

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Waters Committee Meeting Minutes
Sept 19th, 2024
Mead Wildlife Area/Online

Attendees: Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amanda Gurklis (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Andrew Senderhauf (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Chris Hamerla (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Jared Mader (Marathon); Gary Beastro (Member-at-Large); Shane Wucherpfennig (Wood); Nancy Eggleston (Portage); Jared Mader (Marathon); Nancy Eggleston (Portage); Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large); Brian Haase (Waupaca); Todd Morris (Green Lake); Lance Pliml (Wood); Shane Wucherpfennig (Wood).

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

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Wucherpfennig, which was seconded by Leichtnam, to approve the July 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW PROJECTS: Hamerla explained the new projects for approval. The first, for \$159,891.35, is a continuation of the regional AIS project for 12 counties. It will pay for 3 full-time AIS Coordinators and one part-time project manager. No match is required. Each county signs the same contract, although specific services provided may vary. Wood County is not included because it has its own AIS staff. The second, for \$6,000, is for additional lake services provided to Taylor County in 2024 that aren't covered by the AIS grant. A motion was made by Wucherpfennig, which was seconded by Evans, to approve the projects and forward them to the full council for consideration. Motion passed unanimously. There is a companion resolution for the AIS project. A motion was made by Evans, which was seconded by Wucherpfennig, to approve the resolution for full council. Motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY AND STAFF UPDATES:

Hamerla: AIS mid-season reports have been sent to the relevant counties and the WDNR. Initial applications for 2025 are due by 11/15/2025, so reminders have been sent to participating counties. There was a Wisconsin River Basin event attended by the WDNR, several large watersheds, and county partners. EWM was found in Big Bass Lake and hand pulling has begun. Starry stonewort control has been part of the work done in Waupaca County. AIS and aquatic plant surveys were done in Taylor County. The AIS coordinators did a lot of purple loosestrife work and plant surveys this season. Hamerla and Senderhauf will be at a waterfowl event this weekend at Mead to do AIS outreach with waterfowl hunters.

Thorstenson: All of this year's CBCW interns made it through the entire season and wrapped up Labor Day weekend, so their bonuses are being processed. Curtis Lake, in Columbia County, requested that the lake be examined for the presence of the weevils that attack EWM. The survey showed significant weevil presence, so the lake organization is taking a "wait and see" attitude to see if the weevils can help control the EWM instead of having to use more drastic measures.

Senderhauf: Lake Emily, in Portage County, was checked for EWM. Snapshot Day was held at the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery with up to 12 people volunteering to do early detection work at several sites. Aquatic plant surveys were completed on Long and Pearl lakes. He attended the

county-wide Marquette County Lake group meeting. A new invasive, water pennywort, was discovered along the shore in Big Twin Lake. Concerns have been expressed about wake boats and the spread of AIS.

Gurklis: Waupaca Conservation Field Day is set for 9/27/2024. 350 students are expected to attend. For the first time, she had to put a school on a waiting list because capacity has been reached. AIS lessons will start in spring for several Golden Sands RC&D counties. Groundwater lessons will be starting in Waupaca, Waushara, and Marquette Counties in spring as well. Green Lake may also be serviced.

Wucherpennig (Wood County): A stop work order (which was ignored) was issued for a non-metallic mining violation. Violations of the manure storage ordinance on three farms owned by the same owner resulted in two small claims cases. Phase 2 of the Mill Creek 9 Key Element Plan is starting. The \$600,000 awarded for Phase 1 was entirely depleted. Wood County partnered with Marathon County for a cover crop field day.

Leichtnam (Wood County): ARPA funding may be used for buying a drone and further nitrate testing. However, the funds will not be used for the installation of reverse osmosis systems for private wells testing high for nitrates.

Morris (Green Lake County): Lake Puckaway is developing an aquatic plant management plan. LMP and 9 Key Element plans are being updated. The 4th year of private well testing was completed, revealing that up to 30% of the private wells testing exceed safe nitrate levels. A plant sale is being considered for next year to help fund groundwater lessons. After considerable discussion and pushback, an advisory was issued for the use of wakeboard boats.

Mader (Marathon County): For the first time, beach testing was done this year on the Big Eau Pleine. 1,000 private wells were tested this year. The groundwater plan is being updated. The second year of WAVE, 8 volunteers to water test 12 locations, was completed.

Evans (Adams County): The Adams County Board has split the Planning & Zoning Department from the Land & Water Conservation Department, returning them to two separate departments. Paul Pisellini, former Golden Sands RC&D representative from Adams County, passed away last Saturday. Jodi Schappe, intending to represent Adams County, was defeated in a recall election. Currently there is no participation in Golden Sands RC&D from Adams County. A producer-led group for the 14 Mile Creek Watershed was started.

Tomandl (Taylor County): The county tree sale is completed. Interest in the tree sale was increased by having a photo contest of trees purchased in prior sales. Three winners were rewarded with more trees. Private well testing for nitrates and e coli are continuing.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Leichtnam, which was seconded by Eggleston, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans
Temporary Recording Secretary