

2018 Highlights



Golden Sands
Resource Conservation
& Development Council, Inc.

Conservation That Works!™

OFFICERS

Hugh O'Donnell | President
Alvin Barden | Vice-President
Reesa Evans | Secretary
Gary Beastrom | Treasurer

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ed Hernandez | Personnel/Finance
Pat Kilbey | Water Resources
Alvin Barden | Ag/Forestry/Wildlife

COUNTY DELEGATES

Paul Pisellini | Adams County
Kason Morley | Adams County
Derek Kavanaugh | Green Lake County
Gary Frei | Juneau County
Scott Wilhorn | Juneau County
Gary Beastrom | Marathon County
Diane Hanson | Marathon County
Robert Miller | Marquette County
Allen Rosenthal | Marquette County
Ed Miller | Outagamie County
Roger Bacon | Portage County
Julie Morrow | Portage County
Joe Tomandl | Taylor County
Bob Ellis | Waupaca County
DuWayne Federwitz | Waupaca County
Mark Piechowski | Waushara County
Mike Kapp | Waushara County
Bill Clendenning | Wood County
Bill Leichtnam | Wood County

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Merlin Becker | Waupaca County
Hugh O'Donnell | Wood County
Alvin Barden | Vilas County
Donald Peterson | Waupaca County
Reesa Evans | Adams County
Bob Walker | Wood County

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Shannon Rohde | Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (CWWP)
Deb Jakubek | Wisconsin Farmers Union

STAFF

Joshua Benes | Executive Director / Woodland & TIS Coordinator
Amy Thorstenson | Advising Director / AIS Coordinator
Denise Hilgart | Administrative Manager
Chris Hamerla | AIS Coordinator
Anna Cisar | AIS Coordinator
Jennifer Fjelsted | AIS Tech
Jane Voskuillen | CBCW Tech
Jeff Ross | Environmental Educator
Andy Richardson | Soil Conservationist
Robert Benedict | CWWP Technician
Marty Sytsma | CWWP Technician
Nancy Turyk | Aquatic Plant Specialist
Carole Cole | Environmental Educator
Parker Wyngaard | AIS Tech

CONTACT US

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From The Executive Directors: Passing The Torch

Golden Sands RC&D has been bringing together science and community for 47 years to help grow Wisconsin's economy and protect its natural resources. It has a long history of acting as a community resource that is able to work across county lines to address large-scale environmental issues in Central Wisconsin.

As we reflect on our past achievements, we continue to look toward our future to ensure we are sowing the seeds of today that will grow a strong, healthy organization that can create positive changes for conservation that works in Central Wisconsin tomorrow.

This year we have announced Joshua Beneš as our new Executive Director, as Amy Thorstenson cuts back to part-time and becomes an Advising Director. Josh has a strong background in the ecological sciences as well as in community engagement. He has a B.S. in Environmental Science and a Masters in Public Administration. We have allowed for a long transition period to ensure continuity of our operations as Amy passes the torch to

Josh. Taking this time for deliberate training as Josh assumes his new leadership role is a strong investment into the future of our organization.



We are also excited to announce our new endowment fund. This fund is an important investment in our future, ensuring that Golden Sands RC&D continues to implement conservation management programs that leave a meaningful impact on our community for generations.

As we invest in our organization's future, we hope you will join us to make a better future for all of Central Wisconsin! Please consider

volunteering and/or collaborating with us!

In partnership for conservation,

Joshua Beneš, Executive Director

Amy Thorstenson, Advising Director

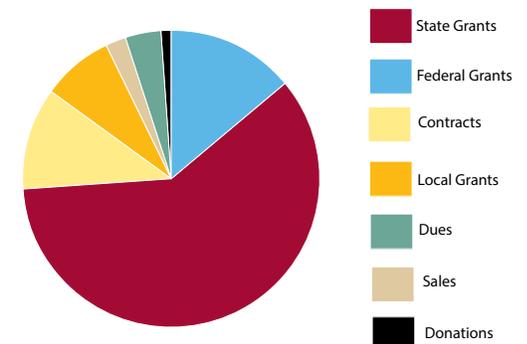
About Us

Golden Sands RC&D was started in 1972 when elected officials from several Central Wisconsin counties had the foresight to recognize that environmental issues do not stop at their respective county borders.

They realized the value of having an independent, non-partisan conservation organization that spanned all of the counties in the Central Sands region to help them accomplish their environmental goals and serve their citizens. From that shared vision, Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. was created.

We now serve 12 Central Wisconsin counties, including Adams, Green Lake, Juneau, Marathon, Marquette, Monroe, Outagamie, Portage, Taylor, Waupaca, Waushara and Wood.

2018 Income Sources



We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit celebrating more than 45 years of solutions for a healthy economy and a healthy environment in Central Wisconsin.

