

**Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.**  
**Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**September 19th, 2024**  
**Mead Wildlife Area/Online**

**Attendees:** Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Jacob Fluor (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Kevin Munkwitz (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Erin Richards (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Brooke Patrick (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Jennifer Glad (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Al Drabek (Marathon); Asher Maliepaard (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Kristin McAdow (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Claire Harwood (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Maria LeFevre-Knusta (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Gary Beastrom (Member-at-Large); Amberle Schwartz (Portage); Carmen Wolfe (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Thor Gustafson (Golden Sands RC&D); Kaitlan Schott (NRCS).

**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 Clendenning, which was seconded by Drabek, to approve the minutes from the July 2024 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**PROJECT UPDATES:**

**Managed Grazing:** Glad and grazing staff reporting. Glad reported that the grazing team has expanded to three full-time positions. Staff members reported on specific projects each are working on, including grazing plans, follow-up with landowners, and outreach events.

**NRCS Co-op Agreement:** Staff members reported on their respective activities, including forest management plan development and urban agriculture projects.

**Waupaca County Conservation Field Day:** Glad reported that the 2024 event is planned for September 27th, under the direction of Amanda Gurklis. Expecting 350 students to participate along with 39 presenters and volunteers.

**Habitat for Karner Blue Butterfly, Poweshiek Skipperling, & Other Pollinators:** Glad reported that field work is underway.

**Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership:** Glad reported that the 2024 field work season was successful, with 12 miles of windbreaks established.

**Cooperative Forestry:** Fluor and Harwood reported on demonstration forest field day events. Staff met with U.S. Forest Service representatives recently to review the status of work on various projects. Demo forest sites are being sought in three counties.

**Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP):** Fluor reported that field work and reporting is being done, including contract service work. Meetings are planned with partners and other

interested groups. Future funding is being sought. A steering committee meeting is being planned for October.

**Northeast Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (NEWIP):** Harwood reported on work with demonstration forest owners. She is hoping to build stronger relationships between these landowners. A meeting was held with representatives of the Oneida Nation regarding potential projects on tribal lands. Cooperating with grazing staff on potential joint outreach efforts.

**Neighborhood Gardens:** Richards reported on work with partners and participants. The garden spots were all filled in 2024. Maintenance needs are being addressed. Donations of produce to local food pantries have been made.

**Tree Shelters:** Munkwitz reported 2024 sales to date have totaled more than \$12,000.

**NEW PROJECTS:** Glad presented two new projects.

- Building the Buzz about Grazing in Central Wisconsin is a four-year, \$483,754.10 grant project sponsored by the NRCS to expand and improve managed grazing interest and participation.
- CWIP DNR WMA 2024 is a two-year, \$11,250 grant project supporting invasive species control projects in Adams County.

A motion was made by Clendenning, which was seconded by Drabek, to recommend approval of the project by the full board. Motion carried.

**MEMBER REPORTS:** None.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Committee members continued earlier discussion about splitting the current Forestry/Ag/Wildlife committee meetings into separate committees, one for Agriculture and the other for Forestry/Wildlife. The concept had been approved at the July committee meeting. No further action was taken by the committee

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Drabek, which was seconded by Clendenning, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Walker  
Recording Secretary