

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, August 9, 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, Doug Stearly, Eric Neff (Liaison for the Town of Barnes), and guests: Blaire Gagne and Barb Clements.

Members Absent: Judith Schmidt, Julia Lyons, and Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator).

Verification of Public Notice: Public notice of meeting was posted on August 4, 2021 at 8:48 am by Judy Bourassa, Clerk/Treasurer.

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

3. Approval of last month's minutes: Ingemar corrected the minutes by stating that there were three new volunteers from the Potawatomi area for the Shoreline Monitoring program. Their names were given to the Town Clerk and added to the volunteer list. A motion was made by Sally and seconded by Doug to approve the minutes of previous meeting, held July 12, 2021. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

Andy Teal was absent from our meeting, so there was no report.

The committee discussed two invasive weeds. A new one discovered recently is called Arrow Arum. It was planted by individuals. This plant can be a "super-spreader" with birds and waterfowl carrying the seeds. The other is the yellow iris (discussed last meeting). Using GPS coordinates, the names and addresses of property owners can be located. These plants will be removed by Andy Teal and others.

5. Shoreline Monitoring: Ingemar Ekstrom

Ingemar sent an email out to all the volunteers last week. The purpose was informational and a reminder to continue monitoring your shoreline and collecting and discarding stray weeds. The committee responded positively to the use of reminder emails sent periodically to the volunteers several times during the season. The committee requests that a FOECLA liaison be on our AIS committee because many issues cross-over to the whole Eau Claire Lakes area.

A. Hours Reported:

No hours were reported yet because the forms are not due until after Labor Day.

B. Volunteer Appreciation Drawing:

The date is on the monitoring form. It is October 11, 2021, the date of our last meeting for the 2021 season.

6. BAISS Boat: Gus Gustafson

Two maintenance items: the pull cord broke on the motor and the battery went dead (replaced with a new battery). Gus reported on **Sandbar Lake**. The Eurasian Milfoil has grown, spreading “here and there” with individual plants showing up all over the lake. The divers have pulled the main patch with only a few plants left. Pieces are floating all over the lake now. On the last shift, Blair Gagne and Gus will ride the pontoon with Rick Mattila driving. Gus and Blair will take GPS readings while our two divers search the lake for milfoil plants. They will release markers when finding plants and GPS readings will be taken. On **Tomahawk Lake**, the survey of the outer edges of the patches is complete. Water depths were marked too. The surface area can be determined now with these readings. Each area that will be chemically treated is under 1,000 sq. ft. Gus brought several lake maps with the areas needing treatment marked.

A. Status of Herbicide Barrier: Gus Gustafson

Gus ordered 100' X 20' rolls of barrier fabric because over 70% of the boundary is more than 10' deep, so to avoid confusion, all the barrier will be 20' wide. Gus will have an evening meeting of the Conservation Club and all other interested participants to discuss the building process and watch the construction video on August 18th. Dale Dressel and Matt Berg need to be contacted about the barrier information and treatment plans. Chris will send Dale the lake maps Gus has created that show the treatment areas. Ingemar suggested that we create a thorough list of all our lake management tasks that we are doing. Is there a way to get information and “best practices” from other sources, like other county agents? Two of our main endeavors (the sucker boat concept and the herbicide barrier) were discovered accidentally from outside sources. Our grant application is due September 2nd. Chris is getting the information together. She will ask help from Pamela Toshner (DNR), Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator), and Tyler Mesalk (DNR Water Resource Management Specialist).

B. BAISS Operations: Julia Lyons

Julia was absent from the meeting. She will send an email report to the committee.

7. Clean Boats Clean Waters: Sally Pease

Communications still seems to be an issue. Sally has done training with individuals, but not a group training class. It was suggested to have a training class early in the year (before opening weekend and again before Memorial Day). Other suggestions: use you-tube videos; sign up for volunteer hours early in the season; create a volunteer list to distribute to all volunteers; call others for your own substitute.

A. Numbers of volunteer hours and boats inspected--May through August 1:

Upper: 67.5 hours; 895 boats

Middle: 80.5 hours; 1,156 boats

Lower: 72.75 hours; 765 boats

Robinson/Tomahawk: 53.5 hours; 144 boats and 281 boats

Totals: 1,411 paid monitors hours and 247 volunteer hours (Sally later corrected the total of volunteer hours to 274.25.)

B. CBCW Grant Application for 2022:

We agreed to continue with 5 landings.

C. New Job Description:

We reviewed the two job descriptions sheets: 2 Program Coordinator jobs and the Boat Inspectors and Landing Monitor job. There were several errors to be corrected. These job descriptions must be presented to the Town Board and approved. Sally works the 2 Program Coordinator jobs. The boat landing monitors should re-apply annually and train annually.

D. End of Season Meeting:

Plan a meeting for the paid monitors on September 20 at 9:00.

8. AIS Budget/Grant Balances:

2021 State Grants: \$34,390.71

AIS Expenses: Secretarial: \$42.00

Misc.: \$2,382.15 (fees, books, copies, stamps, brochures, boat gas, etc.)

BAISS Boat Maintenance: \$1,121.70

Diver's Wages and Taxes: \$12,527.24

AIS Total = \$16,073.09

CBCW Expenses: Boat Landing Monitors: \$11,916.00

Coordinator Wages: \$5,628.00

Employer Taxes: \$1,345.33

CBCW Total = \$18,889.33

Total Expenses: \$34,962.42

Total Grant Money Remaining: \$-571.71 (There is more money to come!)

9. Next meeting Date for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, September 13, 2021 at 9:00 am.

All interested parties are welcome to attend.

10. Adjourn: A motion was made by Marcia and seconded by Sally to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Menard
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