

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Regular Business/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
January 21st, 2021
Online via Zoom

Attendees: Ed Hernandez (Waushara); Al Barden (Member-at-Large); Gary Beastrom (Member-at-Large); Joshua Benes (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Amanda Burzynski (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Clendenning (Wood); Denise Hilgart (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Bill Leichtnam (Wood); Pat Kilbey (Marquette); Al Rosenthal (Marquette); Brent Tessmer (Taylor); Amy Thorstenson (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Joe Tomandl (Taylor); Al Drabek (Marathon); Robert Bauer (Golden Sands RC&D); Gerry Zastrow (Portage); Paul Pisellini (Adams); Hannah Butkiewicz (Golden Sands RC&D Staff); Jen Schmitz (Monroe); Shane Wucherpennig (Wood); Bob Walker (Member-at-Large); Scott Wilhorn (Juneau); Mike Weyh (Columbia); Diane Hanson (Marathon); Bob Ellis (Waupaca); Steve Bradley (Portage); Darren Schroeder (Columbia).

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Hernandez at 11:01 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Barden, seconded by Wucherpennig, to accept the minutes from the November 2020 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Hilgart discussed the most recent treasurer's report and account balances. Motion made by Zastrow, seconded by Rosenthal, to accept and file the treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wisconsin RC&D Update: Benes indicated that no in-person state meetings have been held since January 2020. A tentative virtual meeting will be held on January 28th, 2021. Benes will provide the Zoom link to any member interested in attending.

Groundwater Legislation: Clendenning stated that Wood County has a referendum about clean water that will be voted on during the April ballot. Portage and Marquette will also have a clean water referendum on the April ballot as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Executive Director: Benes introduced Butkiewicz. Butkiewicz provided a brief background of her work and experience. She is excited to be in this position. Motion by Wucherpennig, seconded by Ellis, to approve Butkiewicz as the Executive Director of Golden Sands RC&D. Motion carried unanimously.

New Member Application: Butkiewicz informed the Council that Columbia County submitted an application to join Golden Sands RC&D. Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Barden to approve the application of Columbia County's membership to Golden Sands RC&D. Motion carried unanimously. Schroeder gave a brief introduction of himself and his role with Columbia County.

Virtual Council Member Binder: Butkiewicz provided an update about the virtual format for the Council Member Binder. It has been shared with Council members for review.

2021 Board of Directors: Butkiewicz updated the Council about the new board members and current vacancies.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel/Finance Committee Report: Butkiewicz reviewed the IRS 990 form. The history of Golden Sands RC&D's revenue was reviewed and a discussion occurred about ensuring stability of revenue. The Committee also discussed staff changes, management changes, group benefits, formalizing a cell phone stipend, finalizing the new employee handbook through Think HR, increasing the line of credit, and newsletters. Benes and Butkiewicz discussed the annual report document as well as a marketing document, specifically the format of these documents (electronic or hardcopy). A discussion followed in regards to the best method of informing/educating county board members and costs associated with hard copies. Motion by Rosenthal, second by Ellis, to develop a virtual annual report and a hard copy informational brochure (with development and printing costs not to exceed \$500). Motion carried unanimously.

Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee Report: Butkiewicz provided an update about Committee discussions and activities. The Woods and Wildlife Project was discussed. There will be a landowner meeting on February 16, 2021, at 7:00 PM via Zoom, regarding deer management assistance and the benefits of cooperative management. An update was provided about the invasive partnerships, tree shelters, NACD Technical Assistance Grants for managed grazing, and the Little Plover River Appreciation Field Day.

Water Committee Report: Rosenthal reported that the committee had no new projects to approve. The groundwater protection issue was discussed. Rosenthal highlighted a few of the County's activities as well as RC&D staff activities. Rosenthal stated that more information about the committee meeting would be provided in the Waters Committee minutes.

NEW PROJECTS:

There were 4 new gold sheets from the Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee.

1) Project Name: Northeast Wisconsin Invasives Partnership: Building Community and Enhancing Ecosystems through Invasive Species Management

Description: This would support a full-time Northeast Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (NEWIP) Coordinator position. It is for \$62,506.45 and is likely to begin on August 1, 2021.

2) Project Name: Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership: Emerging Species Management and Volunteer Partnerships

Description: This will help to focus on terrestrial and wetland invasive species management. It is for \$63,605.14 and is likely to start on June 1, 2021.

3) Project Name: Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership: Invasive plant control to create habitat for the endangered Karner blue butterfly

Description: This will help to restore at least 145 acres of habitat for the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly. It is for \$62,500 and is likely to begin on July 1, 2021.

4) Project Name: Northeast Wisconsin Invasives Partnership: Invasive plant control to create habitat for the endangered Karner blue butterfly

Description: This will focus on controlling spotted knapweed. It is for \$20,000 and is likely to begin on July 1, 2021.

STAFF/PROJECT UPDATES: Staff reports were sent out before the meeting via email.

AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS: None.

OTHER REPORTS:

Meeting Minutes: Zastrow questioned the possibility of receiving the minutes from committee meetings earlier so that they can be shared with the county committees. Benes responded that every effort is made to streamline and speed up the distribution of the minutes. Clendenning questioned the staff about not taking the minutes and voiced his concerns about getting the minutes out in a timely manner. Benes explained the process of review and distribution of the minutes. Rosenthal asked if a staff person could be assigned to each committee instead of council members taking the minutes. Walker suggested having a target date for draft minutes to be completed and creating a minute's template to aid whomever may be taking minutes, which will be discussed at the next meeting.

Thank You: Benes was thanked for all of his hard work and leadership over the past few years. Benes opened a card and a box of gifts from staff.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Clendenning, seconded by Rosenthal, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Hanson
Temporary Recording Secretary