

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, June 12, 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, Eric Neff (Liaison for the Town of Barnes), Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator), Zach Stewart (Douglas County AIS Coordinator), and Dave Blumer (LEAPS LLC). Also, guests: Donald Love and Michael Love from Tomahawk Lake (Moore Road).

Members Absent: 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 June 7, 2023 at 7:40 am 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 Ingemar and seconded by Sally to approve the minutes of previous meeting, held on May 8, 2023. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

4. Bayfield County Activities and Educational Opportunities: Andy Teal, A.I.S. coordinator

Bayfield County (Andy Teal): Great Lakes Landing Blitz stickers have arrived (will replace towels that were previously used) – need about 200. Cris Neff and Julia Lyons will set up a booth at the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference in Spooner on June 23rd. Andy and Lee Weisner will be digging invasive wild horseradish. Also, Andy will check on the Arrow Arum location. AIS I.D. Days at NGLVC in Ashland will be June 30th from 1:00-4:00. Then, it will be the last Friday of July, August, and September.

Douglas County (Zach Stewart): The Douglas County Surface Water Program is going strong with purple loosestrife control, AIS monitoring (curly-leaf pondweed and yellow iris), and watching for zebra mussels and spiny water fleas. They are doing education and outreach programs for invasive species. Zach will be monitoring our Rapid Response Grant activities on Lower Eau Claire Lake. Sally mentioned that Snapshot Days are August 19th, location is undetermined.

5. Tomahawk and Sand Bar Lakes:

a. Tomahawk Lake Treatment: Pre/post testing, surveys, limno curtain, treatment schedule

The pre-test survey will be used from last fall. Post-testing survey will be done by Matt Berg later this summer. It will be a whole lake survey. Dave Blumer reported that the Eurasian Milfoil was not actively growing on June 1. The limno curtain installation is planned for Monday, June 19th at 9:00. The chemical treatments will be late Monday or Tuesday, June 20th. Also, the ProcCellaCOR treatment for an EM bed in Sand Bar Lake was approved by the DNR, so that 1.3 acre bed will be treated with ProcCellaCOR along with the planned Tomahawk Lake treatment. Dale Dressel of Northern Aquatic Services will apply the chemical treatment. Mauve Gagne and Julia Lyons will be doing the testing of the

lake water in various locations (4 sites in Tomahawk and 1 site in Sand Bar) after the chemical treatment. We reviewed a map of the chemical treatment sites on Tomahawk and Sand Bar. Dave explained the process again and stated that no significant restrictions on swimming or fishing in the lake are needed. However, signage will be in place to inform residents and visitors about the treatment.

b. Biological Control – Beetle Project: Diane Menard, Program Lead

May 18/19: Dug purple loosestrife plants.

June 2: Inoculated the pots with beetles.

Now: watching and checking the plants, maintaining the water levels in the pools, watching for predator bugs, watching for larval stage, pupating stage, and newly hatched beetles. The release of beetles into wetland beds will occur in early July. The beetles that we are raising eat only purple loosestrife plants and will help control this invasive species. Andy Teal has a list of potential purple loosestrife sites in Bayfield County and some in the Barnes area for the release.

6. Upper and Middle Eau Claire Lakes:

a. Aquatic Plant Management Plan

Our Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APM) is almost completely written (Dave Blumer) for the Eau Claire Lakes: Upper, Middle, and Lower. It will have to go through the 21-day public review process.

b. BAISS program schedule for June/July: Julia Lyons/Cris Neff, Program Leads

The BAISS boat is in its second week on Upper EC Lake. The first week saw several maintenance issues, so weed pulling was suspended and research work on the lake was done. Curly-leaf pondweed beds were mapped and GPS readings were taken. A patch in Shunenberg Lake was discovered last summer. The divers mapped these patches, and at the meeting, a map of Shunenberg Lake was distributed to the members. A Rapid Response Grant will need to be written and approved by the DNR in order to do work with the BAISS boat there. Matt Berg will be surveying on Upper EC Lake, including Shunenberg, the river channel, and Sweet Lake later this summer.

7. Lower Eau Claire and Cranberry Lakes:

a. Aquatic Plant Management Plan

Dave Blumer is working on it.

b. Rapid Response Grant

The Grant is ready and work pulling curly-leaf pondweed on Lower EC Lake will begin in July.

8. BAISS Operations:

a. Pontoon preparedness

Our committee is still looking for 1 or 2 people to be on call for emergency mechanical/maintenance work on the BAISS boat. Gus Gustafson and Rick Mattilla would teach the new volunteers. Our divers have agreed to do the pontoon cleaning between lakes, but a volunteer or two would be helpful. Chris Webb suggested that we begin looking for a different pontoon boat that could be retrofitted with our equipment because our present pontoon is wearing out.

b. End-of-day routine: Gas and weeds

We are still looking for one or several people to help with the task of hauling our bags of weeds to the composting site and refilling the gas tanks on a daily basis. The work could be split between several individuals as needed.

9. Clean Boat and Clean Waters Program:

a. Status of monitoring schedule: Barb Clements, AIS Coordinator/Program lead

We discussed several issues about scheduling our boat landing monitors: hours for the paid workers (how many, when should they work them), flexibility of working the hours (when is the landing busiest and when will they greet the most boaters), and budget issues of working more than 200 hours per landing (our grant money would run out before the end of the season and we would have to request more funds from the Town of Barnes). Barb Clements prepared spreadsheets of the five landings which gave us lots of information about the usage at each landing and the hours that the landing is worked.

b. New applicant – Blake Rossman

Our new applicant for a boat landing job is Blake Rossman. He is a high school senior whose parents live on the River below the dam. He is interested in attending college in environmental studies. This job would give experience for his future. His name will be introduced at the next Town Board meeting for approval.

10. Education and Training:

a. Attendees at May CBCW training

Our training meeting had 17 attendees with two from Iron River. Everyone who attended learned a great deal about aquatic invasive species and about our programs.

b. Correspondence

Marcia volunteered to stuff and stamp envelopes with an AIS informational letter about our programs and forms for shoreline monitoring. The letters will be mailed soon.

11. Budget and Expenses:

State Grants AIS/CBCW: \$60,277.69 (Reimbursements from 2022 grants and advance payments for 2023 grants)

#56903 BAISS Maintenance/Expenses: \$179.17

#56910 CBCW Expenses: \$3,019.51 (Education, printing, secretary wages, boat landing monitors wages, taxes, etc.)

#56911 Tomahawk/Sand Bar Lake Expenses: \$1,441.20 (Permits and LEAPS)

#56913 Upper/Middle Eau Claire Lakes Expenses: \$3,220.16 (Permits and LEAPS)

#56914 Lower EC/Cranberry Lakes Expenses: \$2,030.08 (Permits and LEAPS)

Total Expenses To-Date: \$9,964.12

11. Next meeting Date for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, July 10, 2023 at 9:00 am. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Ingemar and seconded by Sally to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Menard
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