

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, June 14, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chris Webb at 9:00 am. Roll call of committee members verified quorum was present. We met at the Barnes Town Hall and via Zoom Video Conferencing.

1. Roll call: Members Present: Sally Pease, Ingemar Ekstrom, Marcia Wellnitz, Diane Menard, Chris Webb, Gerald Gustafson, Judith Schmidt, Doug Stearly, and Eric Neff (Liaison for the Town of Barnes).

Other Attendees: Julia Lyons, Tyler Mesalk (DNR Water Resource Management Specialist), and Jeff Jordheim (Town of Barnes Garage Foreman).

Members Absent: Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator)

Verification of Public Notice: Public notice of meeting was posted on June 11, 2021 at 10:23 am by Judy Bourassa, Clerk/Treasurer.

2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Marcia Wellnitz and seconded by Ingemar Ekstrom 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 Judith Schmidt to approve the minutes of previous meeting, held May 10, 2021. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

4. Bayfield County A.I.S. coordinator report: Andy Teal

Andy Teal was absent, so he did not report. However, Sally mentioned that the Bayfield County Fair will be happening this summer in August. She will be setting up a booth with AIS information.

5. Citizen Monitoring Network update: Ingemar Ekstrom

This item is Shoreline Monitoring. Ingemar reported that the email list of volunteers is quite complete. One new person has volunteered on Tomahawk Lake and Potawatomi will be having a meeting on Saturday, and we may potentially get new volunteers from that area. An email reminder will go out to all volunteers in about one week. Julia will put a reminder to monitor your shoreline on our BAISS boat Facebook page also. New informational books were ordered and have arrived.

6. BAISS Boat – Operational plans, building herbicide barrier, divers: Gus Gustafson

Gus has compiled and printed a partial list of materials with websites needed for the chemical treatment barrier. Some incidentals can be gotten from Gus and the Barnes garage. The materials cost is already estimated to be between \$3,000 and \$4,000. The cost is running about \$3.56 per foot at this moment. The money is not part of our grants. It will come from the money budgeted through the Town of Barnes that we earmarked for the chemical treatment (\$13,416.00). DNR does not need a list of materials, but it does require a DNR permit. We need hundreds of 20 oz. soda bottles, the recycling center will help collect these bottles needed for barrier anchors. Gus will meet with his 5 member sub-committee again soon. The Conservation Club has offered to help with the barrier building process.

The BAISS boat has had one mechanical issue (hose needed replacing) and is now fixed. The Upper Eau Claire weeks are done now, the boat has been washed and is moved to Middle for the next 2 weeks, started today (June 14). Gus replaced the GPS data from Upper with the data for Middle. Cris Neff is running the GPS device daily on the boat. More pondweed has been located in the river recently. They may try to pull that Wednesday and Thursday before concentrating on the lake (Middle). We discussed the situation on Upper. The pondweed is expanding into the middle of the channel between the shore and the island. It is getting bigger and becoming a real issue. We would need more weeks on Upper to get it all. Maybe start earlier in the spring? 35.5 bags of weeds were collected on Upper in 2 weeks of BAISS boat work. Doug Stearly is picking the bags up every day for composting at the landfill. He will also fill the gas tanks. Thank you Doug! Also, it was mentioned that the Eurasian Milfoil on Tomahawk Lake is growing fast, the patch is expanding, and it is on the lake surface already.

Julia Lyons is working with the volunteers, signing them up, tracking volunteer hours and bags collected. She has a Facebook page and will make a You Tube video of the BAISS boat collection process. She needs more help with phone calling, Marcia Wellnitz will help her.

The AIS brochures are completed with DNR approval. Chris Webb will get them to the printer. She stated that 300 of each brochure will cost \$708. They will be mailed to owners of shoreline property on Upper, Middle, and Tomahawk/Sandbar Lakes. Also, they will be distributed to bait shops, local businesses, local organizations, and rental properties. The hope is that people will pick up the brochure that goes with the lake they are boating on. We discussed the 100' safety law that some boaters are disregarding. We need to post this law everywhere available.

Action items:

- 1. Order a new larger diver's flag for the boat.**
- 2. Get 100' rule notices out at the landings, Facebook, organizational mailings, everywhere possible.**

Divers: Terry Bauer and Cris Neff are the regular daily divers. Substitute divers: Mark Bauer, Jim Warm, Bruce Pilburn, and Alexis Kabasa. A motion was made by Marcia Wellnitz and seconded by Gus Gustafson to accept the services of the substitute divers listed above. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

7. Clean Boats Clean Waters – volunteer and schedule update: Sally Pease

Sally is having trouble with the SWIMS data site at times. She read off the volunteer's hours for each lake so far: Lower – 30.75; Middle – 47; Upper – 25.5; Tomahawk – 4; Robinson – 25. She also read off the number of boats monitored. Sally recently got a schedule out on email. Judith Schmidt will take over the scheduling part of Sally's job. Sally will continue with the administrative tasks, work the landings, and provide volunteer training. Communication between the coordinator, the volunteers, and the paid monitors still continues to be an issue. Sally will do a volunteer training when a date can be set with Andy Teal, and notices can be provided for all interested participants through mailings, Facebook, and the town website. Markers indicating distances of 100' and 200' should be provided at the landings so boaters can get a visual idea of the distance they need to stay away from shore, other boaters, rafts, swimmers, etc. These markers would be removed daily.

8. AIS Budget/Grant Balances:

2021 State Grants:

\$34,390.71 received for the State Grants (both AIS and CBCW)

AIS Expenses:

Permit fees = \$240.00

Harvester Maintenance = \$140.59

Total: \$380.59

CBCW Expenses:

Communication/Copy Charges = \$200.33

Publications and Books = \$434.29

Boat Ramp Monitor Wages = \$3,096.00

Coordinator Wages = \$1,260.00

Employer Taxes = \$333.23

Total = \$5,323.85

Total Expenses (AIS and CBCW): \$5,704.44

Total Grant Money Remaining: \$28,686.27

9. Consider Julia Lyons's application for membership:

A motion was made by Sally Pease and seconded by Gus Gustafson to accept Julia Lyon's application for membership on the AIS committee. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. Her application will be sent to the Barnes Town Board for approval.

It was mentioned to have a volunteer picnic in the fall to thank all our volunteers. Will discuss again.

10. Next meeting Date for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, July 12, 2021 at 9:00 am. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

11. Adjourn: A motion was made by Marcia Wellnitz and seconded by Doug Stearly to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Menard
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