

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, July 13, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chris Webb at 9:15 am. Roll call of committee members verified quorum was present. The meeting was held at the Town Office and on Zoom.

1. Roll call: Members Present: Sally Pease, Ingemar Ekstrom, Marcia Wellnitz, Diane Menard, Chris Webb, and Gerald Gustafson.

Members Absent: Andy Teal

Verification of Public Notice: Public notice of meeting was posted on July 10, 2020 at 8:20 am by Judy Bourassa, Clerk/Treasurer.

2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Marcia, 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 Marcia, seconded by Sally to approve the minutes of previous meeting, held on June 8, 2020. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

4. Bayfield County A.I.S. coordinator report – Andy Teal: No report. Andy Teal did not attend the meeting.

5. Grant Balances/budget:

Sinking Fund Balance: \$11,255.41

CBCW 2019: 2/15/2020-12/31/2020 for \$15,000. Expenses totaled \$3,611.89 for wages, taxes, etc. \$11,388.11 is remaining.

DNR Middle: \$11,279

DNR Upper: \$4,916

Discussion: Our grant expired on 6/30/2020. Of our balance of \$15,000, approximately \$2,800 has been paid out to the BAISS boat divers and \$1,987 was paid to Matt Berg, other expenses for the BAISS boat totaled approximately \$1,000. Some expenses were listed in the wrong categories on the Account Quick Report. Chris will work to straight the ledger out. After all the possible expenses are paid, the remaining money on the grant will be lost.

Tomahawk/Sandbar: \$24,464.41 (no expenses have been incurred on these lakes yet.)

Expenses: Ongoing expenses are being incurred, so a total is not available at this time.

6. BAISS Boat – Repairs/Maintenance/Volunteers/Hours of Operation - Gus Gustafson:

Volunteer hours on Upper = 63 hours

Volunteer hours on Middle = 32 hours, several days were rained out on Middle.

8 different people have volunteered for the BAISS boat this year so far.

Volunteer work is reimbursed on the grant at \$12 per hour.

Volunteers are signing up by calling or emailing Gus. He periodically sends out a chart of assigned workers to all volunteers by email. Because of a lack of people volunteering, Gus has had to work many shifts himself.

Hours of operator (6 hours per day) seems to be working out. That allows for approximately 5.5 hours of dive time. Some volunteers are taking the 6 hours shift, some want only 3 hours, so the day is split between two volunteers.

Paying the divers mileage to/from work was discussed, but the consensus of the group is not to pay mileage. This expense was not budgeted for payment, nor discussed with the divers before their hiring. The life cycle of Curly-leaf Pondweed still needs to be researched and better understood.

Gus showed and described the GPS grid system that is being used to mark the location of the AIS plots on Upper EC and Middle EC Lakes.

7. Update on Upper/Middle Eau Claire Lakes AIS Removal – Gus Gustafson:

Upper: 21 bags of Curly-leaf Pondweed were collected for a 2 week period (58 hours of volunteer work, and 142 volunteer miles traveled to/from the work site).

Middle: 6 bags of CLP were collected for a 2 week period (39 hours of volunteer work, and 137 volunteer travel miles). Several days were cancelled or shortened due to rain. 3 bags were collected in the river between Middle and Lower on the last day.

8. Tomahawk/Sandbar Lakes, start date for AIS Removal:

The start date is July 13, 2020. On the first day, the divers will be searching for the Eurasian Water Milfoil out from the swimming dock. They will begin recognizing the plant, marking a grid with coordinates, and planning the project.

9. Clean Boats Clean Waters – Sally Pease:

Sally will total up the volunteer hours and get a report out soon. These volunteer hours were reported:

Tomahawk: 0

Upper: good

Middle: few

It was suggested that a call for more volunteers should be made at the Friends of Eau Claire Lakes Association (FOECLA) meeting on Saturday.

Ingemar suggested that we request a FOECLA member be recruited on the AIS committee.

Ingemar stated that he has recruited 5 new volunteers for Shoreline Monitors. They will each be given two books our committee spoke of at our last meeting to aid in identifying aquatic invasive species.

10. Next Meeting Date for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, August 10, 2020 at 9:00 am. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

11. Adjourn: A motion was made by Marcia, seconded by Sally to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Menard
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