

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, July 11, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chris Webb at 8:30 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, Julia Lyons, Mauve Gagne (new member), Cris Neff (Liaison for FOECLA), Eric Neff (Liaison for the Town of Barnes) and Dave Blumer (LEAPS LLC) on Zoom.

Members Absent: 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 July 8, 2022 at 11:00 am by Judy Bourassa, Clerk/Treasurer.

2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Ingemar and seconded by Marcia to approve the agenda. Two changes to the agenda were voiced: 1. To add a recommendation to the Barnes Town Board to approve Mauve Gagne as a member of our committee, 2. To move Cris Neff's report on the BAISS operations (#7- B and C) to the first item of our meeting. A voice vote was taken to approve these two changes. 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 June 13, 2022. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

4. Education and Community Outreach

a. Update from AIS County Coordinator – Andy Teal

We received no updates from Andy Teal because he did not attend our meeting.

b. Organization meetings/events, Taste of Barnes, etc. – Barb Clements

Barb set up a table at the Taste of Barnes, but later transferred our AIS information over to the FOECLA table. Barb attended the Boater Safety event at Tomahawk Lake in June. She enjoyed it, but mentioned the attendance by the public was poor. Also, Barb went to the Lakes Conference in Spooner on June 17th. She talked with other participants about volunteerism. Most people commented that volunteers were very difficult to recruit. Others have found that collecting donations from sponsors and offering to pay "volunteers" works much better. We discussed this idea a bit and we may consider it further in the future. Barb mentioned that she is talking with people wherever she can about our AIS programs and promoting volunteerism. Her recent email letter produced one new volunteer.

5. Tomahawk Lake watermilfoil

a. Results of EWM chemical treatment

Overall, the watermilfoil looks in "poor health." The 1st treatment area is further along in dying than the 2nd and 3rd areas. The younger weeds seems to be dying and older, more established weeds just look "sick." Dave Blumer said he is coming up to Tomahawk Lake this week to look at the treatment areas and check the weed health by raking the weeds up. He suggested that the drivers take a closer look at the area in a few weeks when the BAISS boat is in Tomahawk/Sandbar Lakes. In the future, we will need

to do a whole lake treatment (or a treatment of the far east end of the lake) with a stronger chemical, such as ProcellaCOR. This would require DNR approval and grant money. No results of the water quality tests have come back yet – in a few more weeks.

6. Tomahawk & Sand Bar Lakes Aquatic Plant Management Plan

a. Status review – plan was posted on website, status of DNR approval

No comments from the public were received during the 21-day review period. The APM document was posted on the Town of Barnes website. Dave Blumer needs to get a review of our actions of how we publicized the APM during the 21-day review, then he will include that information in the APM and send the document to the DNR for approval. Two comments were made: Ingemar would like more watershed history included in the document. Ingemar and Dave will discuss it further when Dave comes to Barnes later this week. Julia mentioned how overwhelming this 70 page document is to read. It was suggested for Dave to summarize the actual plan or let the public know that the last 6-8 pages contain the important information about the actual plan.

b. Plan was email to local organizations involved on May 31st

The APM was emailed out again this past week for review.

c. Additional notifications emailed this week.

The document may be posted again in the near future.

7. Upper Eau Claire & Middle Eau Claire Lakes Plant Management Plan

a. Aquatic Plant Survey

We are waiting for data.

b. Upper Eau Claire – summary of BAISS operations – Cris Neff

We worked with the BAISS suction boat for 4 weeks on Upper EC Lake. We did not eradicate all the curly-leaf pondweed. The biggest area and most worked area still has weed remaining. The Lyndale Bay patch was pulled. The deep patch in Pease Bay was worked for several days and about three fourths of it was pulled. Overall, Upper has more pondweed than Middle EC Lake has.

c. Middle Eau Claire – summary of BAISS operations – Cris Neff

We are on the third and last week on Middle EC Lake. This week, Tuesday to Thursday, the BAISS boat will be working on the river from the mouth to the dam. Our plan for the fourth week is to move the boat to Lower EC Lake because Matt Berg (our lake mapping specialist) has found curly-leaf in the part of the lake near Moody Dam. He sent the GPS coordinates and maps to our committee. The divers will be searching and pulling all that is found.

8. Cranberry & Lower Eau Claire Lakes Plant Management Plan

a. Aquatic Plant Survey

Matt Berg has already surveyed Lower EC Lake. He has reported his findings to the committee.

b. Lower Eau Claire discovery: harvesting permit & early response grant

Dave Blumer sent in the permit document to the DNR last week. It will cost \$30. Because Lower EC has never had pondweed before, we are eligible for an “early response grant” for this harvesting job. Dave said that we need to do two things: 1. Get formal approval from the DNR. A simple procedure that FOECLA should do because Lower EC Lake is in two townships, Barnes and Gordon. 2. Write a proposal for a grant to work this new infestation in 2023. It needs to include money for DASH boat, diver’s wages, gas, mapping, mileage, and other expenses. In the meantime, the BAISS boat can go ahead and pull the weeds as needed. The permit may be here by Monday.

9. BAISS Operations, Schedules & Maintenance

Maintenance: There is hole in the main suction pipe that has been taped up. A new 3" pipe needs to be purchased. It comes in 100' sections, and it is fairly inexpensive.

Schedules: Filled for this week. Tomahawk/Sandbar schedules have not been publicized yet.

Operations: We discussed an end-of-the-year volunteer recognition/thank you event (luncheon?). We talked about sending personal thank you notes out to some volunteers who are not on our volunteer lists. We will put this item on our August committee meeting agenda and discuss it further.

10. Clean Boats Clean Water Program – update from AIS Coordinator, Barb Clements.

Barb produced and distributed a data sheet for June. It includes SWIMS data from all five landing.

11. AIS Year-To-Date (Jan-June) Expense Report:

2022 State Grants: \$36,265.19 (same)

AIS Expenses: \$4,571.84

Lake surveys: \$4,362.00 (same)

Chemical treatment: \$209.84

BAISS-AIS Harvester Maintenance Expenses: \$875.79

Gas/oil, rake pole, camera (\$369.24), etc.

CBCW Expenses: \$9,329.79

Project training and education (mailings, copies, etc.): \$1,067.31

Administrative Wages: \$199.36

Boat ramp monitors wages: \$7,472.52

Employer taxes: \$590.60

Population Control Operations: \$3,978.71

Project training and education: \$457.46 (same)

Diver's Wages: \$2,978.04

Employer taxes: \$246.80

Administration Wages: \$296.41

Aquatic Plant Management Expenses:

APM Planning: \$1,961.40

Upper/Middle EC APM Grant: \$1,326.15

Lower EC/Cranberry APM Grant: \$731.19

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$22,774.87

Total Grant Money Remaining: \$13,490.32

Julia made a motion to recommend Mauve Gagne be approved as a new member of the AIS committee. It will be presented to the Barnes Town Board at their next meeting on Tuesday, July 19th. The motion was seconded by Barb. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

Adjourn: A motion was made by Sally and seconded by Marcia to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Menard

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