

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, October 10, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chris Webb at 9:10 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, Marcia Wellnitz, Diane Menard, Chris Webb, Barb Clements, Cris Neff (Liaison for FOECLA), David Blumer (LEAPS LLC), and Alex Selle (WDNR).

Members Absent: Sally Pease, Gerald Gustafson, Doug Stearly, Julia Lyons, Mauve Gagne, 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 October 7, 2022 at 11:50 am by Judy Bourassa, Clerk/Treasurer.

2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Ingemar and seconded by Marcia 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 Barb and seconded by Marcia to approve the minutes of previous meeting, held September 12, 2022. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

4. DNR Grants for 2023:

a. Large Scale Grant for Tomahawk/Sand Bar Lakes, includes beetle project

David Blumer of LEAPS LLC completed and submitted the preapplication in September. Chris displayed a spreadsheet of the funding items for the Large Scale Grant for Tomahawk /Sandbar Lakes. We discussed multiple items. Preliminary figures show a cost of approximately \$89,000, of which \$67,000 would come from the state and \$22,000 is our Barnes portion (from cost sharing sources and cash). It is a 2-year plan with the APM previously approved. The grant includes survey work, testing, our BAISS boat weed harvesting, treating the lake with Procellacor (approximately \$40,000), purplestrife beetle raising project (approximately \$800), and pro-rated volunteer hours. The final version of the grant is due in November. A no-fee permit is needed for the beetle project. Alex Selle said he would apply for the permit.

b. Small Scale Grant for Upper/Middle Eau Claire Lakes

This grant is our Population Control Grant. This is our source of money for the BAISS boat curly-leaf pondweed harvesting we do on Upper and Middle Eau Claire Lakes. Our APM for this grant is not completed and will not be approved until 2023. When the APM is approved, it is for a 5-year period, 2023-2028. Therefore, our grant for 2023 needs to be a "planning grant" with the BAISS boat work not covered financially. The one year grant would require approximately \$23,000.

c. Early Detection Rapid Response Grant for Lower Eau Claire Lake

This Early Detection Grant is approved for a 3-year period. Zach Stewart (DNR Specialist/AIS Coordinator for Douglas County) and Dave Blumer (LEAPS LLC) assisted Barb Clements in completing the application. We are awarded \$25,000 to harvest curly-leaf pondweed in Lower Eau Claire Lake. The grant includes

surveying, testing, and other necessary expenses. We will need to contribute \$8,000 worth of volunteer hours.

d. Clean Boats Clean Waters program for Upper/Middle/Lower/Tomahawk Lakes

We discussed eliminating the Robinson Lake landing from our grant. A motion was made by Chris Webb and seconded by Marcia to apply for four landings in our 2023 CBCW grant (Upper, Middle, Lower, and Tomahawk). A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. However, after further discussion, the committee reconsidered. Then a motion was made by Chris and seconded by Marcia to keep our monitored landings at five locations with one paid monitor splitting time between Robinson Lake and Island Lake landings and the other four previously mentioned locations. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. We will be applying for \$20,000 in state grants with 1,000 volunteer hours required.

5. Bayfield County A.I.S. coordinator report: Andy Teal

Andy Teal was not in attendance, so no report was given.

6. Expenses for 2022, Preliminary budget for 2023:

AIS Year-To-Date (Jan. – Sept.) Expense Report:

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

AIS Expenses: \$9,203.44

Lake surveys: \$4,362.00 (same)

Chemical treatment: \$4,841.44

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

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

CBCW Expenses: \$25,496.13

Project training and education (mailings, copies, etc.): \$1,686.20

Administrative Wages: \$199.36 (same)

Boat ramp monitors wages: \$21,915.12

Employer taxes: \$1,695.45

Population Control Operations: \$22,678.28 (same)

Project training and education: \$878.66 (same)

Diver's Wages: \$19,994.79 (same)

Employer taxes: \$1,508.42 (same)

Administration Wages: \$296.41 (same)

APM Planning: \$3,076.84

Upper/Middle EC APM Grant: \$2,277.30

Lower EC/Cranberry APM Grant: \$1,394.88

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$65,992.52

Total Grant Money Remaining: -\$29,727.33 (deficit)

Budget for 2023:

Chris Webb displayed a spreadsheet itemizing the estimated AIS budget. We reviewed multiple items. Chris would like the budget to be ready to send to the clerk by mid-October. She will be presenting our budget at the Town of Barnes Board Meeting.

7. Education and Community Outreach – preliminary planning for 2023:

We will discuss this item in first spring meeting.

8. BAISS Operations – preliminary planning for 2023:

We have a need for a person to oversee the BAISS boat operation. We will be checking with a few potential people. Any willing candidates?

9. Volunteer Appreciation:

a. Drawing for gift cards from submission of shoreline monitors volunteer hours

Our winners of \$40 gift certificates from the pool of monitors who returned their forms are Marcia Wellnitz for Cedar Lodge, Gary Meyer for The Trading Post, and Cris Neff for Tracks. Thank you to all our volunteers who diligently monitored our lake's shorelines. Good job! Continue to keep up your good work in 2023 too!

10. Next meeting Date: The Town of Barnes AIS Committee will meet on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 9:00 am. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Diane and seconded by Marcia to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Menard

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