

Golden Sands Resource, Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Water Committee Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2017
Golden Sands Office, Stevens Point, WI

Call to Order: Al Rosenthal, acting chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Attendance: Everett Eckstein; Bob Ellis; Reesa Evans; Chris Hamerla; Ed Hernandez; Bill Lichtnam; Paul Pisellini; Al Rosenthal; Wally Sedlar; Joe Tomandl; Shane Wucherpennig.

Minutes: Some changes were made to the minutes of last meeting. Motion made and seconded approve minutes of the last meeting as modified. Motion carried unanimously.

New Projects: none.

Project Updates:

Rosenthal (Marquette) noted that not much new had been going on in Marquette since the last meeting.

Hamerla (Golden Sands) reported for both himself and Thorstenson. The grant request for continued funding for EWM biocontrol research was not funded. Thorstenson is looking for alternative financing options. GS is waiting to hear on the multi-county AIS grant application submitted to the WDNR in 12/16. EPA funding is available for multi-county nutrient management training. Thorstenson would like to put together a large project application for \$250,000-\$500,000. If counties are interested in being part of this application, they should contact her. Further information about their activities are available in the staff reports sent out before this meeting.

Ellis (Waupaca) discussed the "High Capacity Wells Fact Book" recently released by the Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association (WPGVA) and a presentation he witnessed from that organization and by George Kraft of UWSP about groundwater and high-capacity wells. He is unconvinced that the "facts" in the publication are really facts, since they have little research cited, and feels that the presentation from the WPGVA was less-than-honest. Pisellini noted that the Adams County Board Chair wanted both sides presented, but the WPGVA cancelled its request, indicating it wasn't ready and wasn't sure when it would be.

Leichtnam (Wood) presented information about what coming legislation about groundwater he expected to be brought up soon in the Wisconsin legislature and the lobbying efforts of the WPVGA. Legislators Corey Mason & Mark Miller have introduced a Water Sustainability bill. Several conservation organizations have supported the bill. The bill is open for other sponsors until 2/20/17.

A significant discussion evolved among attendees about the proposed bills and groundwater issues. Ultimately no decision about supporting the Mason-Miller bill was made, and it was decided by consensus that it would be discussed at the full council meeting. Leichtnam expressed concern that if

action wasn't taken soon, it would be too late to go on record in support of this bill or those like it.

Wucherpennig (Wood) announced that a new person will start in his office next Monday. This person will be working on nutrient management monitoring and compliance, as well as some database and GIS projects. She has previously worked for Wood & Taylor counties. Wood County will hold another Healthy Soils workshop in March 2017. The county has some farmer-led grants from DATCP for training to allow farmers to write their own 590 (nutrient management) plans. Wood County is also partnering with Portage County on invasives, especially Wild Parsnip, which they believe should be listed as a state noxious weed.

Hernandez (Waushara) noted that all state and county cost-share funds for 2017 had been assigned, with a small waiting list as well. All 32 lake management plans have been delivered to the WDNR for review and possible approval, so he will be closing that grant and project out. Two lakes in his county are exploring hand-removals of aquatic invasives using something like Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting and/or snorkeling. Waushara County also has a farmer-led grant; its full-time agronomist works at certifying nutrient management, monitoring & follow-up for the plans. The only CAFO in the county recently had a second manure spill. The county has warned the CAFO that if another spill occurs, the county may cancel the county permit for its operation.

Tomandl (Taylor) reported that the goats had been brought back again in the fall and had basically eaten everything in sight. The county has been encouraging the testing of private well water, then mapping the results for the entire county. Stream monitoring finished its 3rd year looking at several aspects, including nutrient loading. The county tree sale is coming soon.

Sedlar (Adams) said that getting meaningful enforcement of violation of the manure storage ordinance in Adams County was problematic. He attended 7 court sessions on one violation, and the problem wasn't resolved until new owners came on board. He has an agreement with the Tri-Lakes Management District that 50 samples of soil from waterfront property on each lake will be taken and tested for levels of phosphorus and potassium. These results will be added to ditch testing and other water quality testing results. He has become part of a water quality group in the Tri-Lakes area that will also consider nitrogen. Due to a negative report from OSHA, some safety issues have had to be addressed on the Tri-Lakes dams. Work on them is almost completed.

Evans (at-large) indicated she is reviewing lake management plans for needed updates, updating the Adams County LWCD lakes website, and getting information together for reimbursement applications. She also noted that the 2nd Central Wisconsin Water Walk will occur on 9/17/17 in the Town of Rome in Adams County. There is a GoFundMe page for contributions for the water walk.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans
Temporary Recording Secretary