Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes
July 16th, 2026
Golden Sands RC&D Office/Online

Attendees: Gary Beastrom (Member-at-Large); Sandy Sackmann (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Asher Maliepaard (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Brooke Patrick (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Robert Bauer (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Denise Brusveen (Columbia County), Tracy Arnold (Portage); Shala Pence (Golden Sands RC&D); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D).

CALL TO ORDER: Gary Beastrom called the meeting to order at 10:27 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Arnold, which was seconded by Beastrom, to approve the May 2026 minutes. Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNTY MEMBER UPDATES:

Arnold (Portage): Visiting farms to check crop land and livestock to see NR151 compliant. They are collecting data and have 43% turned in. Swarm Grant projects going on.

Beastrom (Marathon): Windfarm conversations at county meetings.

Brusveen (Columbia) Windfarms discussion and Alliant energy proposal. Potential AI data center possible.

Patrick: She reported that they have multiple grants they are currently working with. The NACD Grant is ending in September. She asked for an extension. Quarterly reporting is in. Annika Waltenberg and Ethan Laufenberg are working on outreach and marketing. Ron Schoepp asked for our help to put on an event for custom grazing, which will take place in August.

Bauer: There is an event with partners from Pestigo. He is working on grazing plans. Two podcasts were recorded last week. Ethan Laufenberg is finishing those up and will publish. Getting good referrals and contacts in many counties.

Maliepaard: He's completed lots of grazing plans in various counties and more are coming up. Worked at an event in Shawano County in July.

Sackmann: Neighborhood gardens are fully booked. Mead Park garden is checked on by Annika Waltenberg regularly. Franklin Street garden has a gentleman who takes care of that site. Signs will be painted soon by Sandy's daughter, Veronica, who will donate her time and supplies.

Thorstenson: Katherine Jaeger will attend the meeting for Vista Sands. Maliepaard and Bauer have been getting pieces together for a grant. She will put it all together.

NEW PROJECTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Arnold, which was seconded by Beastrom, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned 10:48am.

Minutes by: Sandy Sackmann