

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

10:00 AM

1. Roll call:

Members Present: Marcia Wellnitz, Diane Menard, Eric Neff (Liaison for the Town of Barnes), and Cris Neff (Liaison for FOECLA), and David Blumer (LEAPS LLC) on Zoom.

Members Absent: Ingemar Ekstrom, Chris Webb, Barb Clements, Sally Pease, Gerald Gustafson, Doug Stearly, Julia Lyons, Mauve Gagne, Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator), and Tyler Mesalk (DNR Water Resource Management Specialist)

Verification of Public Notice: Public notice of meeting was posted on January 30, 2023 at 11:15 am by April Powell, Clerk/Treasurer.

2. Approval of Agenda: This meeting lacked a quorum. However, the agenda was accepted. There was only one item on the agenda which was to discuss our grant application.

Background information:

On January 26, 2023, Laura MacFarland, Surface Water Grants Program Manager, emailed Tom Renz our Barnes Town Chairperson that our AIS Population Control Grant for 2023-24 Sand Bar and Tomahawk Lakes EWM/HWM Management Project was ranked 25th out of 31 applications. The state could offer us only \$25,769.62 instead of our requested \$67,000. With a few emails between David Blumer and Chris Webb, it was decided that a meeting was needed to be held immediately. We had only until February 2nd to notify Laura MacFarland about our decision on accepting the offered money from the state DNR. An AIS meeting was quickly arranged for January 31, 2023 at 10:00am in the Barnes Town Hall with Zoom options. The items needing decision-making were 1. Should we accept the state's money? 2. Can we modify our treatment plans? 3. Can we modify our budget? We decided that the answer to all the questions was "Yes." In fact, at 11:30 when we were just ending our meeting, Tom Renz had already contacted Laura MacFarland and accepted the state's offered money! (\$25,769.62) We also decided with Dave's suggestion that we now should do a one year project (2023) and in next year's grant cycle, we would reapply for a two-year grant (2024/2025).

David Blumer, Leaps LLC, had been working hard to figure out ways to modify our grant request. He narrowed the proposed modifications into three categories: 1. Change the sizes of the treatment areas (beds), 2. Use other herbicides (possibly less expensive choices), or 3. Drop the Sand Bar Lake chemical treatment and focus only on chemical treatment of Tomahawk Lake. Then to work within our budget of \$25,769.62, he proposed taking out the year 2024 options and changing our 2023 treatment options.

Dave had many graphics to display on the screen. For the first option (change bed sizes), he showed us the maps of Sand Bar and Tomahawk lakes with the treatment areas highlighted in our original grant (23.9 acres). Matt Berg's survey maps showing the EWM beds were highlighted too. Then, Dave showed his proposed new plan of eliminating some of the acreage to be treated down to 13.48 acres.

Next option #2 (other herbicides), he showed us the original grant spreadsheet. It show \$43,635.00 for chemical treatments (both lakes with ProcellaCOR). Without the state's money, we could no longer do this plan without adding LOTS of money from local sources. Then, Dave showed us different spreadsheets with the treatment acreage reduced, like the proposal above of treating 13.48 acres would cost \$31,906 for ProcellaCOR. He proposed changing the "handle" area of Tomahawk to 2,4D instead of ProcellaCOR. Each proposal was still too much money.

The next option to modify our grant (#3) was to keep eliminating treatment areas. He suggested eliminating Sand Bar Lake from chemical treatment for 2023 and just treat Tomahawk Lake. This eliminated quite a bit of money, but still not enough. Then, Dave went through budget spreadsheets showing different monetary adjustments. He showed modifications in chemical treatments, acreage, less diver's hours on the BAISS boat, more volunteer hours, the use of the limno-curtain, etc. Dave's budget modifications dealt with treatment issues. He did not make adjustments in the budget for survey mapping, water concentration testing, the use of the BAISS boat, and other typical items. The changes had nothing to do with managing the curly-leaf pondweed in the Eau Claire Lakes.

After lots of discussion, the modified plan for 2023 would entail treating Tomahawk Lake with ProcellaCOR along the north shoreline where the survey maps indicate EWM (3.13 acres). The "handle" area of Tomahawk would be treated with liquid 2,4D using the limno-curtain to close off that portion of the lake (approximately 5.56 acres). We would use a stronger dose and leave the curtain in the lake for extra time. The BAISS boat would not pull EWM in Tomahawk Lake. The BAISS boat would only pull EWM in Sandbar Lake in 2023. We talked about working fewer days to keep the diving costs down, but in the end, I believe we decided to keep it at 4 weeks in Sand Bar Lake. Here is the cost:

Total project:	\$43,328.21
State's share (59%):	\$25,769.62 (our grant award)
Barnes share (29%):	\$12,702.00 (Barnes \$9,702 and outside donated cash \$3,000)
Cash needed:	\$4,856.59

In conclusion, we have accepted the state's monetary award of \$25,769.62. Dave Blumer has the above proposal prepared. The committee members attending the meeting would like to recommend the proposal be accepted. The revised application reflecting the scope of our project and our budget should be submitted to the DNR project managers by around February 10th for approval. The grant period begins March 15th.

We concluding our meeting at 11:30.
Respectfully submitted by Diane Menard