

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, March 14, 2022

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 Office and via Zoom Video Conferencing.

1. Roll call:

Members Present: Sally Pease, Marcia Wellnitz, Diane Menard, Chris Webb, Gerald Gustafson, Barb Clements, Doug Stearly, Cris Neff (Liaison for FOECLA), Fred Kawell (Liaison for ECL Conservation Club), and Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator).

Members Absent: Ingemar Ekstrom, Julia Lyons, and Eric Neff (Liaison for the Town of Barnes).

Guests Present on Zoom: David Blumer (Lakes Education and Planning Services) and Megan Mader (Lakes Education and Planning Services).

Verification of Public Notice: Public notice of meeting was posted on March 10, 2022 at 10:39 am by Judy Bourassa, Clerk/Treasurer.

2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Marcia and seconded by Gus 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 and seconded by Marcia to approve the minutes of previous meeting, held on October 11, 2021. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

4. Aquatic Plant Management Plans – LEAPS LLC (Dave Blumer and Megan Mader)

a. Upper Eau Claire and Middle Eau Claire Lakes

b. Lower Eau Claire and Cranberry Lakes

3 grants are in progress.

Dave presented a spreadsheet (which we had a copy of) and briefly reviewed it. Phase 1 is for Upper and Middle Eau Claire Lakes with a spreadsheet of data describing the tasks and responsibilities, timeline, cost, etc. Lower Eau Claire and Cranberry Lakes are Phase 2, and their data was on a second sets of spreadsheets. The sheets showed a 2 year plan starting in 2022. Dave Blumer will be sending out two invoices for his services, in the beginning of 2022 and at the end of 2023, and monthly for the APM work. Dave Blumer also offered to write our proposals and permits for the chemical treatment on Tomahawk/Sand Bar Lakes and our mechanical harvesting (BAISS) permits. We agreed to have him write these documents.

Aquatic Plant Management (APM): There is only one plan for all the lakes beginning with background information, past management techniques, etc. Then, each lake has its own "piece" in the total plan. Phase 1 is Upper Eau Claire and Middle Eau Claire Lakes. This part of the APM should be done by the end of this year. We are waiting for Matt Berg's plant survey information. Phase 2 is Lower Eau Claire and Cranberry Lakes. In 2022, this "piece" will be worked on and completed in 2023. When completed, more funding will be available to us. However, throughout this process of preparing the APM, our AIS management can continue (BAISS boat). When completed, the APM will be good for 5 years.

c. Tomahawk and Sand Bar Lakes

These two lakes have their own plan because of the Eurasian Milfoil issues. The plan for chemical treatment is in progress with work on the background information being done now. Our BAISS boat management can continue while the plan is being written. The plan must have public review. The public meeting is being planned for April with a presentation by Dave Blumer. If the community approves, we will inspect the lakes for Milfoil in May, and do the chemical treatment in June. The chemical treatment would be at our own expense (Town of Barnes). There is approximately 4.7 acres to treat in Tomahawk lakes, mostly spread along the north shoreline. Our treatment barrier is ready, however, the logistical details still need to be worked out.

5. Tomahawk and Sand Bar Lakes 2021 Plant Survey findings

a. Potential for Chemical Treatment and Timeline

A public hearing (presentation) is needed to “get the public’s input.” The meeting must have proper meeting postings and a 21 day period is required for the public to review the plan. The meeting will be scheduled for April, if approved, the treatment would take place in June.

6. Budget for 2022 Expenses

State Grants AIS/CBCW: \$60,000

Lakes-Aquatic Invasive Species: \$119,862.00

Expenses: \$86.21 for Town Clerk Administration; \$654.02 for LEAPS LLS; \$4,362.00 for Matt Berg (plant survey); and \$653.80 LEAPS LLS APM work = \$5,756.03

7. BAISS Operations

A sub-committee was formed: Gus Gustafson, Barb Clements, and Chris Webb.

Doug Stearly will pick up collected weed bags daily and fill the gas containers as needed.

Julia Lyons will continue to collect and record data and arrange volunteers.

Barb Clements will keep the GPS data.

Good documentation of volunteer hours and amount of collected plant material is a must!

In April, a meeting with the divers will be held. Divers are Terry, Cris, Jim, Bruce, and Terry’s son as a substitute. The plan is to dive for 8 days per day with two 4-hour shifts of volunteers. A stipend for travel was discussed, but no decision was made. A curtain/barrier around the back motor to retain heat to warm the divers was discussed. Sun umbrellas was discussed also.

Proposed start-up date: Week of May 23rd with 4 hours of work per day.

BAISS boat repairs: replace screen in collecting tank, weld a brace on the ladder, prepare a heat curtain, and buy sun umbrellas and devise a bracket for placement.

8. CBCW -- Subcommittee Report

A sub-committee was formed. The members are Sally Pease, Barb Clements, and Chris Webb. They prepared a printed sheet of their discussion. Please see the printed document for further information (emailed on March 14th).

We discussed having a luncheon meeting for all interested community members and volunteers on Friday, May 6th at 11:00: lunch, presentation, a trailed boat for CBCW inspection, etc.

9. Proposed Training Scheduled in April/May and Notifications – Andy Teal

Friday, April 22 for 12:00-3:00 at the Barnes Town Hall for CBCW, Shoreline Monitoring, BAISS boat volunteers. Andy Teal and Sally Pease will present information about invasive species and plant identification. To be advertised locally. A second similar meeting would be held on May 20th.

April 6, 7, 8: Northwest Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention in Stevens Point, Wisconsin

April 25, 26: Lake Superior Collaborative Symposium

June 17: Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference in Spooner, Wisconsin

Other trainings: Landing Blitz and “Stop Spiny”

October: Wisconsin/Upper Midwest Convention in Green Bay

10. Revitalize Committee and Increase Interest

Advertise our training meeting on April 22nd.

Send the Barnes website and FOECLA digital files of our three AIS brochures of our lakes (created last year).

We discussed options for boat decontamination stations at the boat landings. No decisions were made.

Look for more information on decontamination stations in an email sent out by Andy Teal (forwarded from Judy Bourassa) on March 17th.

11. Next meeting Date for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, April 11, 2022 at 9:00 am. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Marcia and seconded by Barb 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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