

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, April 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Chris Webb at 9:00 am. Roll call of committee members verified quorum was present. We met at the Barnes Town Hall, however with the Zoom Video Conferencing not operating properly, several members could not zoom in.

1. Roll call:

Members Present: Sally Pease, Marcia Wellnitz, Diane Menard, Chris Webb, Barb Clements, Julia Lyons, Cris Neff (Liaison for FOECLA), and Dawn Piburn (guest).

Members Absent: Ingemar Ekstrom, Doug Stearly, Mauve Gagne, Eric Neff (Liaison for the Town of Barnes), Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator), Tyler Mesalk (DNR Water Resource Management Specialist), and David Blumer of LEAPS LLC.

Verification of Public Notice: Public notice of meeting was posted on Friday, April 7, 2023 at 11:30 am by April Powell, Clerk/Treasurer.

2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Dawn Piburn and seconded by Marcia Wellnitz 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 Diane Menard and seconded by Sally Pease to approve the minutes of previous meeting held on March 13, 2023. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

4. County AIS Activities and Educational Opportunities- Andy Teal, Bayfield County AIS Coordinator:

Andy Teal could not attend the meeting by Zoom. One item that he might have mentioned is the upcoming Lakes and Rivers Convention. The dates are Wednesday, April 19 to Friday, April 21, 2023. It is held at the Stevens Point Holiday Inn Convention Center. For more information check out this website: <https://wisconsinwaterweek.org>

Barb Clements will talk to Andy to arrange a CBCW and Plant ID training in Barnes for our paid monitors, volunteers, and any interested parties.

5. Tomahawk and Sand Bar Lakes:

a. Tomahawk Lake pre-treatment requirements.

Dave Blumer was not able to attend our meeting. The pre-treatment objectives were about communications with the stakeholders. We believe that this has not been completed yet.

b. Biological Control Beetle project ownership.

The beetle project will begin in early May. Diane Menard volunteered to coordinate the project. Other key individuals to help with the project are Andy Teal, Zach Stewart, Dave Blumer, and Jeff Jordheim (Barnes Highway Department).

6. Upper and Middle Eau Claire Lakes:

a. Aquatic Plant Management Plan.

We have a 1 year Management Plan in place for this year. Our 5 year plan is done (WDNR WBIC: #2742700). It was been written by Dave Blumer, LEAPS LLC for the years of 2024-2028. The next step is the Public Notice which Dave posted in the local paper, Bottom Line News & Views, on April 12, 2023. The Notice states that interested parties must request a public meeting within 5 days of the publication of the notice. Then, the document will be sent to the DNR for approval.

7. Lower Eau Claire and Cranberry Lakes:

a. Aquatic Plant Management Plan.

The plan is not done yet.

b. Rapid Response Grant.

Chris gave us a spreadsheet of this grant. She also had a copy on the TV screen for us to review. She explained some of the categories.

8. BAISS Operations:

a. Letters to stakeholders.

The “stakeholders” are the divers, volunteers, dock owners, and other involved persons. An informational letter will be revised for this year’s plan and sent out to all the involved stakeholders. Doug Stearly cannot pick up the daily weed bags on a regular basis this year. We are looking for another volunteer for this important job. Also, with Gus Gustafson retiring from active involvement, we are looking for a coordinator to maintain and repair the BAISS pontoon. Rick Mattilla and/or Mark Ritter’s names were mentioned. Presently, the pontoon is still in a snowbank and not assessable. It will need cleaning before use. The job of cleaning also needs volunteers. Cleaning needs to be done before the season and each time it is moved between lakes.

b. BAISS Operations Schedule.

The BAISS boat schedule will begin on Monday, June 5 on Upper Eau Claire Lake. After working for 4 weeks (or possibly 5 weeks), it will be moved to Lower Eau Claire Lake where we will pull curly-leaf pondweed as the Rapid Response Grant indicates. This would be in July. We will work Middle Eau Claire Lake as time and need allows. After that (August), the boat will be moved to Sand Bar Lake to work on removing Eurasian milfoil. Tomahawk Lake will be treated with chemicals this year, per our 1 year treatment plan. Julia Lyons will be arranging volunteers to work on the BAISS boat. Cris Neff will schedule the divers. Diver Bruce Piburn has stated that he is available on Mondays and Thursdays. The boat will operate for 8 hours per day, 4 days per week for the 3 summer months.

9. Clean Boats Clean Water Program – AIS Coordinator, Barb Clements:

a. Boat Landing Monitor Applications.

Letters to the paid boat landing monitors are not sent out yet. Each landing is financed through our grant money at \$4,000. That requires 200 hours of monitor work and volunteer hours at each of the five landings. Paid monitors are at each landing for 20 hours each weekend. The paid monitors are not completely decided on as yet. Volunteers work early morning shifts and late afternoon shifts on Saturdays and Sundays. Sally reminded us that volunteers can work a landing any time, any day. Keep track of your hours and mileage.

b. Boat Landing Monitor Schedules.

20 hours per week on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The monitor can determine the busiest time for that landing and work those hours. The five landings that we monitor are Upper, Middle, and Lower Eau Claire Lakes, Tomahawk, and Robinson/Island Lakes.

Grant Expenses: \$4,376.26

The majority of our expenses to-date are for grant preparations through LEAPS LLC. Secretarial wages are listed at \$184.29.

10. Adjourn: A motion was made by Sally Pease and seconded by Marcia Wellnitz to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am. Next meeting Date for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, May 8, 2023 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Menard
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