

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, July 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Doug Stearly (substitute chairperson) at 9:00 am. Roll call of committee members verified a 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, Gerald Gustafson, Doug Stearly, Julia Lyons, and Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator).

Members Absent: Chris Webb, Judith Schmidt, and Eric Neff (Liaison for the Town of Barnes),

Verification of Public Notice: Public notice of meeting was posted on July 9, 2021 at 10:51 am by Judy Bourassa, Clerk/Treasurer.

2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Sally 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 Sally and seconded by Julia to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on June 14, 2021. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

4. Bayfield County A.I.S. coordinator report: Andy Teal

*Yellow iris are blooming on Bony Lake and Creek. They will need to be removed.

*Landowner projects (riprap) are under construction with cost sharing among agencies.

*Funding changes will be coming for grants, etc. because the county is short on funds.

*There will be no AIS booth at the Bayfield County Fair because Andy will be out of town.

*Andy would like to volunteer to help on the BAISS boat. His name will be added to the volunteer list.

5. Shoreline Monitoring Program: Ingemar Ekstrom

*Ingemar sent out an email to all the volunteers on our shoreline monitoring list.

*Ingemar is working on Potawatomi Lakes to recruit more volunteers. We only have one volunteer in that area—on George Lake. Reid Wellhaven has helped by recruiting volunteers on three lakes—Island Lake, Ole Lake, and Breakfast Lake. (He knows a lot of the year-round residences.) Many of the Potawatomi residents land their boats at Tomahawk Lake, so they should be informed of the Eurasian milfoil issue. Ingemar will try to attend the Potawatomi Lake Annual Meeting and recruit more volunteers to do shoreline monitoring.

*Sally is following up on weed samples that volunteers have turned in to be identified.

*Sally will attend the Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area Annual Meeting and set up her AIS booth.

6. BAISS Boat – Operational plans, building the herbicide barrier, divers: Gus Gustafson

*Herbicide Barrier Build: Gus Gustafson reported that the material list is complete. Ordering of materials is going on now. Buoys are very expensive. A cheaper alternative has been discovered—swim noodles can be used as they did for the Vatten Paddlar. The Conservation Club will build our herbicide barrier. On the last diving day at Tomahawk Lake, the divers will search for the outer rim of the infected area of milfoil, mark it, get GPS coordinates, and depths. The pontoon will be moved to Sandbar Lake

through the opening between lakes to start four weeks of work on July 26th. Matt Berg was on Tomahawk Lake, but no results have been received yet. We have three substitute divers filling in for the regular divers as needed (Mark Bauer, Jim Warn, and Bruce Pilburn).

*BAISS Operations: Julia Lyons reported on the BAISS boat data.

Upper EC Lake: 59.5 volunteer hours; 35.5 AIS bags collected.

Middle EC Lake: 77 volunteer hours; 46.5 AIS bags collected. The divers worked in the river too. In the lake, the divers could not see the curly-leaf while standing in the pontoon. However, when diving down, they found it easily. More spots have been located on Middle EC that need attention.

Tomahawk Lake: 65 volunteer hours (to date); 69 AIS bags collected (to date). Work has been mostly around the boat landing.

The new diver flag is up and looking much brighter, bigger, and better. Volunteers reported the need for a shade umbrella. 21 different volunteers have been aboard the boat so far this year. Doug Stearly removed the AIS bags for the four weeks that the boat was on Upper and Middle. Gus is handing the AIS bags now being collected on Tomahawk and Sandbar Lakes.

7. Clean Boats Clean Waters: Sally Pease

SWIMS data entry is going good, but needs about 24 hours to uploading the data. Sally did not have current totals including the past weekend. Sally will email the committee the current totals. Previous totals were 85 volunteer hours, 585 paid monitor hours, and 1,300 boats inspected. The monitors handed out towels and ice packs, all are gone, never enough, but that is all the DNR can give us (limited quantities). The monitors are handing out AIS cards (Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed) and the new brochures as needed. Sally discussed the possibility of printing and ordering towels with local AIS information in the future, cotton towels are cheaper, \$6.75 per towel. Judy Bourassa will work with Sally to get the brochure boxes ordered.

8. AIS Budget/Grant Balances:

2021 State Grants: \$34,390.71

AIS Expenses: \$1,223.84 (gas, misc.), \$140.59 (maintenance), \$6,103.76 (diver's wages and taxes)

CBCW Expenses: \$13,257.08 (boat monitor wages, coordinator wages, employer taxes)

Total expenses to date: \$20,725.27

Total Grant Money Remaining: \$13,665.44

Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area Annual Meeting is July 17th.

The printed brochures are here. They have been sent out to short-term rental property owners, displayed at Jim's Bait and the Cabin Store, and given to the boat landing monitors to distribute.

The Conservation Club is planning to build a new kiosk at the Upper EC Lake boat landing. They are in the process of select a design. Some postings will be moved to the kiosk to make the area look neater. A suggestion was made to add an item to the agenda for "Member Input" or "New Business."

9. Next meeting Date for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, August 9, 2021 at 9:00 am. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

10. Adjourn: A motion was made by Julia and seconded by Sally to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Menard

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