



STATE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING Minutes – 10/26/2021 – Matsche Center, 363 Railroad Street, Birnamwood, WI and Via Zoom

Call to Order at 10:08 am by President Bob Walker.

Pledge of Allegiance: Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- A. Golden Sands: Bob Walker, Bill Clendenning, Hannah Butkiewicz, Darren Schroeder
 - B. Lumberjack: Bob Hermes, Tracy Beckman, Larry Sommer
 - C. Glacierland: Kari Divine
 - D. Southwest Badger: Not Present
 - E. River Country: Not Present
- Guests: No guests were in attendance.

Approval of the 10/26/2021 Agenda – Motion by Hermes/Sommer to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes 7/27/2021 – Motion by Clendenning/Sommer to approve the minutes as presented. Motion Carried.

Nominations/Elections

President: Bob Walker was nominated by Beckman. With no other nominations Clendenning/Sommer moved to close nominations and approve Bob Walker as President. Motion Carried.

Vice President: Larry Sommer was as nominated by Beckman. With no other nominations Clendenning/Walker moved to close nominations and approve Sommer as Vice President. Motion Carried.

Secretary/Treasurer: Tracy Beckman was nominated by Clendenning. With no other nominations Sommer/Hermes moved to close nominations and approve Beckman as Secretary/Treasurer. Motion Carried.

Clendenning/Hermes moved to authorize President Bob Walker and Secretary/Treasurer Tracy Beckman to sign financial documents, make bank transfers and perform all financial transactions for the Association including updating the signature cards for the CD accounts with Community First Bank of Appleton to signers Bob Walker & Tracy Beckman and the updating the signature cards for the checking account at CoVantage CU to signers Bob Walker & Tracy Beckman. Motion Carried.

Standing Committee Reports: Walker proposed that as part of our bylaws update, we remove the standing committees in lieu of forming ad-hoc committees as needed. Since the standing committees don't meet and there is typically nothing to report, this could be a way to simplify our bylaws. Even though he's proposing abandoning these committees, some of the items can be future agenda items. Regarding the proposed changes to the bylaws, Walker & Beckman will meet to develop the changes and distribute them prior to the January meeting.

Finance Committee: A financial report dated 9/30/2021 was presented by Tracy Beckman. The net worth is \$12,178.54. Motion by Clendenning/Sommer to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

Legislative Committee – Nothing to report. In the upcoming proposed bylaws revision, it will be proposed that this committee be abandoned but we'll still keep 'Legislative Updates' as an agenda item.

Public Relations Committee – Nothing to report. In the upcoming proposed bylaws revision, it will be proposed that this committee be abandoned but we'll keep 'Public Relations Update' as an agenda item.

Executive Committee Report – Nothing to report. In the upcoming proposed bylaws revision, it will be proposed that this committee be abandoned.

NRCS Update: The next MOU was supposed to be available for review at this meeting but an NRCS representative wasn't able to attend. The group has some questions for NRCS (Eric Allness) – 1) What is NRCS's vision for our partnership with RC&Ds in the future? 2) Will NRCS expand on agreements to have affiliate staff or are they thinking of another strategy? 3) What is the strategy? Walker/Beckman

moved that we follow through with a plan to contact Eric Allness to start the MOU process. Walker will make this call. Discussion: Divine inquired about the status of SW Badger & River Country RC&D. Walker said he'll contact them as well. Hermes agreed there is value for all of us to meet. Motion Carried.

State Association Direction Ideas: Walker opened the discussion about what direction the group thinks the State Association should take. The group discussed compensation for time/travel and felt it would quickly become too expensive and member RC&Ds should continue to make this investment so we can have a stronger State Association. Walker noted that along with this investment, there must be value because if we do not provide value to our members, then we should not be meeting. The group agreed there is value but we're lacking in planning, goals, and communication. Ideas to become more connected are developing the website and policies, expanding our partner base, and creating ads/a public relations campaign. Walker and Butkiewicz will develop a public relations plan including radio ads. It was generally felt that placing the ads describing our work, would lead to others seeing value. Clendenning questioned the make-up of the Association as it relates to adding partners. It was noted that the bylaws allow for corporate and other members. Divine explained that Glacierland has written new bylaws that include an increased membership base. They feel it is important to expand their membership to include more than county officials.

Speaker topic ideas were discussed – broadband, carbon credits, issues around clean water and how can we align with the priorities. Butkiewicz mentioned that another priority should be targeting a younger demographic. Other groups should be engaged and it's up to us to figure out how to engage them. Walker would like this to be a speaker topic and he will look in to this.

Combined Grant Ideas: Butkiewicz mentioned that the three active RC&Ds plan to work together in 2023. Some ideas that are a good fit for all of us are connecting trails and invasive species work. Walker will email a framework document he prepared for the facilitation of a collaborative grant discussion among the Executive Directors. After the E.D.s receive the document, Walker will set up a meeting with them. After the Divine mentioned that Grassworks could be used as a combined grant opportunity. Clendenning suggested RC&Ds learn more about the American Reinvestment & Recovery Act by finding out who in each county is responsible for receiving and distributing funds.

Council Updates/Status Report:

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

Next meeting topics: NRCS Update, Bylaws Update, Legislative update, Public Relations Update, Collaborative Project, Select Possible Speakers

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 18th at 10am at the Matsche Center. Butkiewicz will reserve the Matsche Center for 9:30am even though our meeting is at 10am. Beckman will schedule the Zoom meeting, and bring a laptop & speaker for the Zoom meeting.

Adjourn – Hermes/Walker to adjourn at 11:55am.

Submitted by



Secretary/Treasurer Tracy Beckman 10/28/2021