

Golden Sands Resource, Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Regular Business/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2017
Golden Sands RC & D Office, Stevens Points, WI

Attendees: Al Barden (Member-at-Large); Gary Beastro (Marathon); Steve Bradley (Portage); Paul Daigle (Marathon); Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large); Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Brian Haase (Waupaca); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands); Matt Komiskey (Juneau); Joel Kuehnhold (Golden Sands); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Hugh O'Donnell (member-at-large); Paul Pisellini (Adams); Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Ben Stanfley (Taylor); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands).

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President O'Donnell at 11:08 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: At the request of O'Donnell, everyone attending verbally identified himself or herself and named the organization and/or county being represented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Clendenning, seconded by Rosenthal, to accept the minutes of the July 2017 meeting as written. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report for July and August 2017 was passed around. Hilgart indicated the only out-of-the-ordinary expenses were a large payment for a reordering of bobbers and shoreland mailing. Otherwise, dispersals and receipts were fairly standard. \$10,000 was transferred to the contingency fund. No use of the contingency fund. Motion made by Evans, seconded by Barden, to accept the treasurer's reports and place them on file for review. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wisconsin RC & D Update: Barden reported on the July 21, 2017 state meeting which 4 councils attended. Taglines for the branding initiative and qualifications for WDNR grant eligibility were discussed and will be reported on at the next meeting on October 27, 2017. The MOU with the NRCS has been signed by all the parties.

3-Year Plan Steering Committee: Kuehnhold will be forwarding a draft of the plan and looking for input, so that it may be finalized at the November meeting. It would not go into effect until next year.

Joe P Memorial: The final sign design has been approved, includes memorial text about Joe. The 2 foot by 3 foot sign is in the process of being prepared. Currently there is a temporary sign. The smoke tree to honor Joe Piechowski has been planted. It is not certain that there are funds left for an individual brass sign for the tree honoring Joe.

Update on Groundwater Legislation: Leichtnam reported that there has been little activity of water-related legislation. However, the governor is due to sign the state budget today, with it unknown as to whether he will veto any of the groundwater portions. (*It was later reported in the meeting that the governor had only vetoed one groundwater-related item.) This includes \$400,000 earmarked for a study of Central Sands Hydrology.

Branding Initiative: The branding tagline (Conservation That Works!) has now been trademarked for state RC & Ds—there is some discussion that it may be taken nationwide.

NEW BUSINESS

45th Anniversary Celebrations: The open house for the 45th Anniversary of RC & Ds will be held in the Golden Sands office today after the meeting. Cake and coffee will be available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel/Finance Committee Report: Evans reported on the meeting this morning. Hilgart distributed the most recent treasurer's report. The \$10,000 transfer to the contingency fund was completed. The largest expenses were for bobber purchase and a shoreland mailing. The committee voted to pass the treasurer's report on to full council. The sign design for the green space, which includes notation about Joe Piechowki, has been approved. The sign is being prepared. The smoke tree has been planted. It is currently marked by an orange ribbon and green flag. Over \$230 were cleared for GS from the plant sale done in conjunction with Paul Skawinski. It may be repeated next year. No new activity for the direct marketing project. Kuehnhold has appeared at all county LWCC meetings except Adams; he may wait until next year for that one. The annual appeal is scheduled to go out this afternoon. A press release was sent out for the 45th Year Anniversary open house set for later today in GS offices. The only counties who haven't paid any dues for 2017 are Marathon, Monroe and Outagamie. The others paid from varying amounts from \$350 up to the current dues level of \$1900. Reimbursement options for the use of Chris Hamerla's boat for GS activities was discussed. Using the DOT rates may be the easiest option. New GPS units will be needed soon. The donor database is still being developed. The PF Committee voted to increase the payments made to regular employees each paycheck towards medical insurance from \$100 each to \$150 each paycheck. A newsletter framework has been developed, with preparing a draft in progress. Nothing new on the website.

Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report: Kuehnhold outlined today's meeting. Students at the Tomorrow River High School will prepare bluebird kits. Tree shelter information will go out to counties soon so that information can be included in county tree sale brochures. A fuss about one of the neighborhood gardens was settled. Kuehnhold is trying to finish outstanding grazing planes, especially in Clark County. A good candidate to take over the Woods & Wildlife project has been found. Pasture walks are planned for Almond and Rosholt. Work on EAB projects is wrapping up.

Water Committee Report: Evans reported on today's water meeting. A discussion in Water Quality Credit Trading was added to the agenda. Thorstenson reported that GS will apply for an AIS Regional Coordinator grant in December 2017. Counties still interested in participating need to let her know their level of commitment—this should include both in-kind and cash contributions they are willing to make. The WDNR reported to her that the GS application was barely funded last time because it was looking for more cash match commitments from the counties and lakes. A long discussion on various aspects of the proposed Water Quality Credit Trading program was held. Apparently, GS was recently approached about being a water quality crediting agent for various entities. Ultimately it was decided by consensus that there were still too many holes in information available to make any decisions at this time. Hamerla showed the trappers brochure he and an intern prepared. The WDNR is printing 2000 to be distributed

this year. If there is a positive reaction, more printing may occur. Cisar has been training volunteers on flowering rush identification and removal and is looking into boat washing stations for Green Lake. Asian clams were found in Stratton Lake. A Waupaca County Field Day is coming up for about 330 students with 15 stations. Leichtnam reported that the governor is due to sign the state budget today; it is unknown whether he will veto any of the groundwater-related items.

Motion made by Rosenthal, seconded by Beastrom to approve reports. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW PROJECTS: None.

STAFF/PROJECT UPDATES: Written staff reports are available today for anyone who wants to take a copy.

AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS: None.

OTHER REPORTS: A card for Ed Miller and his wife, who are currently in a rehabilitation center recovering from an automobile accident, was passed around for signing.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be November 16, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m. on motion by Barden, seconded by Beastrom.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans
Secretary, Golden Sands RC & D