

**Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.**  
**Regular Business/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**May 16th, 2024**  
**Wood County River Block/Online**

**Attendees:** Gary Beastrom (Member-at-Large); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Jacob Fluor (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Amanda Gurklis (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D); Jennifer Glad (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Asher Maliepaard (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Kevin Munkwitz (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Steve Bradley (Portage); Al Drabek (Marathon); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Shane Wucherpfennig (Wood); Nancy Egglestor (Portage); Claire Harwood (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Jared Mader (Marathon); Kristin McAdow (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Jen McNelly (Portage); Brooke Patrick (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Adam Skadsen (Golden Sands RC&D Staff).

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President Wucherpfennig at 11:07 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Everyone introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Leichtnam, which was seconded by Walker, to approve the March 2024 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Hilgart provided the Treasurer's Report for the last four months. The checking account balance at the end of April 2024 was \$31,379.38. The balance at the Associated Savings Account at that time was \$26,364.51. The balance in the Associated Money Market Account was \$29,585.08. The Simplicity Money Market Account balance was \$234,355.10. The Simplicity Savings Account was \$100.03. Since the report was prepared, a payment for the NRCS co-employment contract was received. The first quarter report from the Endowment Fund showed an ending balance of \$29,831.89. A motion was made by Evans, which was seconded by Clendenning, to accept and file the treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

**ELECTIONS:**

**Executive Committee:** Nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer were solicited. Voting on nominations is set for the July 2024 meeting. Wucherpfennig, Walker, and Beastrom agreed to continue in their roles. Evans reminded those attending that she had announced at the last election that she would no longer continue as Council Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor for the Secretary, so the issue was tabled.

**State RC&D:** Walker noted that he resigned as the state RC&D president, but he was willing to serve as a representative for Golden Sands RC&D to the state organization. Glad will also continue representing Golden Sands RC&D at the state meetings. A motion was made by Evans, which was seconded by Clendenning, to continue those representations. Motion carried unanimously.

**CWWP:** Glad and Clendenning will continue to serve as representatives for Golden Sands RC&D at the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Groundwater Legislation:** Leichtnam announced that the Wisconsin Legislature will not be in session again until January 2025. The legislature adjourned before taking any action on water-related bills.

**Conflict of Interest:** Glad reminded all council members, who had not yet signed the conflict of interest form, that those are required and should be signed as soon as possible.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**New County Delegates:** Glad announced that several county members have not yet notified Golden Sands RC&D of the name of the delegate for the county. Green Lake named Todd Morris; Juneau chose Dustin Ladd; Jen Schmitz and Ron Luedtke are expected to continue for Monroe County; Nancy Egglestar and Amber Schwartz will represent Portage County; Marathon County representatives are Al Drabek and Jared Mader; Bill Clendenning and Bill Leichtnam will represent Wood County; Joe Tomandl and Brent Tessmer stand for Taylor County; Columbia County has Mike Weyh and Cook; named representatives for Waupaca are Brian Haase and Jim Nygaard; Waushara County named Mark Piechkowski, but has no alternate; Adams County has not named a representative. Golden Sands RC&D by-laws allow two representatives from each county and require that one of the representatives be an elected official.

**Membership Dues:** Wood and Waupaca Counties have paid dues for 2024. Invoices for the \$1,900 voluntary membership fees will be sent out soon for 2025 so that counties can consider them in budget-planning.

