

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, June 8, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chris Webb at 9:00 am. Roll call of committee members verified quorum was present. The meeting was at the Town Office and on Zoom.

1. Roll Call: Members Present: Sally Pease, Ingemar Ekstrom, Diane Menard, Chris Webb, Gerald Gustafson, and Andy Teal (Bayfield County Representative).

Members Absent: Marcia Wellnitz

Verification of Public Notice: Public notice of meeting was posted on June 5, 2020 at 8:06 am by Judy Bourassa, Clerk/Treasurer.

2. Agenda approval: A motion was made by Sally, seconded by Ingemar 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, seconded by Gus to approve the minutes of previous meeting, held May 7, 2020. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

4. Bayfield County A.I.S. coordinator report- Andy Teal (still working from home)

*The NW Wisconsin Lakes Conference is all virtual this year. It is being held on June 19th. You must register and pay a small fee, then Zoom any sessions you want to attend.

*Purple Loosestrife is being dug on Fish Creek Slough in order to control it. Beetles will be used too.

*Andy will do a virtual presentation on erosion at the Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area (FOECLA) Annual Meeting on July 18th.

*For the Landing Blitz and Drain Campaign: the ice packs have shipped and will arrive soon, and the towels have arrived at the County Facility. Andy will get them out to Sally.

*Facemasks are on order.

*Andy said we can start our CBCW program anytime now, just follow CDC and "Badger Bounce Back" guidelines.

*Ingemar has 6 new volunteers for Shoreline Monitoring. He would like to present these new volunteers with the laminated visual field guide of lake plants and the book called "Through the Looking Glass." Sally will count up her copies and Andy will order additional copies for our use as needed.

*Andy described the Healthy Lakes and Rivers project. It is a grant program of \$1,000 per property owner and up to \$25,000 total per the FOECLA. The landowner can improve issues such as storm water runoff, erosion, restoration of shoreline, etc. on their property. Follow the multi-step application process.

5. Grant Balances/budget: (same as last month)

Sinking Fund Balance: \$11,255.41

CBCW 2019 is due on 12/31/2019, remaining \$15,000.00.

DNR Middle: \$11,279.39 remaining.

DNR Upper: \$4916.41 remaining.

Tomahawk/Sandbar: \$24,464.41

Expenses: New expenses: \$317.15 –boat maintenance; \$19.54 – lubricant and mileage

Request budget change for additional diver: 2019 budget was \$12,000 for one diver. We actually used \$3,395. This year with 2 divers, we will need \$16,000 budgeted as the contribution from the Town of Barnes (258 hours of diving for Terry Bauer and 306 hours for Alexis Kabasa at \$27.00 per hour).

6. Recommendations to Town Board for Diver Applicants:

We all agreed that Terry and Alexis seemed competent and would work out well as our divers. Therefore, a motion was made by Diane that we hire Terry Bauer and Alexis Kabasa as our BAISS boat divers for 2020. The motion was seconded by Ingemar. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. The divers will have to be approved by the Town Board at their next meeting on June 16, 2020.

7. BAISS Boat – Repairs/Maintenance/Volunteers/Hours of Operation:

*Gus says the BAISS boat is ready to go after fixing or updating a few items of equipment. At the present time, the boat is in Tomahawk Lake. It will need to be steam cleaned and moved to Upper EC Lake to begin pulling Curly-leaf Pondweed.

*Hours of operation: 10:00-4:00, Monday-Thursday. The 6-hours shift could be broken into 2 3-hour shifts. We will assess the needs as we go along.

*Volunteer lists will need to be generated and volunteers assigned shifts. Gus will work the boat on the first two days (Monday and Tuesday).

*Cancellations: (due to weather, illness, etc.) The divers will make the decisions and call Judy Bourassa who will forward the information to a committee member and notify the assigned volunteer.

Gus described the daily data collection system: 1st Photos or videos (with date stamp) will be taken of the work area. 2nd Work the area and pull all available weeds. 3rd Take more photos after the work is completed. The new GPS will locate the weed beds, track the square foot measurements, and markers will be dropped to mark the work area on the surface. Data will be collected on the hours worked and the number of cubic feet of weeds collected. All data will be recorded.

8. Upper/Middle Eau Claire Lakes start date for AIS removal:

Work will start on Upper EC Lake on June 15 until June 25 (2 weeks). The boat will be docked at the Lanhart's home on Peninsula Road. Then first area to collect Curly-leaf Pondweed will be in Pease Bay in the deep hole and in front of Pease's property.

Work will start on Middle EC Lake on June 29 until July 9 (2 weeks), working on the known Curly-leaf Pondweed patches. The boat will be docked at Quentin Ruprecht's home.

9. Tomahawk/Sandbar Lakes start date for AIS removal:

Work will tentatively start on July 13 until the end of August (6/7 weeks) collecting Eurasian Water-milfoil.

10. Clean Boats Clean Waters – Start date/Volunteers contacted:

Work will begin this weekend, June 12th for paid monitors. Sally will prepare the schedules of the volunteers. All boat landing monitors should wear face masks, gloves, sanitize hands, and social distance when enacting with boaters. In other words, follow the CDC recommended guidelines.

11. Next meeting for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, July 13, 2020 at 9:00 am. At the Town Office or on Zoom. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

12. Adjourn: A motion was made by Sally, seconded by Diane to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.