

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, September 12, 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: Ingemar Ekstrom, Diane Menard, Chris Webb, Gerald Gustafson, Doug Stearly, Barb Clements, Eric Neff (Liaison for the Town of Barnes), Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator) and Dave Blumer (LEAPS LLC)

Members Absent: Sally Pease, Marcia Wellnitz, Julia Lyons, Mauve Gagne, Cris Neff (Liaison for FOECLA), and Tyler Mesalk (DNR Water Resource Management Specialist).

Verification of Public Notice: Public notice of meeting was posted on September 9, 2022 at 12:50 pm by Judy Bourassa, Clerk/Treasurer.

2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Ingemar and seconded by Diane to approve the revised agenda. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

3. Approval of last month's minutes: A motion was made by Barb and seconded by Doug to approve the minutes of previous meeting, held August 8, 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 prepared a support letter for our AIS grants.

Andy offered to do 2 plant ID trainings for interested participants in 2023 and 2024.

Dave Blumer asked Andy to write a letter stating the value of the plant ID trainings in Barnes to be included in the grant work.

The annual AIS ID Day held at the NGLVC may not be held this year. The event is determined by the level of interest, so no date has been set.

Andy asked for presentation ideas for the NW Lakes Conference for next year. No suggestions were offered.

Andy commented that purple loosestrife plants were numerous this year throughout the county. Dave Blumer suggested that our committee with the help of the Conservation Club could raise the beetles that eat the purple loosestrife plants. He would write this project into our grant for Tomahawk/Sandbar Lakes. It would give us more volunteer hours and be quite simple and useful. Equipment needed: Two 5 foot plastic swimming pools, 24 3-gallon or 5-gallon buckets, net coverings, and a water source. Dave would provide the "starter kits." The project would start at the end of April and run to July, when the beetles are released in a locations that have lots of these invasive plants. Volunteers are needed daily to check the water levels and check the security of the nets.

b. Lee Wiesner led plant removal on Middle Eau Claire Lake: Arrow Arnum and Wild

Horseradish

The landowner and Andy Teal assisted in this day-long project.

5. Tomahawk Lake watermilfoil

a. Review lab reports, post chemical treatment

Dave Blumer (LEAPS, LLC) just recently received the reports. He has not studied them yet, but he will make graphs with the data so the results can be easily understood.

b. Pre-application for 2023 grants

Matt Berg of Endangered Resources Services, LLC recently completed the fall lake surveys. No data is available at this time.

Dave Blumer reported that the milfoil in Tomahawk Lake has been “knocked down,” but it may not be a long term solution. It seems to be growing back from the bottom of the stems. Our chemical treatment with the curtains seemed to lack the effectiveness we were hoping for. He reported that Sandbar Lake has milfoil completely surrounding the lake along the shoreline into the dead trees with several wider swaths into deeper water.

c. Potential for full lake treatment in 2023

A more effective chemical than the 2d-4 that we used this past June is a chemical called Procellacor. This would be a full lake treatment, but it would only be used in the affected areas on Tomahawk and Sandbar Lakes. It needs no curtain because this chemical “seeks” out the plants. The treatment area is along the north shore and east panhandle areas of Tomahawk (approximately 13-15 acres) and on Sandbar Lake around the shoreline for approximately 10 acres. The cost would be approximately \$40,000 with 75% coming from grants and our cost would be 25%. This would potentially provide 2 to 3 years of relief from the milfoil. A full lake treatment is written into our Aquatic Plant Management (APM) plan and Dave Blumer would write it in to our grant.

Chris Webb will submit these resolutions to the Town of Barnes Board:

A motion was made by Diane Menard and seconded by Barb Clements to recommend to the Town of Barnes Board to submit applications for Small Scale Population Control Grants for the Eau Claire Lakes. A second motion was made by Diane Menard and seconded by Barb Clements to recommend to the Town of Barnes Board to submit applications for Large Scale Population Control Grants for Tomahawk and Sandbar Lakes. A voice vote was taken and both motions were approved, the motions carried.

Chris Webb will also submit this resolution to the Town of Barnes Board:

A motion was made by Diane Menard and seconded by Chris Webb to hire LEAPS, LLC to submit application grants to the DNR for 2023 grants at a cost of approximately \$2,000 (3 pay outs). A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

6. Tomahawk & Sand Bar Lakes Aquatic Plant Management Plan

a. Aquatic Plant Management Plan received approval on September 7, 2022

b. The plan covers 2023-2027

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

a. Preparation of documents for grant reimbursement request

No approved Aquatic Management Plan (APM) for Upper and Middle Eau Claire Lakes yet, in progress, will not be completed until 2023. For next year, we will be using the BAISS Dash boat. Our grant will ask for \$35,000 for mapping the lakes, Dash boat, divers, testing, communications, etc. Again, it is a 75%/25% cost split.

8. Cranberry & Lower Eau Claire Lakes Plant Management Plan

a. Early Detection and Rapid Response Grant

Barb Clements is preparing the paperwork for this DNR grant. It is a simple grant because of the newly discovered curly-leaf pondweed plants in Lower Eau Claire Lake. We can get \$20,000 for the DASH boat, divers, gas, mapping, mileage, and other expenses. Andy Teal will write a letter of support to the DNR for this Early Detection and Rapid Response Grant.

9. BAISS Operations, Maintenance, and Storage

The BAISS boat has been moved to its storage spot behind the Town buildings. It is ready for winter. In the spring, it will be cleaned and routine maintenance will be done. **Put on April agenda.**

Next season, we will load and unload the BAISS boat from the public boat landing while it is on Tomahawk Lake.

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

Barb will get a graph of the final hours and boat totals out soon.

At this time, we lack volunteer hours at the Lower EC Lake landing.

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

The volunteer appreciation picnic will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2022 from noon to 4:00 in conjunction with the Barnes employer picnic. All volunteers are welcome.

Our Shoreline Monitoring Volunteer hours are due September 23rd. The drawing for 3 gift certificates will be held at our October committee meeting.

12. AIS Year-To-Date (January-August) Expense Report:

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

AIS Population Control Operations Expenses: \$7,891.44

Lake surveys: \$4,362.00 (same)

Chemical treatment: \$3,529.44

BAISS-AIS Harvester Maintenance Expenses: \$1,865.65

(Gas/oil, rake and pole, camera, etc.)

CBCW Expenses: \$22,369.40

Project training and education (mailings, copies, etc.): \$1,286.20

Administrative Wages: \$199.36 (same)

Boat ramp monitors wages: \$19,382.16

Employer taxes: \$1,501.68

Population Control Operations: \$22,678.28

Project training and education: \$878.66

Diver's Wages: \$19,994.79

Employer taxes: \$1,508.42

Administration Wages: \$296.41 (same)

APM Planning (LEAPS): \$2,615.20

Upper/Middle EC APM Grant: \$1,960.25

Lower EC/Cranberry APM Grant: \$1,226.15

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$60,606.37

Total Grant Money Remaining: -\$24,341.18

13. Next meeting Date for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, October 10, 2022 at 9:00 am. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Doug 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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