

Golden Sands Resource, Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Regular Business/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2017
Golden Sands RC & D Office, Stevens Points, WI

Attendees: Al Barden (Member-at-Large); Roger Bacon (Portage); Gary Beastro (Marathon); Merlin Becker (WWOA); Steve Bradley (Portage); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Everett Eckstein (Waushara); Bob Ellis (Waupaca); Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large); Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands); Deb Jacobek (Farmer's Union); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Ed Miller (Outagamie); Hugh O'Donnell (member-at-large); Paul Pisellini (Adams); Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Wally Sedlar (Adams); Ben Stanley (Taylor); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Shane Wucherpfennig (Wood).

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President O'Donnell at 11:06 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, Barden by Rosenthal, to accept the minutes of the September 2016 meeting as written. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report for November and December of 2016 was passed round. Hilgart explained some of the entries, including a large reimbursement from the WDNR that was finally received. Motion made by Clendenning, seconded by Becker, to accept and file the treasurer's reports. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wisconsin RC & D Update: Barden reported the next meeting is Friday, January 27, 2017.

3-Year Plan Steering Committee: Thorstenson reported that Kuehnhold is waiting for the next class discussed previously to start. This should give him more information to work on the business plan.

Joe P Memorial: Thorstenson reviewed a couple of plans for the interpretive sign and made comments. The sign will likely be installed in spring 2017.

MOA with NRCS: The agreement is set to be signed at the State RC & D meeting on January 27, 2017. The temporary NRCS State Conservationist will be at the meeting to sign the agreement.

Update on Groundwater Legislation: Leichtnam reported on a recent presentation by a representative of the Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association at the Portage County Board and their recent release called "High Capacity Well Facts." The presentation was not received well and the WPVGA has since withdrawn their requests to appear at other county boards. However, he expects the WPVGA to lobby heavily with state legislature and urge reintroduction of bills that would make the installation and continued operation of high-capacity wells basically without supervision or consideration of their impacts on water in the areas. He discussed a bill called the "water sustainability act" introduced by

Corey Mason & Mark Miller. This bill is supported by several conservation organizations, including the Wisconsin River Alliance, the Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy, Friends of the Central Sands, Clean Water, the Wisconsin Wildlife Association, and Wisconsin Lakes. Considerable discussion was had. Ed Miller noted that the state RC & D would be taking up a resolution about groundwater at the meeting on January 27, 2017. Others noted additional meetings that will be discussing these issues, include the State Land & Water Conservation conference, the PACRS, and the Farmer's Union. Motion by Leitchnam, seconded by Beastron, to take the state resolution, any prior county resolutions, and the prior resolution of Golden Sands and prepare a resolution for Golden Sands addressing the issues, but not a specific legislation, that will be sent out by email and voted on by email before the March 2017 meeting. Individual vote was taken: Adams, yes; Marathon, yes; Marquette, yes; Outagamie, yes; Portage, abstain; Taylor, yes; Waupaca, yes; Waushara, yes; Wood, yes. No representatives were present from Green Lake, Juneau or Monroe counties. Corporate members, committee chairs, and members at large were then polled. Barden, yes; Evans, yes; Hernandez, yes; O'Donnell, yes; Farmer's Union, yes; and WWOA, yes. Motion carried with one abstention.

NEW BUSINESS

Financial Review: Copies of the accountant's annual review through 12/31/15 were passed out. Hilgart explained the meaning of several entries. 2015 ended in the black after 2013 and 2014 had ended in the red. Thorstenson discussed some of the category changes she will be making to the accountant: (1) breaking out donations from contributions so that keeping track of donations will be easier; (2) adding in a section for the fee-for-service income; (3) breaking down the professional fees section to separate consultants for projects vs. those related to general overhead. She also explained the board-designated funds and their projected use. Thorstenson also passed out a graph showing income, expenses, and net since 2005.

2017 Draft Budget: This will be ready for the March meeting, as will the 2016 actuals.

2017 Dues: Invoices for the 2017 dues will be going out soon. Kuehnhold will also start making the rounds of county committees again to remind them of the services available through Golden Sands and their value.

