

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, August 8, 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 (Zoom), Mauve Gagne, Cris Neff (Liaison for FOECLA), Eric Neff (Liaison for the Town of Barnes), and Zach Stewart (Natural Resources Specialist/AIS Coordinator for Douglas County) 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 August 4, 2022 at 11:30 am by Judy Bourassa, Clerk/Treasurer.

2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Sally and seconded by Marcia to make a change to the agenda. Cris Neff and Julia Lyons requested to be moved to the beginning of the meeting. A voice vote was taken to move item #9 to the first item of the meeting, the motion carried.

3. Approval of last month's minutes: A motion was made by Barb and seconded by Marcia to approve the minutes of previous meeting, held July 11, 2022. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

4. Education and Community Outreach

a. Update from Bayfield County A.I.S. coordinator report: Andy Teal

Andy Teal did not attend our meeting, therefore, there was no report.

b. Organization meetings/events, etc.

Barb Clements had an AIS informational table at the FOECLA annual meeting in July.

5. Tomahawk Lake watermilfoil

a. Update of results – documentation to be shared with community members

Our committee members and others received an email from the Barnes Town Office containing two laboratory reports on the water quality samples from the chemical treatment beds and other spots in Tomahawk Lake. The documents contained pages of raw data that everyone found confusing and impossible to understand. We would like Dave Blumer (LEAPS LLC) to compile the data into a readable graph format and repost the information to the committee and the Barnes Town website.

6. Tomahawk & Sand Bar Lakes Aquatic Plant Management Plan

a. Letter sent to DNR requesting review and approval

The Aquatic Plant Management Plan has been sent to the DNR and has not yet been approved.

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

a. Preparation of documents for grant reimbursement request

This is still being worked on. The grant documentation will need to be written before November 1st.

8. Cranberry & Lower Eau Claire Lakes Plant Management Plan

a. Lower Eau Claire harvesting results

Only one day was spent harvesting Curly-leaf pondweed on Lower Eau Claire Lake. 2 bags of weeds were collected. After one day, the diving team decided to abandon the harvesting efforts because the weeds were too far along in their natural life cycle. They had already begun to break apart and disintegrate. Therefore, there was more chance of spreading the plants than collecting and containing them. Also, the harvesting permit did not arrive in a timely manner, so the divers could only hand pull weeds and bag them in mesh bags, and not use the DASH equipment.

b. Douglas County cleaning station

No one seemed to know if this cleaning station has been set-up and implemented. It could affect our CBCW program at the Lower EC Lake landing. Jeri McGinley seems to be the contact person.

c. Report from July 27th meeting regarding Curly leaf pondweed

i. Alex Selle – DNR Northwestern Wisconsin AIS Coordinator

ii. Zach Stewart – Douglas Co Natural Resource Specialist/AIS Coordinator

iii. Andy Teal – Bayfield Co AIS Coordinator/Surface Water Technician

Barb Clements attended the July 27th meeting with the three individual listed above. She sent our committee members emails detailing the discussion of the meeting. Here are Barb's notes and Zach Stewart's comments at the meeting. We will be writing an EDRR (Emergency Detection Rapid Response) grant which is good for 3 years and \$25,000 (with a 25% match from Barnes and Douglas County-about \$8,000). Zach Stewart from Douglas County would assist us in a number of ways too. There were six key points:

1. Bed mapping to document the infestation.
2. Recommendations for management.
3. Write the APM (Aquatic Plant Management) plan and application with funding recommendations.
4. Monitor the river between Middle and Lower.
5. Check for infestation below the dam.
6. Budget for the BAISS boat operation in 2023 and the following two years.

There are no deadlines for the EDRR grant. It would be reviewed immediately. The \$25,000 could cover a variety of expenses. It would be a cooperative effort between Douglas and Bayfield Counties. Zach Stewart and Andy Teal will write a letter of support to the DNR for our benefit. Dave Blumer (LEAPS LLC) would assist in writing the APM.

Zach Stewart's email address: Zach.Stewart@douglascountywi.org

9. BAISS Operations, Schedules & Maintenance: Cris Neff and Julia Lyons

BAISS is working on Eurasian milfoil in Sandbar Lake. In week 1, they worked the brushy shoreline. The past week and in the remaining weeks, they will be pulling weeds in the main patches because there is "plenty of milfoil." Julia Lyons showed us several videos of Cris's underwater videos in all three beds that were chemically treated in June. The videos showed the dying milfoil in different stages depending on which of the three beds she was in. Quite interesting! Now, we are in the last two weeks of operation. Then, the boat will need a thorough cleaning and moved into winter storage. It seems that the only maintenance item right now is to replace the suction hose. There were some engine and battery issues, but neither need replacing at this time. We discussed long-term funding issues and/or asking the community for donations.

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

Barb distributed a report for July (with the previous months included). We need volunteer hours totaling 200 hours for each landing for our grant. It seems that we are on target for collecting enough hours with four weekends remaining in our CBCW season. We discussed the need for paid monitors for Musky Tournament weekend (1st weekend in October) at the three Eau Claire Lake landings.

11. Volunteer Appreciation (paid, unpaid, and organizations) - set date & responsibilities

Ingemar will work with Tami to get our shoreline monitoring form out to volunteers again within the next 2 weeks. It is due in September, then three names will be drawn for gift certificates in our October AIS meeting. The form will be put on Facebook, email, and mailed. We discussed having a thank you picnic for volunteers. However, we heard about the Town of Barnes doing a picnic, so we will wait.

12. 2022 AIS Year-To-Date (Jan - July) Expense Report:

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

AIS Expenses: \$7,891.44

Lake surveys: \$4,362.00 (same)

Chemical treatment: \$3,529.44

BAISS-AIS Harvester Maintenance Expenses: \$875.79 (same)

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

CBCW Expenses: \$14,996.83

Project training and education (mailings, copies, etc.): \$1,186.20

Administrative Wages: \$199.36 (same)

Boat ramp monitors wages: \$12,626.40

Employer taxes: \$984.87

Population Control Operations: \$11,286.26

Project training and education: \$457.46 (same)

Diver's Wages: \$9,766.29

Employer taxes: \$766.10

Administration Wages: \$296.41 (same)

APM Planning: \$2,288.30 (same)

Upper/Middle EC APM Grant: \$1,643.20

Lower EC/Cranberry APM Grant: \$899.92

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$39,881.74

Total Grant Money Remaining: \$-3,616.55

Ingemar bought some extra books to distribute. We discussed developing a packet of AIS information for new residents in Barnes. Several local realtors could distribute these packets.

13. Next meeting Date for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, September 12, 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 10:00 am.