

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, April 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chris Webb at 9:10 am. Roll call of committee members verified quorum was present. Our meeting was held at the Barnes Town Hall and on Zoom.

1. Roll call: Members Present: Sally Pease, Ingemar Ekstrom, Marcia Wellnitz, Diane Menard, Chris Webb, Gerald Gustafson, and Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator).

Also attending our meeting was Tom Renz (newly elected Town Board Chair), Fred Kawell (representing the Conservation Club), Cris Neff, Doug Stearly, and Tyler Mesalk (DNR Water Resource Management Specialist).

Members Absent: None

Verification of Public Notice: Public notice of meeting was posted on April 6, 2021 at 9:09 am by Judy Bourassa, Clerk/Treasurer.

2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Marcia Wellnitz and seconded by Sally Pease to approve the agenda. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

3. Approval of last month's minutes: A motion was made by Sally Pease and seconded by Ingemar Ekstrom to approve the minutes of previous meeting, held on October 26, 2020. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

4. Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant:

Andy Teal mentioned a few items that he was involved in:

- He presented at the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention in April. He spoke about the passing of an ordinance for boat landings to install decontamination units for cleaning boats and trailers. The county can mandate that they be used if there is one, but it is mostly voluntary, only enforced by the sheriff department. Some landings may have a camera to view the actions of boaters. Barnes does not have any of these units, too costly. It is not necessarily a power washer, can be as simple as a bleach solution (10% bleach/90% water) in spray bottles. We discussed the logistics of offering bleach spray at our local landings.
- 2021 Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Virtual Conference is June 18, 9:00am – 3:30pm, virtual only.
- Abandoned old wells have a cost-sharing program, 100% reimbursement for property owners.
- Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grants are available through the Wisconsin DNR, applications due November 1st each year.

a. Budget:

Surface Water Grant Total Award:

Total Project Cost = \$67,765.00

Grant Award = \$46,669.00

Donated Value (the difference) = \$21,096.00

b. Committee Assignments:

Volunteer scheduling and time tracking:

Julia Lyons will do this computer work, also number of bags collected daily.

Tami Hoff in the office will keep master lists.

Divers, Contacts:

Judy Bourassa sent letters out to all interested divers, no responses yet.

Julia Lyons will work with diver's schedules with Gus Gustafson as her back-up.

Camera, GPS equipment:

Will ask property owners where the BAISS boat is docked to recharge camera/GPS equipment daily at their home. Home owner's responses are pending.

Create maps, track progress:

Weekly updates using the computer software. Volunteer needed, Gus will train.

Checklist for BAISS cleaning/maintenance:

Julia Lyons will create a daily checklist for volunteers/drivers of chores to be done on the BAISS boat, including daily cleaning, maintenance, filling motors with gas, etc.

AIS disposal:

Doug Stearly volunteered by pick up collected bags of weeds and dispose of them daily.

Gary Charlow with the Town Highway Department is our back-up.

Community education:

Chris Webb created 3 brochures, one for Upper EC Lake, one for Middle EC Lake, and one for Tomahawk/Sandbar Lakes. We discussed several needed corrections. They will be out-sourced for printing/folding. These brochures will be sent to property owners on each respective lakes, resort owners, rental units, local businesses, and each boat landing. Signage with maps showing AIS locations will be installed at each landing.

Ingemar Ekstrom requested more copies of two books that are distributed to volunteers. Tyler Mesalk will send the link to UWEX Lakes bookstore.

c. Upper Eau Claire Lake:

BAISS docking:

Dick and Dianne Lanhart's dock, response is pending.

Tentative 2 week scheduled start time:

Not sure yet. Weeds will need to be checked when boats can be launched, anticipating middle to end of May.

d. Middle Eau Claire Lake:

BAISS docking:

Quentin Rupprecht's dock, response pending.

Tentative 2 week scheduled start date:

After Upper Eau Claire Lake has completed their 2 weeks of AIS collection.

e. Tomahawk/Sandbar Lakes:

Small scale lake treatment potential and contact person:

- * Cris Neff requested we all watch a video on chemical lake treatment and use of a barrier. The barrier is much more effective with better long-term results than treating than with no barrier. The video described how to build the plastic sheeting barrier. Money for the treatment is in the Town Budget (\$13,000). No permit needed for the barrier, but DRN permit is needed for the chemical treatment (2-4D). Dale Dressel at Northern Aquatic Services will be contacted at 715-495-5252. ddressel@centurytel.net
- * Gus Gustafson, Chris Webb, Cris Neff, and Diane Menard volunteered to work on this sub-committee and meet at a later date.

BAISS docking:

Gus Gustafson's dock on Tomahawk Lake.

Tentative scheduled start date:

After Upper and Middle Eau Claire Lakes are completed.

- * Tyler Mesalk mentioned that an annual permit is needed for the BAISS boat to do mechanical harvesting of AIS. He is sending us the link on the DNR website. Our committee was unaware of this need. We have not had a permit since 2016/2017. As mentioned previously, a chemical permit is needed also for the small-scale treatment that is proposed for Tomahawk Lake.

6. Clean Boats Clean Waters: Sally Pease

a. Budget:

Town Budget = \$28,062.00

CBCW Grant = \$20,000 of which \$5,000 has already been received.

b. Training:

Sally Pease will train volunteers on-site or have an organized training session, if needed. Marcia Wellnitz and Donna Porter volunteered to be on CBCW sub-committee.

c. Boat Landing Monitors:

Upper EC Lake: Rocky Clements

Middle EC Lake: John Loughren

Lower EC Lake: Doug Stearly, Therene Gazdik, and Judith Schmidt

Tomahawk Lake: Sally Pease

Robinson Lake: Sally Pease

d. Volunteer scheduling:

Chris Webb requested a monthly volunteer schedule prepared by Sally Pease, beginning in May.

e. Weekly submission of time cards:

Sally Pease submits time cards for paid employees to Tami Hoff in the office weekly.

Sally Pease will regularly enter volunteer hours into SWIMS website.

It was mentioned that an EMT employee could help with data entry.

7. Citizen Monitoring Network:

a. Informational meeting:

Ingemar Ekstrom volunteered to work with volunteers with training and educational matters.

b. Forms to be mailed:

Ingemar Ekstrom and Tami Hoff will get a letter out in the mail to volunteers.

8. Lakes:

Issues from or about other lakes could be discussed, such as conferences, educational issues, and laws/ordinances that are relevant.

9. Next meeting Date for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, May 10, 2021 at 9:00 am. All interested parties are welcome to attend. Sub-committees may have additional meetings scheduled.

10. Adjourn: A motion was made by Diane Menard and seconded by Gus Gustafson to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Menard
715-795-3464, menard5@msn.com