

**AIS Committee meeting
Monday, April 21, 2014 6:30 p.m.
Barnes Town Hall**

Ingemar called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Ingemar Ekstrom, Barb Romstad, Lee Wiesner, David Pease, Sally Pease, Gerald Gustafson, Glenda Mattila, Steve Krivinchuk, Jeremy Bates

Also present: Leslie Hall, Chris Webb

1. Communication

Ingemar asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting, Lee made a motion to accept the minutes; Dave second; motion carried.

2. Volunteer appreciation lunch

104 invitations to the appreciation luncheon were mailed. The luncheon will take place on Friday May 2nd, 11:30 am at the town hall. Barb is taking care of the meal and Gerald will bring the beverages again this year. Glenda offered to bring a pan of bars as did Ingemar. Sue Wiesner and hopefully Rita and Jim Johnson will help with setting up. Ingemar will put a brief program together for the presentation following the luncheon.

3. Clean Boats Clean Waters

As far as we know the EWM caution sign has not yet been put back up at the Upper Eau Claire landing. Ingemar will bring it up at the town board meeting on April 22nd. The budget for 2014 CBCW will be kept separate from our other grants. The 2014 grant is for \$20,000 – the requirements of the grant are quite specific, that is 200 hours of paid or volunteer time need to be logged for each of 5 landings. Robinson Lake landing will be added to the list of landings covered last year which were Upper Eau Claire, Lower Eau Claire, Middle Eau Claire and Island Lakes, to make our landings covered total 5.

Six people applied for the 2 monitor openings. Dave and Mitch interviewed the applicants and hired John Loughren (who was a volunteer in the summer of 2013) and Joel Hayward as the new monitors. Allen Basacker and Gene Pease will be alternates. Our staff now consists of 4 monitors (2 of who split the time at Upper Eau Claire) and Sally, who is our coordinator. Jeremy reminded the group that all volunteers need to be trained at a CBCW workshop prior to being placed at a landing.

4. Town Board liaison

Ingemar welcomed Chris Webb to the meeting, attending in the capacity of Town Board liaison. Chris indicated that it will take her a little time to get a better understanding of the reporting and grant funding requirements.

5. AIS budget for 2014

With the town budget listing each grant as a category, accounting will be easier and fund reimbursements should be more efficient.

The Sandbar Lake aquatic plant management plan and chemical control permit specified an application range/rate (300 ug/L) lower than what was billed. The chemical analysis that Gus and Glenda did on Sandbar Lake in the summer of 2013 confirmed the lake was treated at 300 ug/L, although Lake Restoration charged us for 500 ug/L. The DNR caught the error and is withholding grant reimbursement until the town and Lake restoration rectify the ~\$4000 error. Had the treatment occurred at 500 ug/L, the Town would have been in violation of its chemical control permit and approved management plan, and the grant funding would be in jeopardy.

6. Tomahawk/Sand Bar and George Lake property owners meeting

At the February meeting the group had decided a meeting for the property owners of the three lakes was appropriate. The property owners need to have good information about the status of their lakes and also know what they can do as lakeshore owners to protect their lakes. A tentative date of June 21 was set for the meeting, 9:00 am at the town hall. Barb will place a notice about the meeting in the June blog, and work with Ingemar and Gus to prepare a letter to the property owners which will be mailed on June 1.

7. Curly Leaf Pondweed follow up on Eau Claire Lakes

As we agreed in February, no chemical treatment will be done on Upper or Middle Eau Claire lakes to treat curly leaf pondweed. Lee reviewed some of the suggestions made by Matt Berg to control the invasive. Lee feels we should have “Slow No Wake” buoys near the boat landing on Middle to help control the spread – he will work with the DNR for buoy approval and placement and the town board for ordinance approval. Some discussion took place about getting the word out to the public about the location of the invasives. Jeremy talked about the Pike Chain of Lakes map that shows the weed locations. Lee and Jeremy will follow up on the map concept. Jeremy will follow up with Matt Berg to see if his students would like to earn some money by hand pulling the curly leaf pondweed once the ice is out.

8. Eurasian Water Milfoil follow up on Tomahawk, Sand Bar and George lakes

Matt Berg knows where the EWM is located on Tomahawk Lake and Michelle Nault documented the GPS location of some EWM on Sand Bar Lake. Jeremy will talk to Matt Berg about having him do some scuba diving observation in those lakes.

9. Technical assistance – Memorandum of Understanding – Jeremy Bates

The group reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding between the TOB AIS committee and Bayfield County AIS Project. It outlines the responsibilities of the Bayfield County AIS Project Coordinator as follows:

- Attend regular meetings
- Work with the Town of Barnes AIS committee to develop and update Aquatic Plant Management plans.
- Verify and voucher AIS sightings in the Town of Barnes.
- Conduct Pre and Post control surveys on lakes where AIS is managed.

- Assist in the development of control strategies providing pros and cons of mechanical biological and chemical control options.
- Provide guidance and recommendation in AIS strategies to the TOB Supervisors.
- Assist in Rapid Response plans in the event of the discovery of new invasive species occurrences.

The Town of Barnes AIS committee responsibilities will remain as they have been. It is important that the committee still assume the active leadership role that they have in the past. The agreement is not legally binding agreement and creates no legally binding obligations for any party.

10. Bayfield County AIS activities

The group discussed the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference which will be held in Drummond on June 20th at the Drummond High School. Jeremy told the group that the LEAP program will be presented at the event. Ingemar encouraged everyone to attend if possible as it is a very worthwhile event and is very reasonably priced. He will check with Pamela to see if funding can be used to pay for AIS committee members' registration fees. Barb made the motion that Sally Pease be sent to the event at the expense of the AIS committee fund; Glenda second, motion carried. Jeremy advised the group of several other programs that are being conducted in Bayfield County. The County Fair is July 31 through August 3 and there will be an AIS booth at that event.

11. Shoreline Volunteers follow up for 2014

The groups of shoreline monitor volunteers from each of the lakes will organize and decide how to cover their respective lakes better. The group will discuss this at the next meeting. Leslie asked when the best time to start pulling curly leaf pondweed is. Lee indicated as soon as the ice is out; start pulling since it grows under the ice.

12. Replacement of chairperson on AIS committee

The group discussed the upcoming resignation of Ingemar and the need to get new people interested in joining the committee. (Apparently Ingemar and Dave think they're getting old!) Barb will come up with an article for the BLOG, inviting interested readers to consider joining the committee.

13. Other business

- Lee reported that there was no new patches of EWM discovered on George Lake
- The TriBarnes (triathlon) will be taking place on May 24th at Tomahawk Lake. Sally will be available to check the kayaks and canoes for invasive species.
- Barb asked if we wanted to put the Shoreline monitoring form in the BLOG – she will get the new form to the POA for distribution in their newsletter. She will also bring a supply to volunteer luncheon on May 2.
- David Pease mentioned that the *Old Guard* is getting old. He can drive locally but not out of town. (Somehow the *old* theme crept back into the conversation!)

14. Next Meeting date is May 19, 6:30 at the Barnes Town Hall.

15. Motion to adjourn

Glenda made a motion to adjourn; Lee second, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.