

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Waters Committee Meeting Minutes
May 19th, 2022
Jordan Park's East Lodge / Online

Attendees: Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Chris Hamerla (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large); Shane Wucherpennig (Member-at-Large); Amanda Burzynski (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Sarah Fleck (Juneau); Diane Hanson (Marathon); Joe Tomandl (Taylor).

CALL TO ORDER: Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Leichtnam, and seconded by Tomandl, to approve the March 2022 Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW PROJECTS: Pearl Lake contracted with Golden Sands RC&D to perform a point intercept aquatic plant survey and Eurasian watermilfoil survey/mapping. This is a fee for service agreement for \$6,147 that would start in July 2022. A motion was made by Evans, and seconded by Wucherpennig, to approve the project. Motion passed unanimously and the project was sent on to the full council for review.

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION: Leichtnam reported that water has not been chosen as one of the nine study topics for the Wisconsin legislature this coming summer.

COUNTY AND STAFF UPDATES:

Adams: The county recently held two public information meetings about the 14 Mile Creek Watershed 9 Key Element Plan. The Town of Rome is holding a conservation day on June 4th. Private well testing will start. Since the reorganization of the LWCD department into Planning and Zoning, the county is not sure if it will continue with Golden Sands RC&D. The Friendship Lake District is holding a party on May 28th to celebrate its 30th anniversary and a launch party for its new mechanical harvester.

Juneau: The county is beginning Nitrate testing again. Two 9 Key Element Plans are in progress. Two floating ramps are being installed. The two producer-led groups in the county are going well. An aquatic plant skimmer is coming to Lake Decorah.

Marathon: Hanson's department had seven staff changes since December 2021. A new conservation program manager started about three weeks ago and is doing well. They are hoping that the county board will approve use of some ARPA funds for work on Fenwood Creek and the Big Eau Pleine watersheds.

Marquette: The county had trouble getting some of the trees for its tree sale this year. There is more interest in CBCW projects this year. The county lake association set aside \$5000 to help lake groups get involved; three lake groups have already applied. The lake level in Buffalo Lake is so low this year that people are having trouble launching their boats. They are trying to work with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to have a higher water level. \$25,500 was set aside for private well testing. The gravel pit request was turned down, but they can appeal by June 6th.

Taylor: The tree sale occurred later this year but ended up doing well. The county recently hosted Maple Fest. Fifth graders participated in the Buckthorn Bash to help eradicate both types of buckthorn. Native trees and shrubs are being planted in areas previously cleared by the goats.

Waushara: \$200,000 of ARPA money approved by the county board to help the installation of reverse osmosis systems, with the county covering 80% of the costs. The funds will first be offered to landowners who participated in county testing and had high Nitrate results; if there is money left, it will be offered to other landowners with high Nitrate levels. Hernandez is working on another manure storage violation.

Wood: The county is extending its private well testing for another year and concentrating on ones that tested high for Nitrates five years ago. This will give them a better idea of any trends. Their tiller and roller are booked into June, showing the increase in cover crops and no-till practices. Wucherpennig's office has been down a technician for about three months and they are looking to fill the position soon.

Burzynski: She taught 31 groundwater and 19 AIS lessons so far this spring. The groundwater lessons were in Waupaca, Waushara, and Wood counties. Some of them included the expanded groundwater lessons. The AIS lessons were in several counties. She had a waiting list this year for the first time.

Hamerla: There was a slow start due to the cold weather but it has picked up. Both he and Kundinger have purple loosestrife projects going. Several outreach events have already started. There are lots of Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) training sessions this year. The new boat is available today; there are already 12 days of its use scheduled. He gave a presentation about the job of an aquatic invasive species (AIS) Coordinator (outreach and education) at the recent AIS state meeting.

Thorstenson: She is culturing Eurasian watermilfoil weevil stock for a lake up North. Her first trip to collect weevils on Lake Wingra wasn't very successful, so she will be returning. All CBCW positions are filled except one for Big Bass Lake. Training is set for next week so that the inspectors can start working Memorial Day weekend.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Evans, and seconded by Leichtnam, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans
Recording Secretary