

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, May 8, 2023

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, Doug Stearly, Barb Clements, Julia Lyons on Zoom, Mauve Gagne, Cris Neff (Liaison for FOECLA), Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator) on Zoom, and Dave Blumer (LEAPS LLC).

Members Absent: Eric Neff (Liaison for the Town of Barnes), Zach Stewart (Douglas County AIS Specialist), and Tyler Mesalk (DNR Water Resource Management Specialist).

Verification of Public Notice: Public notice of meeting was posted on May 3, 2023 at 1:45 pm by April Powell, Clerk/Treasurer.

2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Barb 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 Diane and seconded by Barb to approve the version of the minutes that includes the additions made by Dave Blumer (LEAPS LLC). A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

4. Bayfield County Activities and Educational Opportunities Report: Andy Teal, AIS coordinator

Saturday, May 20 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm – Aquatic Invasive Informational Training with Plant identification, a review of the CBCW program, and information about the BAISS boat. It will be held at the Barnes Town Hall. Refreshments will be served.

Friday, July 28 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm – “Plant ID Day” will be at the NGLVC in Ashland for Bayfield County. Counties state-wide will also be holding a Plant ID Day on that same day at various locations.

5. Tomahawk and Sand Bar Lakes

a. Tomahawk Lake Treatment:

The permit to treat Tomahawk Lake and Sand Bar Lake has been approved. We were not planning to chemically treat Sand Bar, but Dave put that lake on the permit also, just because he could. When the permit came back, the DNR lowered the ProcellaCor PDU level from 5.00 (as we requested) to 4.00 (a lower concentration) for our chemical treatment of Tomahawk Lake. Our treatment plan was to use ProcellaCor along the north shoreline and to use 2-4D in the “handle” area of the lake with the limno curtain installed to block that end of the lake completely during the several days of treatment. Now the situation has changed a bit. The lower level of 4.00 PDU costs less, therefore, we would have extra money left on the permit if we go with our original plan as stated above. We discussed a few options while studying the hand-out sheet that Dave prepared. We decided that we would stick to our original plan and use the extra \$2,000 to treat a small section of Sand Bar Lake just to the right of the outlet on the north shore. The permit would not change (Sand Bar Lake was include in the permit), we would be using all our allotted money, and it would give the Eurasian Milfoil in Sand Bar Lake a needed treatment.

The DNR would need to approve our new plan. If they do not accept this plan, we would use the extra \$2,000 to change our treatment of the “handle” from the 4-2D chemical to ProcellaCor (a more effective chemical, but more costly). The limno curtain would still be used. Matt Berg will be surveying the lake before treatment. Treatment would likely happen in early June. Ingemar suggested that we prepare an informational letter for the residents on both lakes to be placed on their doorstep in a sealed plastic baggy.

b. Biological Control Beetle Project:

We have the permit to raise beetles for purple loosestrife biological control. We will grow about 24 plants. Andy will dig up purple loosestrife plants next week with help from AIS committee members. Andy has all the equipment we will need, plastic pools, netting, etc. We will be adding the beetles in about one month after the plants grow bigger. The staging area for this project will be inside the ice rink and near a water source, per Jeff Jordheim’s recommendation (foreman of the Barnes Highway Department). Jeff instructed me on the operation of the water source.

6. Upper and Middle Eau Claire Lakes

a. Aquatic Plant Management Plan – Next Steps:

Notices need to be posted in various locations that our 5-year APM has been finalized. It is for a 21-day period for the public to review our plan. After that process, the APM is sent to the DNR for review and approval. The process needs to be completed by the August deadline.

Dave prepared 5 spreadsheets, one for each of our 5 grants. Each page listed tasks that are part of our grant money. We reviewed these organizational sheets. He reminded us that we all need to document all of our AIS work as to date, time, name of lake, type of boat used, what we did, results, etc. This documentation will verify our activities and make the grant writing easier.

7. Lower Eau Claire and Cranberry Lakes:

a. Aquatic Plant Management Plan:

Dave Blumer is working on plan completion.

b. Rapid Response Grant:

The grant application is completed. The DNR needs to approve of it now. It is a grant for 3-years, 2023-2025. It is for \$25,000 and up to \$43,000 with the match from us for the BAISS boat work. The grant contains many areas like planning, permits, mapping, management with the BAISS boat, etc.

8. BAISS Operations:

a. Status of BAISS scheduling:

Three divers have completed their paperwork: Cris Neff, Matt Neff, and Bruce Piburn. We have several other interested divers: Terry Bauer, Jim Ware, and Mark Bauer. Cris Neff is doing the scheduling for the divers. Julia Lyons is scheduling the volunteers. We are still working on contacting the property owners where the boat will be docked on each lake.

b. Pontoon Preparedness:

The pontoon will be taken out of storage and prepared during the week of May 22nd. It will need to be cleaned and checked over.

c. End-of-day routine: gas and weeds:

We are still in need of a volunteer to take care of filling the gas tanks and removing the daily weed bags. We also are looking for a volunteer person to be in charge of mechanical and maintenance issues as they arise.

9. Clean Boats Clean Water Program: Barb Clements, AIS (CBCW) Coordinator

a. Status of Monitoring Schedule:

Upper EC Lake: Rocky and Barb Clements

Tomahawk: Rocky and Barb Clements

Lower EC Lake: Doug Stearly

Middle EC Lake: John Loughren

Roberson/Island Lakes: Sally Pease

We discussed the issue of needing 200 hours at each landing. These hours can be from paid persons and/or volunteers. At \$15.00/hour, 200 hours can be reached with 12 hours per weekend, instead of the 20 hours as used in the past. We debated if 12 hours per weekend was enough coverage at the boat landings. If we keep it at 12 hours per weekend, then our grant money will cover the cost. If the monitors work more, we have to request additional money from the Town of Barnes.

10. Education and Training:

a. Topics – Saturday, May 20th 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

10:00: Cris and Julia will talk about AIS projects and activities on the lakes, such as BAISS boat, divers, volunteering, and shoreline monitoring.

10:30: Andy Teal will talk about plant identification and aquatic invasive species.

11:30: Barb Clements will talk about the CBCW program.

Refreshments will be served and prizes will be distributed.

The invitation letters are in the mail to all property owners.

It was requested to have an additional training later in the summer with Zach Stewart doing a presentation. Perhaps it would be near Lower Eau Claire Lake in Douglas County.

b. Supplies and Giveaways:

Marcia Wellnitz and Mauve Gagne will do most of the food shopping at several stores in Hayward. They will also request gift certificates from various eating establishments.

11. Budget and Expenses:

2023 State Grants AIS/CBCW: \$34,360.72

#56903 BAISS Maintenance/Expenses: \$0.00

#56910 CBCW Expenses: \$184.29

#56911 Tomahawk/Sand Bar Lake Expenses: \$1,028.10

#56913 Upper/Middle Eau Claire Lakes Expenses: \$2,692.52

#56914 Lower EC/Cranberry Lakes Expenses: \$1,021.35

Total Expenses To-Date: \$4,926.26

Most of our expenses were for consultation work and permits.

12. Next meeting Date: Town of Barnes AIS Committee will meet on Monday, June 12, 2023 at 9:00 am. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Diane 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
715-795-3464, menard5@msn.com