



STATE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING Minutes – 4/26/2022 – Via Zoom

Call to Order at 10:00 am by President Bob Walker.

Introductions were made and a roll call of councils is as follows:

Attendance:

- A. Golden Sands: Bob Walker, Hannah Butkiewicz, Bill Clenndenning
- B. Lumberjack: Tracy Beckman, Larry Sommer
- C. Glacierland: Kari Divine
- D. Southwest Badger: Not Present
- E. River Country: Not Present

Guests: Eric Allness, NRCS

Approval of the 4/26/2022 Agenda – Motion by Beckman/Sommer to approve the agenda with the change to add compensation for travel/mileage to change signature cards on CDs and move NRCS Update just after Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes – Motion by Clenndenning/Beckman to approve the minutes of 1/18/2022 as presented. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: A financial report dated 3/31/2022 was presented by Beckman. The net worth is \$12,201.73 with a net gain for the period of \$595.47. Motion by Clenndenning/Sommer to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented and place on file for audit. Motion Carried. There are two CDs at Community First CU that require new signature cards. Beckman explained the branch is more than 2 hours drive for both she and Walker and is requesting they be reimbursed for travel and mileage. Walker/Sommer moved to approve reimbursement of expenses up to \$449.31 but, determine if it is cheaper to withdraw early than to pay travel to the bank now and then again when each CD matures. Beckman will look check on this. Motion Carried.

NRCS Update – Eric Allness gave the update for NRCS. He first explained their COVID protocols and then announced staffing changes. Regarding the MOU, Allness is awaiting final approval after all of the edits were submitted. He expects it sometime in May, so that will be on the agenda for July. Regarding funding, there are two upcoming funding opportunities. First, NRCS WI will announce funding for urban agriculture proposals for community gardens or seasonal high tunnels, aka hoop houses, which are metal structures that extend the growing season. Second is cooperative agreements. Allness said this funding casts a broad net which allows for partners to submit a variety of proposals. Butkiewicz asked if there is a benefit to submitting a group proposal and Allness said there is not a strong case for or against so it's up to the RC&Ds. Neither funding source requires match, and he expects the announcements to come within the next two weeks. Regarding Programming, the 2nd EQIP signup deadline is May 20th and the next one is in November. Allness explained there is a collaboration with NRCS & USFS to again run the program entitled [Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership | NRCS \(usda.gov\)](#). The partnership will include county forestry departments, UW Ext, RGS, Trout Unlimited, and other. Under the program NRCS allows USFS to submit proposals for projects such as invasive species work, forest health, wildlife habitat, prescribed burns, and other conservation practices. The project area includes Lumberjack RC&D counties so Michael Stinebrink of the Rhinelander office will be contacting Beckman. The boundary is within the CNNF and its bordering counties. Allness will share the RFP when it comes out in a few weeks. Allness answered several questions from Divine regarding EQIP contracts, technical support grants and new DIA contracts.

Council Updates/Status Report:

- A. Golden Sands – Butkiewicz reported for Golden Sands
- B. Lumberjack – Beckman reported for Lumberjack
- C. Glacierland – Divine reported for Glacierland

By Laws Discussion – Questions were raised regarding Section II.2. as to why each council can have three members on the board but only one vote. There was consensus that any board member can make and support motions but when it comes time to vote, each council should either be called on or figure another way. Clenndenning suggested we hire Attorney Nick Flannigan to review the bylaws. He also believes it's a good idea to keep three members from each council and believes we are subject to open meetings laws. Walker will find out more about these topics and report his findings at the next meeting. Motion by Clenndenning/Sommer to allow President

Walker to spend up to \$300 to consult with attorney on issues related to the bylaws, decision making and open meetings laws. Motion Carried.

Grant Collaboration Update – Some ideas were presented, and it was noted that all three RC&Ds are participating in the SOGL Grassworks grant for regenerative agriculture. Walker will work more on this before next meeting.

Public Relations Update

Website & Other outreach materials: Walker noted the State Assoc website has been updated. He also talked about brand identity and that Golden Sands has adopted different colors. He suggested we review our brand identity guide to see if we want to make any updates. He shared a copy of the RC&D brochure developed many years ago and all agreed it could use some updates so he will work on that. Divine will update the map on the site.

Financial Literacy for Board Members – Walker is going to share this online course with the executive directors to see if they feel it is useful to present to our own boards.

Other Board Resources – Walker will share information from a couple books and would like the executive directors to see if they feel the information is useful.

Walker said he did try to create a partnership with a municipal contractor, but they didn't see the benefit. Walker said he does feel there is opportunity for RC&Ds so he will continue to look for other partnerships that might be a better fit.

River Country RCD – Hannah talked with Mary Anderson, the President of River Country and she said they are hoping to grow and do see a future of them reestablishing themselves with the State Association and that they are hoping to expand to include conservation practices other than grazing. Walker will reach out.

Select Upcoming Speakers – Ideas for future speakers, bird management, board development, executive director development, funder engagement such as NRCS, DNR, USFS and marketing tools. If it is needed, Divine will present.

Legislative Updates – there were no legislative updates.

Next meeting topics: Council Updates, NRCS MOU & Update, Bylaws Update, River Country RCD update, public relations update, future speakers.

Next Meeting Date: August 2nd at 10am. The group agreed that the virtual meeting works but that we should have the annual meeting be in person. Beckman will set up the zoom meeting.

Adjourn – Beckman/Sommer moved to adjourn at 12:25pm

Submitted by



Secretary/Treasurer Tracy Beckman 04/26/2022