

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Waters Committee Meeting Minutes
May 25th, 2023
Wood County River Block/Online

Attendees: Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Shane Wucherpennig (Member-at-Large); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Kendra Kunding (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Diane Hanson (Marathon); Dave Benson (Marquette).

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: No introductions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Leichtnam, which was seconded by Hernandez, to approve the March 2023 Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW PROJECTS: There were two new projects for consideration. The first project is a contracted service with Taylor County Land Conservation Department to complete a Point-Intercept survey on Rib Lake in 2023. Total estimated costs for this project is \$5,558. A motion was made by Hernandez and seconded by Tomandl. Motion carried unanimously.

The second project is a contracted service with Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department to complete surveys on Lazy Lake in order to update their aquatic plant management plan. Golden Sands RC&D staff will complete an early season curly-leaf pondweed point-intercept survey and a regular point-intercept survey in the 2023 field season between June 15th and September 15th. Total estimated cost of the project is \$14,921.25. A motion was made by Wucherpennig and seconded by Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY AND STAFF UPDATES:

Kunding: Kunding gave an update about the AIS team. Chris Hamerla and Colton Wolosek have been working on the purple loosestrife biocontrol project. This year, there are a total of 23 purple loosestrife biocontrol volunteers, which is an increase from previous years. This includes a new mass rearing cage at the Wausau School Forest. Kunding mentioned planning for the field season is well underway with several contracted services including a Tree Lake point-intercept survey in Portage County, a Long Lake Early Detection survey in Waushara County, purple loosestrife biocontrol, surveys, and removal with WPS/WRPCO, an AIS meander survey for Big Bass Lake in Marathon County, and a curly-leaf pondweed mapping survey on Mirror/Shadow Lakes in Waupaca County.

Marathon: Hanson reported that funding for the Fenwood project has not moved forward yet at this time. Hanson also reported on a manure spill in the county, the Barker Island shoreland restoration project, uses for the Environmental Impact Funds, and that the county is looking at purchasing a hydroseeder.

Marquette: Rosenthal reported that 45,000 trees were sold at the annual tree sale this year. Marquette County is planning another electronic pick-up day to take place later this year.

Taylor: Tomandl reported that 16,000 trees were sold at the annual Taylor County tree sale, stream sampling has begun to collect data, and the annual Buckthorn Bash took place.

Waushara: Hernandez reported that the Waushara LWCD has almost completed the nitrate testing for the year and continued monitoring will occur with wells that tested high for nitrates.

Wood: Leichtnam reported that WI Act 5 became effective on May 10th, 2023. This made producer-led watershed groups eligible to apply for DNR Surface Water Grants to conduct non-point source pollution activities. An annual report will be required to submit to the department for those whose projects have been funded, but it is unclear if the Department is DATCP or DNR. Kinnard farms agreed to a \$215,000 settlement tied to alleged environmental allegations dealing with manure spreading and falsification of documents. Kinnard Farms will be installing a Varcor treatment system that will convert dairy manure into clean water suitable for irrigation or cattle drinking water, organic fertilizer, and aqueous ammonia.

Wucherpennig reported that a bill, regarding creating grant funds for wild parsnip inventory and control, passed in the Senate but did not make it to the Assembly. Katrina Shankland will be trying to pass the bill again this year. Wucherpennig may testify if the bill makes it to the assembly.

OTHER BUSINESS: Rosenthal mentioned he will no longer be a Golden Sands RC&D representative starting June 1st. Dave Benson, a Marquette County board member, will be taking Rosenthal's place. Tomandl will chair the July Waters Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Hernandez, which was seconded by Leichtnam, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kendra Kunding
Temporary Recording Secretary