

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

**Attendees:** Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Reesa Evans (Member-at-Large); Gary Beastron (Member-at-Large); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Kendra Kunding (Golden Sands RC&D); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amanda Burzynski (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Al Drabek (Marathon); Lindsey Laskowski (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Steve Bradley (Portage); Shane Wucherpennig (Member-at-Large); Todd Morris (Green Lake); Bob Schweder (Green Lake); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Joe Tomandl (Taylor).

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President Hernandez at 11:00 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Everyone introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Clendenning, which was seconded by Wucherpennig, to approve the minutes from the July 2022 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report for July and August 2022 was passed around. Hilgart indicated that dispersals and receipts were routine for the working season. No use of the contingency fund. The endowment fund decreased by over \$4000 in the second quarter. A motion was made by Rosenthal, which was seconded by Evans, to accept and file the treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Groundwater Legislation:** Leichtnam reported there has been no legislative activity since the last meeting, because those running for office are campaigning for the November election.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**New Executive Director:** Kendra Kunding, who previously worked for Golden Sands as a regional Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator was promoted to the Executive Director position. She will continue to do some AIS work.

**50th Anniversary Celebration:** Thorstenson noted the various links for the 50th Anniversary celebration. The celebration is scheduled for October 15th, at District 1 Brewery, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Today is the deadline for submissions for the photo and t-shirt design contests.

**Appointments to CWWP and State RC&D Boards:** Thorstenson suggested that the motions identifying a Golden Sands RC&D representative to the CWWP and State RC&D Boards should identify the position, rather than a particular person. A motion was made by Evans, which was seconded by Walker, to identify the Executive Director Position as Golden Sands RC&D's representative for these Boards. Motion carried unanimously.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Personnel/Finance Committee Report:** Evans reported that Hilgart passed out the most recent Treasurer's Report. The committee voted to forward it to the full council. A new accounting firm was located and a contract is in place. The new accounting firm is Wegner CPA from Madison. There are two new hires for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) co-employment position in the Portage and Stevens Point offices. An offer was made for the Urban Conservation position, but it was declined. The position will be reposted. Plans for the 50th Anniversary "Party at the Pub" are going well. Promotional materials were distributed to various entities. Today is the submission deadline for the photo and t-shirt designs contests, so judging teams will be set up soon. Winning submissions will be displayed at the celebration. Beaström, Hernandez, and Walker volunteered to be on the judging teams. Evans announced that the Central Wisconsin Nature Foundation voted to donate a wooden Leopold bench, which will be used for a tribute to Al Barden, a retired Golden Sands RC&D's Committee member. Golden Sands RC&D staff will seek estimates for costs for plaques and other related expenses.

**Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report:** Walker reported that there is an Outagamie Demonstration Forest event on September 23rd. Reports on CWIP and NEWIP were given. Karner Blue Butterfly habitat is being addressed. There will be events on September 24th in Waupaca and on October 8th at the Green Bay Botanical Gardens. Nicole Welke was hired for the Grazing Specialist co-employment position at the Portage NRCS office. Adam Skadsen was hired for the Soil Conservationist Technician co-employment position at the Stevens Point NRCS office. An offer was made for the Urban Conservation position, but it was declined. The position will be reposted. There was no tree shelter update. The August pasture walk on Hilgart's farm was successful. There is another pasture walk set for September 22nd. Soil walks are set for September 29th and October 13th. Several new grazing plans were completed. A field day will be held in Waupaca on September 30th. There will be 17 stations and approximately 300 students are expected to attend. There is a new gold sheet from this committee that continues the NRCS co-employment project.

**Water Committee Report:** Evans reported that one new Waters Project was voted to be sent to the full council. The first year of new funding for AIS activities is winding down. Hamerla feels that it was successful. Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) contracts are wrapping up. One of the interns assigned to Green Lake is willing to continue CBCW work through September and even into October, if needed. Updates were given by representatives from Wood, Taylor, Marathon, Marquette, Waushara, and Adams Counties. Several counties are involved in private well-testing. Counties are also working on budgets for next year. The Waupaca County Conservation Field Day is coming soon. Burzynski will soon start making contacts for AIS and groundwater lessons for the spring.

## **NEW PROJECTS:**

A new project from the Forestry/Ag/Wildlife Committee continues the NRCS cooperative employment agreement. The estimated cost is \$156,000. A motion was made by Wucherpennig, which was seconded by Evans, to approve this project. Motion carried unanimously.

There is a new project from the Waters Committee. It is a continuation of the Regional AIS work for 2023 with a cost of \$159,088.42. A motion was made by Rosenthal, which was seconded by Wucherpennig, to approve this project. Motion carried unanimously.

**STAFF/PROJECT UPDATES:** Staff reports were sent out electronically before the meeting.

**AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS:** None

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Two representatives from Green Lake County introduced themselves. Attending were Todd Morris (County Conservationist) and Bob Schweder (Green Lake LWCD Committee Chair). They thanked Golden Sands RC&D for its recent support to establish an agricultural enterprise zone in Green Lake. They also mentioned a plan for a portable boat washing station, which is expected to be installed at Green Lake next year. It will be staffed by the lake association there.

**NEXT MEETING:** After some discussion, it was decided that the November 17th meeting will be held in Wood County indoors.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Clendenning, which was seconded by Walker, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Reesa Evans  
Recording Secretary