

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

Attendees: Al Barden (Member-at-Large); Joshua Benes (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Hugh O'Donnell (Member-at-Large); Tristyn Forget (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Al Drabek (Marathon); Maria Davis (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amanda Burzynski (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Hannah Butkiewicz (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Rachel Bouressa (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Paul Pisellini (Adams); Robert Bauer (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Tommy Enright (Wisconsin Farmers Union) attended online.

CALL TO ORDER: Tessmer called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion from Clendenning, seconded by Tessmer, to approve the minutes from the July meeting was passed unanimously.

PROJECT UPDATES:

Cooperating For Woods and Wildlife/Demo Forests: Butkiewicz created two new brochures for the Henrickson and Pine Villa Woodland Demonstration Forests. She has also scheduled and held half of the CFWW planning meetings with various county partners. Butkiewicz has assisted with the enrollment of a couple hundred acres into DMAP and is working with Brendan Woodall to enroll landowners interested in restoring karner blue butterfly habitat on their property.

US Forest Service Habitat Restoration Grants: Benes completed two grant applications through the United States Forest Service (USFS) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). One focused on oak wilt. The other dealt with the restoration of properties impacted by storm damage and planting trees on a property donated to the Boys and Girls Club in Green Lake County. The two grant applications totaled \$422,000. Benes will likely find out about funding next week.

Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP): Benes shared updates. CWIP's Mapping Blitz event is ongoing and so far volunteers have mapped 250 miles of roads in Portage, Juneau, Waushara, Marquette, and Green Lake Counties. The roads were mapped for Japanese knotweed, teasels, and wild parsnip but volunteers often reported other species as well. CWIP will hold a Multi-Session Forest Invasives Webinar on September 26, 2020, with assistance from Kelly Kearns (DNR) and Anne Pearce (WIFDN). The webinar will focus on identification and mapping. Plonsky and Henby (LTE) surveyed 54 acres of forest for invasive plants in Portage County as part of a DNR funded project. There will also be control work completed through this project. CWIP's Japanese Knotweed Early Detection and Response Grant application was approved by the DNR and most work will begin next summer. A landowner

paid to control knotweed in their yard this summer through Golden Sands RC&D contracted services and that project is nearly wrapped up. As part of CWIP's Forest Service GLRI Grant, more spotted knapweed control has been completed through a partnership with US Fish and Wildlife and Japanese hedge parsley has been hand-pulled on a UW-owned property. Finally, CWIP will hold a steering committee meeting online on October 28, 2020, from 2-3:30pm and all interested folks are welcome to attend.

Northeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Coalition (NEWISC): There are two upcoming meetings for NEWISC. A meeting focusing on forming and developing the group will be held on October 19, 2020, from 1-2:30pm. A meeting focusing on current and future grant projects will be held on November 9, 2020, from 12-1:15pm.

NRCS Cooperative Agreements: A new agreement is drafted with the NRCS Soil Conservationists. This agreement will be adding a new Soil Conservationist in Juneau County (job announcement already out) and will carry over our four existing Soil Conservationist when the current agreement expires around this time next year.

Wisconsin Tree Farm Website: Burzynski reported that her part of the project is complete. The new website has been made available to the public. Visit <https://www.witreefarm.org/> if you are interested in viewing it.

Bluebird And Bat Houses: No recent sales.

Tree Shelters: This year has been a busy year for tree shelters, with a total of 21 orders and an average of \$260/order. About \$900 in revenue was made.

Stevens Point Area Neighborhood Gardens (SPANG): The project is coming to close as we are getting closer to the end of the growing season. Burzynski reported that all of the garden plots were rented this summer.

NACD Technical Assistance Project/Managed Grazing: Bouressa reported that 18 of the 20 grazing plans have been completed, with the remaining two from the first grant in progress and soon to be complete. There are an additional five plans in progress, as well as a list of folks interested in having plans written. The three pasture walks for the first grant have been completed, along with two of the new project's deliverables. There is one last walk for the year on October 7, 2020. Completing the follow-up visits will continue to be the focus moving forward. Planning for the workshop is in progress with a late October-early November date.

Little Plover River Appreciation Field Day: Burzynski is hoping that Golden Sands will host the event in 2021. Burzynski is meeting with Benes to discuss and search for more funding opportunities. The Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) provided \$200 so far.

Waupaca County Conservation Field Day (WCCFD): This is the first year that the WCCFD will take place online instead of at Hartman Creek State Park. Burzynski reported that seven schools from Waupaca County will be participating in the event on September 25, 2020. About 300 participants will be viewing four presentations about grazing, fisheries, forest fires, and aquatic invasive species (AIS). She created and sent out instructional documents for both the students and the presenters to make it easier to navigate the online field day.

Hammerstrom Books: Benes reported that all remaining Hammerstrom Books were sold to Clean Green Action, the new nonprofit organization managing the Prairie Chicken Festival. Anyone interested in ordering those books should contact that organization.

NEW PROJECTS:

New projects were reviewed.

- NRCS Cooperative Agreement (#774F)
- Developing an additional Golden Sands RC&D Waupaca County Demonstration Forest (#776G)

Motion was made by Barden, and second by Clendenning, to approve all of the projects.
Motion passed unanimously.

MEMBER REPORTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Clendinning, second by O'Donnell, to adjourn at 10:43am.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Benes
Temporary Recording Secretary