

## Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, August 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Christine Webb at 9:00 am. Roll call of committee members verified quorum was present. The meeting was held in the Town Office and some members attended by Zoom.

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

**Members Absent:** Andy Teal (Bayfield County Representative)

**Verification of Public Notice:** Public notice of meeting was posted on July 31, 2020 at 11:50 am by Judy Bourassa, Clerk/Treasurer.

**2. Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Marcia, seconded by Gus 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 Diane to approve the minutes of previous meeting, held on July 13, 2020. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

**4. Bayfield County A.I.S. coordinator report – Andy Teal**

No report as Andy did not attend our meeting.

Sally reported that AIS Snapshot Day is August 15, 2020. It is being held in locations statewide, but no events are in Barnes.

**5. Grant Balances/budget:**

**Sinking Fund Balance:** same, \$11,255.41

**CBCW 2020:** misc. =\$184.50; boat ramp monitors wages =\$9,187.54

**DNR Middle:** same

**DNR Upper:** same

**Tomahawk/Sandbar:** diver's wages =\$5,562.00

**Expenses:** AIS Pop Control =\$869.14 (Garmin GPS, boat gas, other purchases);

BAISS boat maintenance =\$317.15; AIS Survey/Maps: =No data yet-waiting for Matt Berg's bill (deadline is 12/31/2020).

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

Repairs: 2 malfunctions: an air hose crack and an air pressure problem with the regulator. Both issues shortened or cancelled days.

The BAISS boat is running for 6 hours per day, 4 days per week. There have been some cancelled or shortened days due to weather.

Volunteers: same situation - there are lots of names on our list, but few people are volunteering. There are several people who volunteer regularly, such as Gus Gustafson, Ted Eastlund, Tom Garrick, and Jim Johnson.

Divers: Both divers are working out well. However, Alexis is starting a full-time job in Ashland that may affect her diver status.

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

Middle Eau Claire Lake data: worked 39 hours; collected 6.5 bags Curly-leaf Pondweed in the main lake and 3.5 bags in the Eau Claire River channel; recorded 40 volunteer miles.

Upper Eau Claire Lake data: worked 89 hours; collected 21 bags of Curly-leaf Pondweed; recorded 212 volunteer miles. The Schunenberg Lake patch was found and hand pulled by volunteers.

**8. Update on Tomahawk/Sandbar Lakes, AIS Removal:**

Tomahawk Lake: worked 81 hours during 4 weeks; collected 56.7 bags of Eurasian Water Milfoil; recorded 214 volunteer miles.

Sandbar Lake: Today (August 10<sup>th</sup>) was the first day worked. Data from the past indicated EWM was cleaned-out in 2018 and no Milfoil was collected in 2019 as the BAISS boat had a mechanical malfunction and the season ended. The plan is to return the BAISS boat to Tomahawk Lake if we finish collecting EWM in Sandbar before our season ends in 4 weeks. There is lots more EWM to collect in Tomahawk.

**9. Clean Boats Clean Waters – Sally Pease:**

No volunteer hour totals were available. Sally is have trouble with her computer and Internet, so data has not been entered into the SWIMS site lately. She stated that each landing requires 200 volunteer hours per year for the Grant.

**10. Discussion on Expansion of Committee's Responsibilities:**

Christine Webb introduced an idea about having a Lakes Committee formed. Then, our AIS Committee would be part of that organization. The focus of the Lakes Committee would be on distributing educational information concerning broad topics of lake health, such as the causes and effects of healthy lakes, safety on our lakes, AIS in our lakes, and other issues. We discussed signage at the landings showing a lake map with the AIS areas highlighted. Also, brochures could be handed out to boaters and residences that gave information on how to keep our lakes healthy. The focus would be work together with other local organizations.

Another topic discussed was the shoreline monitor volunteers. Our annual mailing will go out to all volunteers soon.

**11. Next meeting Date** for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, September 14, 2020 at 9:00 am. All interested parties are welcome to attend. Invite Matt Berg (Research Biologist for Endangered Resource Services) and Claudia Duffy (DNR representative) to our meeting for reports and updates. Matt will discuss the AIS map surveys he has done. Claudia may be able to discuss information concerning filing our grants.

**12. 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 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Menard  
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