



## STATE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING Minutes – 8/18/2022 – Via Zoom

**Call to Order** at 10:05 am by President Bob Walker. The members recited the pledge of allegiance

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

- A. Golden Sands: Bob Walker, 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 8/18/2022 Agenda** – Motion by Sommer/Bill to approve the agenda with the addition of bylaws. Motion Carried.

**Approval of Minutes** – Motion by Sommer/Clenndenning to approve the minutes of 4/22/2022 as presented. Motion Carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** A financial report dated 6/30/2022 was presented by Beckman. The net worth is \$12,485.58 with a net loss for the period of \$316.15. Motion by Clenndenning/Sommer to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented and place on file for audit. Motion Carried.

### **Council Updates/Status Report:**

- A. Golden Sands – Walker reported for Golden Sands
- B. Lumberjack – Beckman reported for Lumberjack
- C. Glacierland – Divine reported for Glacierland. They've signed an MOU with Syngenta Group from China to work with them on conservation practices. Walker noted that the group had also approached Golden Sands and they decided not to sign an MOU. Divine noted that the deliverables are centered around conservation practices and not enhancing the group's bottom line. She will keep the group informed about this partnership.

**NRCS Update** – Allness reported for NRCS stating that their COVID protocols have loosened so all their field offices are open again. Allness noted that Angela Biggs is still the Acting Deputy Chief, which means Allness has been doing his duties as well as hers. They have now hired someone to stand in, so he has resumed his normal duties. President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) last week, which contains a significant amount of funds for climate change. What this means for NRCS is they will have increased financial resources for the years 2023 to 2026 and they plan to focus on privately-owned farmlands and forest lands. Regarding the MOU, he reported that it is not ready yet because they're focused on finalizing their financial agreements. Once that is done, they will begin their MOUs. He also talked about there being another opportunity for funding of community garden projects.

**Grant Collaboration Update** – The new LSR is out so Divine will talk with Amy Thorstensen to see if last year's submission can be tweaked and submitted. Beckman explained that she'd like to bring opportunities forward if they become available, but that it is not the best use of our time right now to be searching them out. Walker agreed. The three RC&Ds are participating in the SOGL Grassworks grant for regenerative agriculture and if the new LSR works out, that will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> collective project.

**Public Relations Update** - Walker reported he has revamped the state website and is now working with Glacierland on theirs. Golden Sands has approved a new color palette, and all agree to use it but also add the green from the current palette. Beckman noted that decision should have been made as a group, the same as was done a few years ago when we adopted our brand principals. It's important, going forward that we're all on the same page. Regarding outreach, Walker shared a quote for a professional to design a brochure and free-standing display. Divine noted the benefits of using a graphics design professional but also talked about the savings when done in house. She suggested if we decide to pay for this service, it should be something that will last for the next five years or more. Sommer/Clenndenning moved to engage the services of the JBL graphic designer to design a tri-fold brochure and free-standing display for a cost of no more than \$1,600 as stated on the quote.

**Bylaws** – Walker will follow up with the bylaws issue from the April meeting and get a legal opinion as to whether we're subject to open meetings laws and what types of changes may be needed for the rest of the bylaws. He was approved to spend up to \$300.

**Select Upcoming Speakers** – Ideas for future speakers include reading financial documents for non profit boards and a presentation of how to target different age groups. Ideas from the past are bird management, board development, executive director development, funder engagement such as NRCS, DNR, USFS and marketing tools.

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

**Next Meeting Date:** October 20, 2022, in person at Matsche Center and via zoom. This is the annual meeting so will be open to the public and elections will take place.

**Adjourn** – Sommer/Walker moved to adjourn at pm Submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy Beckman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Submitted by".

Secretary/Treasurer Tracy Beckman 8/18/2022