Marquette County's tree sale is going well.

**Marathon:** Beastrom had no update to share and is no longer on the Marathon County Board.

**Maliepaard:** He reported on his recent work. Last season he wrote 4 grazing plans. He currently has 2 in progress. He spoke of preparing for his presentation and Golden Sands RC&D's exhibit at the GrassWorks conference later this month. He also spoke about the 8-part Farm Finance Series we are taking on starting in February.

**McAdow:** She discussed the upcoming meetings and training opportunities for grazing. She presented a slideshow on our process and data collection on follow up visits. She talked about EQIP compliance and the 14 in-person site visits that she had completed recently.

**Glad:** She reported on the large-scale solar farm that has been approved in Portage County and GS RC&D's efforts to initiate solar grazing within the development.

**Patrick:** She reported on preparations for the two sessions she is presenting at the GrassWorks Conference later this month and also her update to the no-till drill page on our website.

**Bauer:** He reported that his main workload has been EQIP contracts, grazing plans, CART assessments and ranking. He also mentioned his preparations for the GrassWorks and MarbleSeed (organic) Conferences and he is undergoing Supervisor training with NRCS.

**Albers:** He reported that he is working on EQIP applications for grazing, cover crops, and high tunnels. He is taking a crop scouting training course through the Tech College for IPM.

**Gustafson:** He reported his main focus has been preparing for the 2/7/25 EQIP deadline and that he has been writing lots of grazing plans and working on forestry projects.

**Kirk:** She reported that she has been working on EQIP ranking and outreach to socially disadvantaged groups for urban and small scale production.

**Skadsen:** He provided an update on his projects and engineering work for Portage and Wood Counties.

**NEW PROJECTS:** "Growing the Giving Farm" Measure Proposal (Gold Sheet) was presented and discussed. Funding is provided by the Community Foundation of Central WI. A motion was made by Tessmer, and seconded by Beastrom, to accept the Measure Proposal for "Growing the Giving Farm" and move on to full Council for approval.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Tessmer and seconded by Beastrom, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Minutes by: Adam Skadsen