

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Regular Business/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
July 17th, 2025
Boston School Forest/Online

Attendees: Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Al Drabek (Marathon); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Gary Beastrom (Member-at-Large); Amanda Gurklis (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Jennifer Glad (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D); Asher Maliepaard (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Claire Harwood (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Jenna Tuma (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Kristin McAdow (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Amberle Schwartz (Portage); Katherine Jaeger (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Todd Morris (Green Lake); Ron Luethe (Monroe); Brooke Patrick (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Natalie Gruben (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Annika Waltenberg (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Jacob Abrahamson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff).

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-President Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 11:09 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 May 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Hilgart presented the treasurer's report. A motion was made by Walker, which was seconded by Schwartz, to accept the report and place it on file. Motion carried.

WI RC&D ASSOCIATION: Glad reported on a joint grant application, in partnership with Glacierland and River Country RC&Ds, from Grassworks to support managed grazing.

FEDERAL FUNDING STATUS: Glad reported that the NRCS co-employment contract has been "unpaused" and was extended, following some changes in language within the agreement. Phased-in re-hiring is underway for positions affected by layoffs when the contract was suspended earlier in 2025.

EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT: Glad reported the long-awaited Employee Retention Credit from the IRS has been received, along with interest. The credit was based on keeping staff on payroll through the period when many employers laid off staff due to Covid concerns.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Glad encouraged counties that have not paid 2025 membership dues to do so. Income from dues is important to Golden Sands RC&D to cover expenses that project grants often cannot.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Each of the four standing committees reviewed its actions from meetings held just before the full board meeting.

VISTA SANDS SOLAR PROJECT: Glad gave a status update. Golden Sands RC&D continues to have an active role in the project's development.

NEW PROJECTS: The Buffalo Lake District 9 Key Element Plan Development was presented and discussed. A motion was made by Clendenning, which was seconded by Schwartz, to approve the project. Motion carried.

STAFF/PROJECT UPDATES: Glad reminded attendees that staff activity reports were included with information sent out prior to the meeting. Glad also highlighted a number of upcoming events that Golden Sands RC&D is sponsoring or participating in.

AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS: Schwartz gave a presentation on the history of the Boston School Forest and its many uses as an educational resource today. The forest is owned by the Stevens Point Area School District. Following the meeting, Schwartz led a tour of the buildings and grounds for interested board members and Golden Sands RC&D staff.

OTHER REPORTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Drabek, which was seconded by Walker, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Minutes by: Bob Walker, Secretary