

## Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, May 16, 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 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, Barb Clements, and Cris Neff (Liaison for FOECLA).

**Members Absent:** Julia Lyons, Eric Neff (Liaison for the Town of Barnes), Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator) and Tyler Mesalk (DNR Water Resource Management Specialist).

**Verification of Public Notice:** Public notice of meeting was posted on May 13, 2022 at 2:20 pm by Judy Bourassa, Clerk/Treasurer.

**2. Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Marcia and seconded by Ingemar 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 Marcia and seconded by Barb to approve the minutes of previous meeting, held April 11, 2022. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

### 4. Aquatic Plant Management Plans – LEAPS LLC update

#### a. Permit applications

Dave Blumer from LEAPS LLC attended the last FOECLA meeting to introduce himself and meet the committee members in order to reach out for their support with our grants. The 21-day public review of our APM document starts next week after Dave worked on needed corrections. We can continue with our chemical treatment plan without completing the 21 day review process because the Town of Barnes is paying for the treatment, not grant money. The treatment is anticipated for the end of May or early June. All the permits for mechanical harvesting for Upper, Middle, and Tomahawk/Sandbar Lakes and the permit for chemical treatment for Tomahawk Lake are in the process of being evaluated by the DNR and are expected to be confirmed this week. Dave informed us that his coworker, Megan Mader, has resigned and taken another position elsewhere.

#### b. Notification to property owners

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, letters went out to all the property owners directly adjacent to the infected areas where mechanical harvesting with the BAISS boat will be taking place. Also, a second letter was sent to property owners on Tomahawk Lake informing them about the chemical treatment taking place on their lake this summer.

#### c. Chemical treatment schedule

Our schedule depends on the obtaining the permit from the DNR. It will likely happen in early June. Gus voiced his concern that Dave Blumer's plan to treat three 1,000' sections will not be sufficient, that possibly 4 or 5 sections may be needed. The Gus's reason is because the milfoil extends out into the lake quite a ways, it is not just along the shoreline. Therefore, more barrier footage will be required to include that extra distance.

## **5. Tomahawk & Sand Bar Lakes need volunteer to report milfoil growth to LEAPS**

The Eurasian Milfoil has been reported to be growing fast, high, and thick already in Tomahawk Lake.

## **6. Clean Boats Clean Water Program – update from AIS Coordinator, Barb Clements**

### **a. Update on April training and May volunteer appreciation luncheon**

22 people attended the April 22<sup>nd</sup> training. The next training is on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00. It has been advertised with flyers in the bait shops, announced on the Town of Barnes website, and emails were sent out to volunteers on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The volunteer appreciation luncheon was poorly attended (12 people). Lots of food and items were donated by various organizations. Everyone attending received a door prize!

### **b. Barb is coordinating 2022 volunteer schedule**

Barb Clements will set up an informational table for the “Taste of Barnes” event. She will be attending the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference in Spooner on June 17<sup>th</sup>. She is particularly interested in attending sessions about volunteerism. Barb attended a “water quality” meeting (with FOECLA members). Water quality testing is only happening on a few lakes because of funding issues. With more funding, more lakes could be tested with more volunteers. Also, Barb is wanting to organize the Shoreline Monitoring volunteers better. If a volunteer discovers an unknown species, they can drop off the sample in a baggy at the bait shops and an AIS trained representative will analyze it.

### **c. Paid monitors will be responsible for contacting alternates when needed**

This is going well.

### **d. Update from first two weekends of monitoring**

Barb can't get into the SWIMS computer system yet. However, she created a spreadsheet on of number of boats in/out of the monitored lakes. She did not have the facts on the number of volunteer hours worked.

## **7. BAISS Maintenance – update from Gus**

Gus has changed the oil and fixed and strengthened the pontoon ladder. The umbrella is still being ordered and need to be retrofitted. Here is the summer schedule for the BAISS boat:

May 27: Power wash the pontoon and all equipment, launch into Upper EC Lake.

May 31-June 23 (4 weeks): harvest curly-leaf pondweed in Upper EC.

June 23: Take pontoon out of Upper, thoroughly power wash, and land in Middle EC Lake.

June 27-July 21: (4 weeks): harvest curly-leaf pondweed in Middle EC and river.

July 21: take pontoon out of Middle, thoroughly power wash, land in Tomahawk Lake.

July 25-August 18 (or end of season): harvest Eurasian milfoil in Sandbar Lake.

Our committee has put a request out to the Conservation Club for people to help with the power washing and to learn the process with the intent that others will take over this activity. Fred Kawell emailed his members on May 18<sup>th</sup> to request people to be at the Barnes Town shop at 8:00 am on May 27<sup>th</sup> to help with this cleaning process. Also, we are all encouraged to watch the video on chemical treatment and the barrier building process to learn more about our next step of using the barrier and the logistics of putting in, moving, and taking out the barrier. The link to the video can be found on the Town of Barnes website.

## **8. BAISS Operations – update from AIS Coordinator, Barb Clements**

### **a. Cris Neff preparing diver schedule**

Cris is preparing a diver's schedule.

**b. Barb, Chris and Julia still need to meet for coordinating volunteer schedule**

Barb and Chris Webb will work with Julia to prepare a schedule soon.

**c. Doug has offered to dispose of bags and ensure tanks are full of gas**

Doug will handle this chore daily and count the bags for each day. They go to the Town's compost area.

**9. Education and Community Outreach**

**a. Update from AIS County Coordinator – Andy Teal**

Andy did not attend, so we did not receive a report.

**b. Plant ID & Spiny Waterflea presentation May 20, 2022 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, Town Hall**

This training is happening on Friday. Andy bought all his own exhibits and power-point presentation.

**9. AIS Budget/Grant Balances:**

**2022 State Grants:** \$36,265.19

**(Year-To-Date) AIS Expenses:**

Lake Surveys by Matt Berg: \$4,362.00

BAISS Maintenance: \$236.02

**(Year-To-Date) CBCW Expenses:**

Project Training and Education: \$687.84

Administration Wages and Taxes: \$253.27

**(Year-To-Date) Population Control Operations:**

Project Training and Education: \$335.54

Administration Wages and Taxes: \$238.45

APM Planning: \$1,307.60

Upper/Middle EC APM Grant: \$542.05

Lower EC/Cranberry APM Grant: \$393.73

**(Year-To-Date) Total Expenses: \$8,356.50**

**10. Next meeting Date** for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is **Monday, June13, 2022 at 8:30 am**. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

**11. Adjourn:** A motion was made by Doug and seconded by Barb 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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