

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Regular Business/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
September 21st, 2023
Wood County River Block/Online

Attendees: Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Gary Beastro (Member-at-Large); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Kendra Kunding (Wood); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amanda Gurklis (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Steve Bradley (Portage); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Dave Benson (Marquette); Al Drabek (Marathon); Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D); Shane Wucherpfennig (Member-at-Large).

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Hernandez at 11:04 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Benson, which was seconded by Clendenning, to approve the minutes from the July 2023 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was emailed prior to this meeting. According to Hilgart, dispersals and receipts were routine. The balance in the Associated Bank checking account was \$18,526.68. The Associated Bank Money Market account had a balance of \$19,434.34. The Associated Bank Savings account balance was \$56,360.82. The Simplicity Money Market account's ending balance was \$150,420.74. The Simplicity Savings account remained at \$100.00. Hilgart also reported that the 2nd quarter ending amount for the Natural Resources Endowment Fund account, as of June 30th, was \$27,269.08. A motion was made by Wucherpfennig, which was seconded by Tomandl, to accept and file the treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Groundwater Legislation: Leichtnam indicated that he heard that a representative and state senator are looking into maybe reviving some of the 13 water bills.

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Director Position: A finalized offer for the open Executive Director position will be sent after this meeting.

Change in Administrative % and Hourly Contract Rate: It was reported that the Personnel/Finance Committee approved an increase in the administrative cost amount from 24.3% to 25.0%. The committee also approved raising the contracted hourly rate from \$50 per hour to \$55 per hour. A motion was made by Evans, which was seconded by Clendenning, to approve those changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Outagamie County: Outagamie County recently sent an email indicating that it will be withdrawing from Golden Sands RC&D and returning to Glacierland RC&D. No reason was provided. After discussion, the council approved by consensus that Outagamie County should submit a letter, from an Outagamie County delegate or official, on county letterhead to verify the withdrawal.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel/Finance Committee Report: Evans reported on the meeting. Hilgart indicated that the contingency fund was used to cover a short-term shortfall for expenses for the first time. The fund has already been reimbursed. The treasurer's report was voted to be sent on to the full council. Thorstenson reported that interviews will be held next week to fill a position in the Madison NRCS office. Soil Conservation positions are currently open in both the Westfield and Green Lake NRCS offices. Thorstenson noted that the search pool may need to be expanded to fill the positions. Colton Wolosek left his position at Golden Sands RC&D to take a position in the Adams County Land & Water Conservation Office. Evans agreed to assist Thorstenson in finalizing plans for a tribute to Al Barden. Newsletters have not gone out in the last few months, but there is a plan for one to be distributed in October.

Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report: Walker reported on the meeting. There is a Demonstration Day coming up. New grant funding for both CWIP and NEWIP was obtained. Grant reimbursements are being completed. An event about terrestrial invasives was held at the Green Bay Botanical Gardens. There was a \$130.12 loss for tree shelter sales this year. A NRCS Collaborative Grant was obtained that will help with the Neighborhood Gardens project. A Waupaca County Field Day will be held on September 29th. The August Grazing Conference had 77 people attend. Dr. Temple Grandin was the keynote speaker. She toured Hilgart's farm after the conference. Grazing plans are being finished for next year. Plans for a Water Appreciation Day (formerly the Little Plover River Appreciation Day) are being formed. The committee approved a new project for the full council to consider.

Water Committee Report: Evans reported on the meeting. Hamerla, Thorstenson, and other AIS staff are working on planning for AIS contracts with counties for next year. AIS grants for this year are being wrapped up now that the field season has ended. Since Wood County has its own AIS employee, there will be one less county contract for next year. Hamerla said the AIS staff have done more educational events this year than in the previous years. He will be attending the waterfowl convention this weekend. AIS staff participated in the Snapshot WI day. The event was covered by Channel 9 from Wausau. The CBCW season has also ended. The invasive flowering rush was found above Petenwell Lake, which is the farthest north it has been found. County updates were given. The committee approved a new project for the full council to consider.

NEW PROJECTS:

The new project from the Forestry, Agriculture, and Wildlife Committee is the Community Agriculture Collaborative of Central WI. The funds for this project will support a full-time Field Manager position, a UWSP intern during the growing season, plus the installation of a well to supply water for one of the Stevens Point gardens.

The project from the Waters Committee is for the 12 County Regional AIS Program and a required resolution. Since Wood County hired its own AIS Coordinator, the number of counties involved was amended from 13 counties to 12 counties.

A motion was made by Wucherpennig, which was seconded by Benson, to approve both projects and the required resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF/PROJECT UPDATES: Staff reports were sent out prior to the meeting and paper copies were available during the meeting.

AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS: None

OTHER BUSINESS: Walker announced that Lumberjack RC&D is creating a video about the RC&D program. The State RC&D will be meeting with the National RC&D, on September 28th, at the Stevens Point office. Walker reported that there seems to be renewed interest in reactivating the national RC&D. He recommended that Golden Sands RC&D should consider rejoining the national organization if things become more active.

President Hernandez expressed his thanks to Thorstenson, Hilgart, and Gurklis for all the work they did to hire a new Executive Director.

Clendenning reported that Wood County recently held an e-waste day where people could turn in unwanted mechanical items. Although it was only supposed to happen for a few hours on a Saturday, people continued to dump unwanted items for six days. Ultimately, 17 semi-trucks full of e-waste accumulated.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m. upon a motion that was made by Benson and seconded by Beaström.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans
Recording Secretary