**Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting**

 **Monday, April 14, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Chris Webb at 9:00 AM. Roll call of committee members verified that a quorum was present. We met at the Barnes Town Office and via Zoom Video Conferencing.

**1. Roll call:**

**Members Present:** Sally Pease, Diane Menard, Chris Webb, Doug Stearly, and Cris Neff (Liaison for FOECLA).

**Guests Present:** Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator), Zach Stewart (Douglas County Land Conservation Department), and David Blumer (LEAPS LLC).

**Members Absent:**  Barb Clements, Julia Lyons, and Mavis Gagne.

**Verification of Public Notice**: Public notice of meeting was posted on April 11, 2025 at 12:00 PM by Chris Webb, AIS Committee Chair.

**2. Approval of Agenda**: A motion was made by Diane and seconded by Sally 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 Sally and seconded by Doug to approve the minutes of previous meeting held on March 17, 2025. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

**4. Andy Teal, Bayfield County LMPN Coordinator/Surface Water Conservation Technician:**

\* Andy wrote an article about spiny water fleas to be published in the Bottom Line newspaper.

\* There will be 2 planting projects by landowners in the Town of Barnes: one on Upper EC Lake and the other on Middle EC Lake. This is a cost sharing program through the Healthy Lakes and Rivers program.

\*The educational class about Eurasian milfoil with a pontoon demonstration of collection techniques with be at Tomahawk Lake sometime between July 21 and August 28. Watch for updates!

\* Andy will check on the yellow iris patch on Bony Lake early this summer. He will also check out a patch noticed last summer by the BAISS boat crew on Shunenberg Lake that he was not aware of.

**Zach Stewart –Douglas County Land Conservation Department:** Zach discussed the EC River downstream of the Moody Dam. Last summer, Zach traversed the river sampling many locations for curly-leaf pondweed. He used observation and raking. He located only one spot that had this invasive plant. It was right below the Moody Dam on the right side. He will check it again this summer, and he will recheck several patches of irises that may be of the yellow iris variety. The curly-leaf pondweed should be pulled, and it is thought to be in water shallow enough that hand-pulling would be effective. Another issue that was discussed in 2024 was about the recreational use of the EC River from the Moody Dam to Gordon. Our committee members thought that the river is used for canoeing, kayaking, and tubing, but with minimal fishing. Most people put their vessel in by the Dam and took out at the McCumber Road Bridge, about 4 miles downstream. The river flow is checked daily with a gauge at the Dam. Zach’s concern with boaters is that they should know about aquatic invasive species and take care to inspect and clean their vessel before entering the river and after exiting the river. Signage may be needed. It was also mentioned that a drone could be used to search for yellow iris patches.

**5. Dave Blumer, LEAPS LLC:**

Dave discussed the DNR permits, approvals and delays. He brought the water quality testing coolers back and the GPS devise. The coolers are needed for Tomahawk Lake water testing before and after the chemical treatment.

**6. Mechanical Harvesting Permit Status:**

Permits have been approved for these lakes: Upper EC, Middle EC, Lower EC, and Tomahawk. We are waiting for Shunenberg and Sand Bar permits.

**7. Chemical Application Permit Status:**

Our permit for chemical treatment of Tomahawk Lake has not been approved yet. It is a small patch that we requested to treat with ProcellaCOR for $6,600. There is a meeting with the DNR on Tuesday, April 15th to discuss the issue of our permits being delayed and to answer some additional questions for the DNR. Dave Blumer, Cris Neff, and Chris Webb will be attending this meeting online.

**8. DASH/BAISS Project Lead – Cris Neff:**

\* The GPS device that we use is still loaded with last year’s data. It was discussed how to download that information to the Town of Barnes computer in order to free up the devise for the 2025 data points.

\* Lower EC will be the first lake worked (pulling curly-leaf pondweed) starting on Monday, May 12th.

\* Divers confirmed for work are Dean, Jim, Terry, Alexis, Andy, Cris, and Matthew. We are waiting to hear from several other divers. Then, the schedule will be prepared.

\* The letters for the property owners where the pontoon will be docked have not been returned yet. We are still looking for a property owner to commit to docking on Shunenberg Lake.

\* The letters to volunteers have not been mailed as yet.

**9. CBCW Project:**

A letter has been sent to Barb Clements about her commitment to coordinate the CBCW program, but no response has been received as yet. Otherwise, Sally Pease may do the coordinating. The coordinator position has changed recently. Now, it is a volunteer position. The duties are to recruit volunteers and to be a liaison for the community, like attending events and meetings and presenting an informational kiosk at local events. One of the past duties of the coordinator has been to input data into the DNR SWIMS website. Now, we are going to have the EMS employees at the Fire Station input the SWIMS data, track data on spreadsheets, and download GPS data onto the computer. They will do these tasks during their down time between their other duties.

**10. Training on Friday, April 25th 9:00-12:00 PM – Andy Teal Presentation– CBCW and Plant ID Info:**

Coffee, water, cookies, and fruit will be offered. The community is encouraged to attend.

**11. “Live On Line,” Tuesday, April 29th 6:30-7:30- PM –Zach Stewart-Douglas Co. Surface Waters Program:**

Zach will be hosting a webinar on Douglas County AIS projects with Cris Neff co-presenting. Community members are encouraged to attend by a TEAMS link. The participation link will be advertised soon on the Douglas County website, by FOECLA, and on our Barnes website. Please watch for upcoming details!

**12. Notifications and Volunteer Recruitment:**

We are still looking for volunteers to collect the garbage bags loaded with AIS plants on Upper EC and Middle EC Lakes. They need to be taken daily from the BAISS pontoon docking property and taken to the Town of Barnes Transfer Station for disposal.

The Town of Barnes event – Taste of Barnes – will be held on Saturday, June 14th at the Barnes Park. Sally will set up and maintain the informational kiosk at this event. Sally will write a report about AIS for the Barnes News and Notes online newspaper. Lea Culliton will continue updating the Face Book site.

**13. Next meeting Date** for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, May 12, 2025 at 9:00 AM. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

**Adjourn:** A motion was made by Sally and seconded by Cris 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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