Other New Business: Thorstenson noted that 2017 is the 45th Anniversary of Golden Sands RC & D. She is looking for ideas on ways to celebrate. She intends to prepare a photo coverage of achievements through the years for the Facebook and website pages.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel/Finance Committee Report: Evans reported on the meeting this morning. Hilgart reviewed the treasurer's report. There are reimbursements still outstanding. The accountants review for 2015 was passed out and explained. The 2017 budget proposal will be available for the March meeting, as well 2016 actuals. Thorstenson reviewed some proposals for the interpretive sign for the green space that will include information about the Piechowski memorial. Kuehnhold is still working with the consultant on marketing the fee-for-services and other activities. He meet with committees in all counties covered by Golden Sands in 2016. Dues statements for 2017 will be going out this month, with the recommended fee of \$1900 per county. 2016 was the first time that all 12 counties had paid something

towards dues. The quarterly newsletter will go out with the year-beginning appeal. Work is ongoing to make the website mobile-friendly.

Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report: Hilgart reported on today's meeting. More lumber is needed for birdhouses. Demo forest activity is ongoing. Tree shelters from Plantra will be available this year; information will go out about them to the counties with tree sales. There's \$900 in the gardens account. Notices to former users will go out by March to offer them space again at \$40 per plot. Some fees are still owed for completed grazing plans. A draw of \$65,000 was obtained on the Woods & Wildlife grant. Grassworks will still be concentrating on building healthy soil. Discussion was had about having a booth at the Energy Fair, but it was decided that the cost was too high. Thorstenson is wrapping up the Emerald Ash Borer plans for various clients in 2016. Funding has been received for 2017 for Rib Mountain, Scofield and workshops at Mosquito Hill.

Water Committee Report: Evans reported on today's water meeting. Most of the time was spent discussing the groundwater issues raised by Bob Ellis and Bill Leichtnam, including the "High Capacity Well Fact Book" put out by the WPVGA. Hamerla reported that the requested funding for continuing research on Eurasian Watermilfoil Biocontrol had not been granted, so Thorstenson is looking for alternatives that would allow research to continue. GS is waiting to hear if the Regional AIS grant application sent in December 2016 will be granted. Thorstenson is interested in looking into applying for a multi-county EPA grant for nutrient management of \$250,000-\$500,000. Wucherprennig noted there is a new employee starting in his office next Monday that will work with nutrient management monitoring & compliance, as well as perform some database & GIS work. Wood County is planning on having another Healthy Soils workshop in March 2017. The county has some grant for farmer-led councils from DATCP that cover several counties. Wood has partnered with Portage County to work on some invasives, especially Wild Parsnip, which they hope to get declared as a noxious weed. Hernandez said all of the state and county cost-share money had been assigned and there is a small waiting list in Waushara County. All 32 lake plans have been delivered to WDNR for review, so he will be winding up that project and grant. Two lakes in his county are looking into DASH or something similar using snorkelers. Waushara has a full-time agronomist that is working with the farmer-led grant to certify nutrient management plans and do follow-up. The CAFO in his county had its second spill, so the county has taken the position that if there is another spill, it may pull the county permit for its operation. Tomandl reported that the goats had been brought back and ate everything in sight. His county has been encouraging the testing of private wells. Results are then mapped on a county-wide map to show areas of concern. Stream monitoring for the 3rd year is finishing up considering nutrient loads. The tree sale is coming up. Sedlar outlined a problem in getting violation of the nutrient management ordinance in Adams County. He has made an agreement with the Tri-Lakes Management District to sample the soil of 50 lake-front properties on each lake for Phosphors and two other markers. A water quality group has been formed for the Tri-Lakes that he will be participating in. OSHA cited the county for several safety issues on the Tri-Lakes dams that he has been dealing with. Evans noted that she has been updating the department website, reviewing lake management plans, and working on reimbursement applications. The Wisconsin Lakes Conference will be held April 5-7, 2017, in Stevens Point. The Central Wisconsin Nature Foundation will hold its second Water Walk on 9/16/17. There is a goFundme page for it.

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

NEW PROJECTS: none.

STAFF/PROJECT UPDATES: Written staff reports were sent out for Council members to review prior to the meeting.

AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS: Jacubek passed around copies of the latest Wisconsin Farmers Union newspaper for people to take. The Farmers Union state convention will be held next weekend. On 2/28/17, there will be a Farmland Rural Lobby Day. It will discuss groundwater issues, as well as others.

OTHER REPORTS: None.

NEXT MEETING: Sedlar noted that the County Conservationist meeting in March conflicts with the scheduled Golden Sands meeting date on 3/15/17. After a short discussion, motion made by Evans, seconded by Barden, to move the Golden Sands meeting to 3/23/17. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. on motion by Eckstein, seconded by Barden.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans
Secretary, Golden Sands RC & D