

Golden Sands Resource, Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Waters Committee Meeting Minutes
September 17th, 2020
Jordan Park's East Pavilion

Attendees: Anna Cisar (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large); Chris Hamerla (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff). Diane Hanson (Marathon) and Paul Pisellini (Adams) attended online.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: No introductions were made. All familiar.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Tomandl, seconded by Leichtnam, to approve the July 2020 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW PROJECTS: There are two new gold sheets for the Waters Committee. Hamerla outlined the projects. One is for Hamerla, Cisar, and Plonsky to do aquatic invasive species (AIS) work for Juneau and Columbia Counties, starting January 1, 2021. Funds would come from a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Lake Monitoring and Protection Grant for a total of \$26,559.39. The Land Conservation Departments of both counties will also assist. The application, which is due on November 1, 2020, will also need a resolution passed by the full council. Motion by Evans, seconded by Tomandl, to forward the project to full council. Motion carried unanimously. The second gold sheet is a contract with Clear Lake for diving and boat operation to remove Eurasian Watermilfoil from the lake, which started on July 20, 2020, for \$1,909.75. Motion by Evans, seconded by Leichtnam, to approve and send to full council. Motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON GROUNDWATER PROTECTION:

Leichtnam reported that he recently spoke with Representative Katrina Shankland and River Alliance's Alison Werner. The 13 pending water bills left hanging when the legislature adjourned due to Covid-19 are basically dead, so the process will have to start all over when the new legislature meets in January 2021. A report about well testing in Grant, Iowa, and Lafayette Counties found fecal matter in 21 of the 35 wells tested. The source of the contamination has not been determined.

COUNTY AND MEMBER UPDATES:

Hamerla: The pandemic has made getting AIS volunteers, whose time is usually used for match on the AIS grants, difficult and may not reach the required level. Hamerla and Cisar were able to do more field work than usual this year because of the situation. The current AIS regional grant will expire around the end of 2021. Due to the upcoming change in WDNR Surface Water Grants, regional AIS funding through a regional grant will no longer be available. Any new grant is expected to concentrate more on coordinating and less on field work. He will be participating in a waterfall outreach event at Mead Wildlife Center on September 26, 2020, with the assistance of six UWSP student volunteers. This year's LTE positions may last until October because of the

pandemic conditions. He expects that he and Cisar will be working on reimbursement papers in October and November 2020.

Cisar: Besides the work already described by Hamerla, she has been checking Marquette County lakes since starry stonewort was found in one lake in that county this summer.

Thorstenson: Was working with Buckatabon Lake in Vilas County this summer on rearing the weevils that attack Eurasian Watermilfoil. In August 2020, 293 weevils were released into the lake. The lake plans to continue the project for two more years with an increased number of growing tanks. She also provided weevils from various lakes for a project at Montana State that is looking into genetic diversity.

Hernandez: The 18 month pending citation for manure runoff was finally concluded recently, with the judge ordering that the cattle be removed and sold. Some were sold at auction, some to local farmers, and some went to slaughterhouses. This concludes about 10 years of manure runoff into Waushara County roads and waters. Any funds from the dispersal will go to pay the county for the various procedures involved in this case and to an outstanding loan of the farmer. The county has postponed its planned drone flyover shore inventory until spring 2021. Waushara County is participating in the multi-county Central Sands Groundwater Collaborative. A grant application is being submitted for \$70,000 by October 1, 2020, for gap analysis and development of short and long-term strategies. Nancy Turyk, of Wood County, will coordinate.

Tomandl: He mentioned that Golden Sands might be able to apply for a Covid-19 small business grant. Private well testing throughout the county continues. Recent well test results revealed 20% had fecal coliform, one had e-coli, and two had high nitrates. Stream monitoring has been ongoing for five years. The Taylor County Farmland Preservation Plan is being updated.

Evans: The Friendship Lake District is still in litigation about the price it paid for taking over the dam which has needed, and still needs, expensive repairs. Members voted to increase the mil rate district property owners pay to fund repairs not covered by a loan application for \$380,000, which was also approved by the membership. The Water Resources Specialist in Adams County has taken another job somewhere else. Natural lakes and streams in Adams County continue to experience high water. Earlier this week, the Petenwell-Castle Rock Stewards and the Consolidated Musky Club coordinated a memorial fish stocking of 550 muskies, in Petenwell Lake, in honor of a long-time Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards (PACRS) board member and a long-time member of the Musky Club.

Rosenthal: Nothing new to report.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans
Recording Secretary