

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Waters Committee Meeting Minutes
September 15th, 2022
Jordan Park's East Lodge / Online

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

CALL TO ORDER: Rosenthal called the meeting to order.

INTRODUCTIONS: No introductions. All familiar.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Leichtnam, which was seconded by Hernandez, to approve the July 2022 Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW PROJECTS: There is one new project for consideration. The project involves Regional AIS services for 2023. This does not involve a competitive grant application, as it did in the past, but instead the funds come from money the counties are awarded by the WI Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for aquatic invasive species (AIS) services. The \$159,088.42 will support up to three full-time AIS coordinators and one part-time project manager. It is expected that the Executive Director will complete the part-time project manager duties. The project will start on January 1st, 2023. A motion was made by Evans, which was seconded by Hernandez, to approve the project and send on to the full council for consideration. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY AND STAFF UPDATES:

Adams: Evans reported that the county recently sent out its first offers for private well testing. The 14-Mile Creek 9 Key Element Group recently held an informational dinner. Arkdale Lake is planning on dredging its main boat launch, but may have to do it without a grant. Members of the Friendship Lake District recently voted, to keep the current plan for the winter level of the lake to stay as is, on October 1st.

Marathon: The county applied for a grant to establish a producer-led group for the Eau Pleine Watershed. It was hoped that some of the ARPA funds could be used to help develop a groundwater plan for the county, but it was denied. The department is hoping to get more farmland preservation participation. Hamerla noted that Marathon County seemed to have an unusually high amount of purple loosestrife blooming this year, so the county designated a person to work with him on a plan. Leichtnam extended an invitation to Marathon County to become a part of the six-county groundwater collaborative.

Marquette: Rosenthal reported that his well was one of the private wells in Marquette County that tested high in Nitrates. He installed a reverse osmosis system and is planning on installing another. Last Saturday was an electronics turn-in day. Three dumpsters, plus six large trucks, were filled. They were able to charge little for the items turned in because of money received from Sony, as part of a federal rule requiring electronic producers to reimburse for some disposal costs of their items. Three people, including Rosenthal, retired from the Marquette

County Lake group, so there are three new people on the board. Buffalo Lake wants to change the winter water level and is working with the WI DNR.

Taylor: Tomandl said that the county is wrapping up its private well-testing project for this year. One test this year came back positive for e-coli.

Waushara: Hernandez has been helping install reverse osmosis systems on some private wells, using \$100,000 of ARPA funds set aside by the county. The request for a no-till drill is now on hold. A manure storage ordinance violation looks like it may be resolved with a compliance schedule. The Fox-Wolf watershed's 9 Key Element ideas were rejected until several inventories are completed.

Wood: Leichtnam reported there has been no legislative activity since the last meeting, because those running for office are campaigning for the November election. Wucherpennig reported that the county is continuing to sample private wells, especially for ones that previously tested high in Nitrate levels. The department is hoping that some of the pandemic ARPA funds Wood County received can be used to fund activities like cost-sharing for the installation of reverse osmosis systems for private wells, conservation practices for farmers, and the purchase of a drone for the department. The no-till drill is still being used heavily.

Burzynski: The Waupaca County Conservation Day is coming soon. She will be attending the Upper Midwest Invasive Species conference in Green Bay in October. Hamerla and Thorstenson will also attend. She will also start making contacts for AIS and groundwater lessons for the spring terms. She is also waiting to hear about funding to potentially start teaching groundwater lessons to 5th grade students in Marquette County.

Hamerla: The first year of new funding for AIS activities is winding down. He feels that it was successful and described some of the activities, which are listed on his written staff report.

Thorstenson: Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) contracts are wrapping up. The payroll this Friday will be the last check for most of the CBCW interns. However, one of the interns assigned to Green Lake is willing to continue CBCW work through September and even into October, if needed.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Hernandez, which was seconded by Tomandl, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans
Recording Secretary