Working Today For The Benefit of Future Generations

Many of the people that we at Golden Sands are privileged to work with see themselves as just temporary stewards of the resources in their control. They believe in enjoying what they have today – scenic beauty, wildlife habitat, and economic benefits – but they also have a strong commitment to ensuring the long-term future of those resources for future generations.

Bringing together science and community has always been at the foundation of Golden Sands RC&D's efforts. Through two such programs, Woods and Wildlife for Today and Tomorrow and the Waupaca County Conservation Field Day, we're helping people learn how to create long-term solutions that promote a healthy environment and a healthy economy.

Through Woods and Wildlife, landowners combine efforts and work together to form woodland cooperatives. Many landowners, some of whom have never met one another before, are able to collectively enroll in the state's Deer Management Assistance Program to receive information about the science of how they could best manage their properties to create better wildlife habitat.



Armed with the science and connection with their fellow neighbors, landowners have been able to apply for federal habitat restoration funding opportunities, combine efforts to conduct shared timber sales, and start working together on managing invasive species.

Since 1990, Waupaca County Conservation Field Day has hosted hundreds of fifth-grade students from around Waupaca County for a day of hands-on learning in beautiful Hartman Creek State Park, at no charge to the schools! Each student chooses between 20 field stations presented by volunteers from a dozen partner agencies and organizations. Each of these stations provide learning opportunities about forestry, wildlife, agriculture, fishing, invasive species, composting, outdoor skills, geocaching, and more.

Education and hands-on experiences are key ingredients for the future of conservation of our natural resources. When we build relationships with forest landowners and provide education for young people, we help ensure a better future for the environment and for sustainable economic development.



New Endowment Fund Helps Secure Our Long-Term Success

Golden Sands RC&D has always welcomed financial support from donors. As a 501c(3) organization, your gifts are tax-deductible and help us provide education and several other programs benefiting nature and the people of Central Wisconsin.

Now there's a way for you to make a truly lasting legacy for future generations. In 2018, we started the "Conservation That Works!" endowment fund. Administered through the National Resources Foundation, the *Conservation That Works!* fund is a permanent endowment created by Golden Sands to provide a perpetual source of funding to support our

long-term success. As an endowment fund, only the annual interest is paid out to Golden Sands each year, leaving the principal to continue to grow.

If you love Golden Sands RC&D and want to help support us for future generations, consider making a donation now to the *Conservation That Works!* fund or leaving a legacy gift by including the fund in your will. For more information on making a gift to the endowment fund, call the National Resources Foundation toll-free at 866-264-4096, email info@wisconservation.org, or visit www.wisconservation.org.

2018 In Review

FORESTRY

Golden Sands RC&D acts both as a facilitator and fiscal sponsor of a new group called the Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP).

Its goal is to create more healthy forest habitat by providing education and resources to volunteers and landowners on how to remove and manage invasive species



in our woodlands, which can be especially a problem during forest regeneration after timber harvest.

WATER

Golden Sands RC&D continues to collaborate with state, county and local partners through our regional aquatic invasive species (AIS) program that covered eight counties in 2018.

Our AIS staff conduct Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) watercraft inspections at public boat landings. These inspections provided information about Wisconsin's AIS prevention steps and laws.

We also participated in highly focused statewide AIS awareness events including



Drain Campaign, Landing Blitz, Snapshot Day and Waterfowl Hunter Outreach.

While AIS are the focus, native aquatic plant communities are also important for people to understand, as they impact AIS growth.

WILDLIFE

Landowners within our Woods and Wildlife for Today and Tomorrow (WWFTT) project enroll into cooperatives through the state's Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP).

Within DMAP, neighboring landowners are able to learn more about what they can do to improve wildlife habitat on their properties. Our staff help landowners navigate different funding opportunities that are available for habitat restoration. As a cooperative, some of these



landowners work together to create better habitat by managing for invasive species, creating openings in certain areas of their woodlands, and establishing native plants that are beneficial for the kinds of wildlife they want to have on their property.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Golden Sands RC&D continues to work with farmers to promote sustainable practices, including management intensive grazing, soil conservation, and farm business planning.

Our staff can help farmers navigate federal conservation programs and cost-share incentives along with providing grant writing ser-



vices. We also have two full time Soil Conservationists on staff, working within local Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) offices.

We Need Your Support!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable and mail to:
Golden Sands RC&D Council
1100 Main Street, Suite 150
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Please accept my tax-deductible 501(c)(3) contribution of \$ _____ (Federal Tax ID #39-1451323)

My donation is for (choose one):

- Regular Donation Endowment Fund

Please use this contribution toward the following efforts:

- Clean Water Healthy Forests
 Abundant Wildlife Sustainable Agriculture
 General Support - use my donation where it's needed

I am interested in:

- Volunteering Becoming a committee member