

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Waters Committee Meeting Minutes
July 18th, 2024
Wood County River Block/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); Nathan Sandwick (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Mara Lince (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Jared Mader (Marathon).

CALL TO ORDER: Tomandl called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

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

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON: Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair were solicited. Discussion about the process: Elections are every 2 years, which means a 2-year term for Chair/Vice-chair positions. Nominations were made for Chair and Vice-Chair: Tomandl to continue as Chair, Leichtnam for Vice-Chair. A motion was made by Leichtnam, which was seconded by Tomandl, to elect Tomandl to Chair and Leichtnam to Vice-Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW PROJECTS: None.

COUNTY AND STAFF UPDATES:

Senderhauf: The Lake Management Partnership Network (LMPN) program is going well this season. Twelve counties are participating. The purple loosestrife biocontrol program is working with volunteers to raise biocontrol beetles again, and have been releasing beetles the last couple of weeks. The beetles were reported moving to new sites, so they are dispersing as hoped.

Lince: Working in Jackson County, which is new to our LMPN program. She has been making introductions to partners, hosted a display table at outdoor club events, and participated in the Columbia and Jackson County Fairs. Need to make connections in Juneau and Columbia Counties as well, since those counties are still relatively new to our LMPN program and haven't had a lot of attention yet. Lince also mentioned that her previous work on Elk monitoring in Wisconsin has been helpful in connecting with outdoors clubs. Her diverse background is serving her well in her new position.

Thorstenson: Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) program is doing great this season. All LTEs are great this season. 2 are serving Waupaca Chain 'O Lakes, 1 at Lake Helen (Po Co), 1 serves Silver and Pearl Lakes (Waushara Co). There has also been a lot of interest in information about native biocontrol weevils for Eurasian watermilfoil. Thorstenson has one contract to examine the samples for Brandy Lake, Vilas County, and to provide the weevil data for that lake's management planning program. A few orders for acrylic blocks continue to come in.

Sandwick: Just started his position with RC&D and is here to listen and learn today.

Gurklis: The Waupaca County Conservation Field Day is being planned now, with approximately 300 students attending. Dates planned are September 27th (with October 4th backup date in case of hazardous weather). She taught 33 groundwater lessons and 23 AIS lessons to a total of 981 students. Talking with Green Lake County now about funding for groundwater lessons in 2025, which would be a new program in that county.

Hamerla: Buckthorn removal event in Taylor County. Youth Expo in Medford. AIS presentation at Mead Lake District, purple loosestrife biocontrol work in Marathon County, Big Bass (Marathon Co) EWM newly identified and EWM training for volunteers. Big Bass has had good volunteer participation in EWM hand pulling. 39 plants pulled at training. 50 more plants were found later. A great effort by the Big Bass Lake volunteers to slow the spread of this new EWM population.

Leichtnam (Wood County): LWCD is busy with field work. In fall, there will be a CEED committee tour. All day tour of LWCD and Econ Dev projects. 10 year plans are being revised now. Lake Wazeecha is closed for the big ski shows right now.

Tomandl (Taylor County): Tessmer (Co Con) returning to sprayin wild parsnip sites, year 3 = gone! Results appear very good! Homeowner water testing program for metals and bacteria has been popular with the public. Purple loosestrife beetles are being released for biocontrol. Weather has been an issue, causing run-off, blowouts, and erosion.

Mader (Marathon County): Conservation staff presented to the board regarding 3 waterway projects going on now. Shoreline restoration project finished. WI River Basin Bash public education event is tomorrow (7/19).

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Thorstenson
Temporary Recording Secretary