**2023 Overhead/Administrative Budget:** Glad reported on the actuals for the 2023 overhead/administrative budget. Golden Sands RC&D finished 2023 with a positive balance of \$20,029, which was considerably more than the expected \$739. Glad said that there was \$8,162 more in revenue received than expected and also that spending was \$11,128 less than expected. The Personnel/Finance Committee voted to deposit the \$20,029 in the contingency fund.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Personnel/Finance Committee Report:** Evans reported on the P/F Committee meeting. The committee voted to send the financial reports to the full council for consideration. Glad noted that the 2023 actuals ended in a higher positive amount than expected, partly because contracted services brought in more income than expected and there was a lower need for outside professional services. The funds for the Employee Retention Credit have not been received. However, two of the projects on the list for those funds are completed: refurbishing the office and buying apparel for staff. Glad announced that the co-employment agreement with NRCS has been completed for 5 years for \$1.8 million dollars. Several open positions have been filled since the March council meeting. Interviews are ongoing for the new Team Resources Leader position. There are still some positions that need to be filled. The P/F Committee voted

to increase the hourly accrual rate by 20% and to increase the number of PTO hours that can be accumulated from 200 to 250. It also voted to pay the \$450 dues to the National RC&D.

**Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report:** Walker reported on the meeting. Reports from the Central Wisconsin Invasive Species Partnership and the Northeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Partnership were received. Portage County held some Forestry field days. About \$11,000 in tree shelter sales were made. The Neighborhood Gardens administrator reported on the gardens. Pasture walks are scheduled and grazing plans are being finalized. There is a pasture walk set for June 5th, a walk on a grazing farm for July 15th, and a field trip for August 3rd. The Water Appreciation Day Event, in Portage County, is set for May 17th. The Waupaca Field Day is set for September 29th. A grant to improve habitat for Karner Blue Butterflies and other pollinators may be applied for. There was a discussion about separating the current committee into two different committees, with one for Agriculture and one for Forestry/Wildlife.

**Water Committee Report:** Evans reported on the meeting. All CBCW interns have been hired and will be trained next week, with their first day of work set for Memorial Day weekend. Hamerla and Senderhauf are participating in AIS events today. A third AIS coordinator was hired. Gurklis provided information on a new project, which involves a contracted services agreement with Brekke Lake for an aquatic plant management plan. The Waters Committee approved the project and sent it on to the full council for review. Gurklis has given AIS and groundwater lessons. For groundwater lessons, she gave 24 in Waupaca County, three in Waushara County, and six in Marquette County. 23 lessons were given on AIS issues and there was a waiting list. Leichtnam said that Wood County is working on establishing a county "campus" government building in the Wisconsin Rapids downtown area. Wucherpennig reported that Wood County was dealing with several non-metallic mining violations. Tomandl reported that the county board turned down a request to buy carbon credits the county accumulated from its 18,000 county forest acres. The emerald ash borer was found in Taylor County. Mader, of Marathon County, reported that Diane Hanson retired as the County Conservationist. The county is finishing up its first round of private well testing. Evans reported that the Adams County LWCD office is down to two employees and that LWCD issues are currently unsettled.

**NEW PROJECTS:** The Waters Committee presented a new project, the Brekke Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan. The expected cost is about \$8,000. Brekke Lake gained a WNDR grant to cover the costs. The project is due to start August 1st. A motion was made by Clendenning, which was seconded by Evans, to approve the project. 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:** UW-Extension Groundwater Coordinator, Jen McNelly, gave a presentation about the organization's 12 Natural Resources educators. Nine of them concentrate on water issues, with the other three dealing with forestry. Her position is mostly funded through the NRCS & Wood County, and she works with the SW Wisconsin Groundwater & Geology Study and the UWSP Groundwater Center & Natural History Survey in Central Wisconsin. Groundwater specific issues have been identified and there are plans for drinking water outreach and education. A nitrate risk map is being worked on. One question to be settled is what to do with all the water quality data. There are also currently many questions about PFAs, but PFA testing is beyond the financial abilities of many places and there are a limited

number of labs certified for that testing. There are also questions about what kind of contaminants may leak into the groundwater when municipal waste sludge is spread on farm fields.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Bill Leichtnam reported that the Wood County Groundwater Group plans to have a booth at the Central Wisconsin State Fair and is hoping to offer free nitrate testing.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m. upon a motion that was made by Leichtnam and seconded by Tomandl.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans  
Recording Secretary