

**Golden Sands Resource, Conservation & Development Council, Inc.**  
**Regular Business/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**July 26th, 2018**  
**Golden Sands RC & D Office, Stevens Points, WI**

**Attendees:** Hugh O'Donnell (Member-at-Large); Al Barden (Member-at-Large); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Gary Beasom (Marathon); Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Pat Kilbey (Marquette); Deb Jakubek (WI Farmers' Union); Steve Bradley (Portage); Shane Wucherpennig (Wood); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Paul Pisellini (Adams); Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D staff); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); also present: Marcia Noble.

**Call to Order:** Barden, Vice-President, called meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

**Introductions:** At the request of Barden 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 Wucherpennig, to accept the minutes of the May 2018 meeting as written. Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report for March and April 2018 was passed around. Thorstenson indicated there were no out-of-the-ordinary expenses. Dispersals and receipts were fairly standard. No use of the contingency fund. More bills being paid on-line have reduced the number of checks written. There are still some WDNR reimbursement requests to submit. Motion made by Clendenning, seconded by Tomandl, to accept the treasurer's report and place it on file for review.

### **Old Business**

**Wisconsin RC & D Update:** Barden reported there is a Wisconsin Association of RC&Ds meeting tomorrow, July 27th.

**3-Year Plan Steering Committee:** Thorstenson reported no progress for now.

**Joe P Memorial:** Thorstenson reported the final piece, the memorial plaque by the smoke tree was finally installed. This completes the project.

**Update on Groundwater Legislation:** Leichtnam reported they would discuss this during Waters Committee report.

### **New Business**

**Guest speaker:** Thorstenson introduced Ruth Oppendahl, Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, to speak about endowments available through NRF. Conservation organizations can open an endowment through NRF with an initial minimum of \$15K to open an account. The fund must sit 1 yr before first payout. Annual fees: The fund manager (TIAA) applies a 0.37% management fee to the portfolio, and the NRF applies a 1% administrative fee to the portfolio. Distribution: Annual distribution level is set annually by NRF and is currently at 4.5%. The funds have been earning 8.85% in 2016 and 13.48% in 2017. Our current earnings on the

contingency account (savings account we set aside for emergencies) is 0.049%. There is a clawback agreement in case of extraordinary circumstances. Endowments may be appealing to some citizens looking to make a donation that invests in future financial stability of the organization. Folders were distributed so members could look things over more and be ready to vote on the topic at the September meeting.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Personnel/Finance Committee Report:** Hilgart reported on the meeting this morning. Committee went into closed session, then returned to open session. The minutes of the prior meeting were accepted. The treasurer's report was forwarded to the full council. Endowment was discussed briefly, packets were handed out, review of minimums, fees, and distribution rates. Thorstenson reported the memorial plaque is installed, completing the Joe Piechowski memorial project. Thorstenson reported on the newsletter and that Jennifer Fjelsted (LTE) has been utilizing her networking groups who specialize in web building, researching website upgrade at low cost, and also conforming to WI Association of RC&Ds branding guide. Direct marketing limited to Facebook posts at the moment. Career Ready Internship Program at UWSP may produce a business intern, paid for by UWSP. Personnel reviews are started and in process. Miller will research the cost of adding a Volunteer Blanket to the WI Assoc liability policy.

**Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report:** Barden reported on today's Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife meeting. One new project: NACD TA MOA, to promote EQIP programs for forestry and grazing. Demo forests had a written report from Merlin Becker, in lieu of in-person attendance. NRCS Coop Agreement was awaiting draft of agreement. Tree shelter sales - committee requested numbers to date for the next meeting. Woods & Wldf had written report from Josh in lieu of in-person attendance. EAB project - Thorstenson looking into possible group grant that would allow communities to buy replacement trees at lower cost. EBT machine idea may be allowable under new NACD TA MOA project.

**Water Committee Report:** Kilbey reported on today's water meeting. One new project: CBCW Big Hills Lake 2018, to provide CBCW assistance. Leichtnam and Wucherpfennig reported on the groundwater issue: Well testing project in Wood and Juneau County found people's well water was worse than thought, nitrates far exceeding EPA safe drinking water standards and in some cases beyond what a purification system can fix.

**New Projects:** Big Hills CBCW 2018, direct contract with lake group for CBCW boat inspector, estimated cash cost of \$772 for 32 landing hrs. NACD TA MOA, to promote EQIP programs to landowners for forestry and grazing, MOA total \$50,000. Motion made by Clendenning, seconded by Beastron to approve both new projects. Motion passed unanimously.

**Staff/Project Reports:** Written staff reports were sent out electronically before the meeting.

**Agency/Partner Reports:** Thorstenson announced that the new NRCS State Conservationist is Eric Hurley, a former RC&D staffer from years ago. Jakubek reported on the Grazing workshops and Women Caring for the Land workshops.

**Other Reports:** Lumberjack RC&D invites our members to join them for the 50th anniversary celebration on August 18th. Invitation was passed around.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be September 20th, 2018.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m. on motion by Hernandez, seconded by Wucherpfennig.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Jakubek/Amy Thorstenson  
Temporary recording secretaries, Golden Sands RC & D