

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Meeting Minutes
January 21st, 2021
Online via Zoom

Attendees: Cherrie Nolden (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Al Drabek (Marathon); Al Barden (Member-at-Large); Joshua Benes (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Hannah Butkiewicz (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Asa Plonsky (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Lindsy Hagen (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large).

CALL TO ORDER: Tessmer called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion from Barden, seconded by Drabek, to approve the minutes from the November meeting was passed unanimously.

PROJECT UPDATES:

Cooperating For Woods and Wildlife/Demo Forests: Butkiewicz worked to add two new landowners to group cooperatives. She completed and printed three Demonstration Forest brochures. Butkiewicz is working to develop a new Demonstration Forest in Monroe County and is in the process of creating a Cooperating for Woods and Wildlife event on February 16, 2021, at 7pm. The event will target new landowners to recruit into the DMAP program and will provide attendees with information about DMAP and the benefits of cooperative forest and wildlife habitat management.

Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP): We planned and applied for the U.S. Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA) grant. For CWIP, we applied for two projects, each asking \$50,000 in federal funds. We will hear back from the grant contacts in March. For the Early Detection and Response for Japanese Knotweed project, Plonsky created outreach signs for both a Village of Amherst park and for road crossings on the Tomorrow River. Plonsky presented to the Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producers Association in January. The presentation focused on invasive plants and their impacts on maple trees. CWIP's 2020 annual report is complete and available to view on the CWIP homepage at <https://www.cwippartnership.org/>. CWIP is looking to add more formal members and recently sent emails approaching potential member organizations. Formal membership is free and shows support for the CWIP. Organizations that sign on as formal membership agree to partner with CWIP on regional invasive plant management. Contact Plonsky for more information. Current tasks include reporting for all current grants.

Northeast Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (NEWIP): We planned and applied for the U.S. Forest Service GLRI CWMA grant. For NEWIP, we applied for two projects. One project asked for \$50,000 in federal funds and the other asked for \$16,000 in federal funds. We applied for and received a \$450 Spark Grant from the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region to support group development. A NEWIP meeting, focusing on current and future grant-funded projects, was held on November 9, 2020. Bylaws and logos have been drafted, and will be approved/selected at an upcoming NEWIP meeting on January 28, 2021. A steering committee will also be formed at the meeting. A contract was drafted for a contracted services project to

treat Japanese knotweed for a landowner on the Chain O' Lakes in Waupaca. Current tasks include reporting for all current grants.

NRCS Cooperative Agreements: Butkiewicz updated the committee that performance evaluations were completed earlier this month. Butkiewicz and Benes met with each employee and their supervisors. Hagen provided updates on work completed since she started working for Golden Sands in November. So far she has worked with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). She has also attended online training and participated in field checks to verify that cover crops were planted.

Bluebird And Bat Houses: No updates.

Tree Shelters: Butkiewicz reported that the Tree Shelter website information has been updated and that brochures were created and printed. She requested that county staff connect with Amanda Burzynski if they have space in their offices to promote the tree shelter sale.

NACD Technical Assistance Project/Managed Grazing: Benes provided the report for Bouressa because she was unable to attend the meeting. Benes stated that there are two current NACD projects, one of which will be finished soon. She is currently working on writing plans. Nolden, the recently hired managed grazing plan writer, provided updates too. Nolden is working on becoming TSP (Technical Service Provider) certified and is communicating with NRCS to get access to training. As part of her training, Nolden is required to write a plan. Bouressa will assign Nolden her first plan to write.

Little Plover River Appreciation Field Day: Butkiewicz said that they will be looking for funding this spring.

NEW PROJECTS:

Four new projects were presented and were approved with a motion from Walker and seconded by Clendenning.

- 1) Northeast Wisconsin Invasives Partnership: Building Community and Enhancing Ecosystems through Invasive Species Management
- 2) Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership: Emerging Species Management and Volunteer Partnerships
- 3) Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership: Invasive plant control to create habitat for the endangered Karner blue butterfly
- 4) Northeast Wisconsin Invasives Partnership: Invasive plant control to create habitat for the endangered Karner blue butterfly

MEMBER REPORTS: None

OTHER BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Walker, second by Barden, to adjourn at 10:45am. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Butkiewicz
Temporary Recording Secretary