

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, September 13, 2021

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 (a potential new member), Cris Neff (Liaison for FOECLA), Eric Neff (Liaison for the Town of Barnes), Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator) and Tyler Mesalk (DNR Water Resource Management Specialist). Note: Andy and Tyler attended by Zoom.

Members Absent: Gerald Gustafson, Judith Schmidt, and Julia Lyons.

Verification of Public Notice: Public notice of meeting was posted on September 10, 2021 at 2:48 pm by Judy Bourassa, Clerk/Treasurer.

2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Ingemar and seconded by Marcia to approve the agenda after 2 additions or corrections were made. 1. Sally's CBCW report was moved to the first item on the agenda. 2. Barb Clements's application to become a member of our committee was requested to be submitted to the Town Board for approval. A motion was made by Doug and seconded by Marcia to submitted Barb's application. A voice vote was taken to approve Doug's motion and the motion carried. A voice vote was taken to approve the revised agenda and the motion carried.

3. Approval of last month's minutes: A motion was made by Marcia and seconded by Doug to approve the minutes of previous meeting, held August 9, 2021. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

* The county is seeking more funding from the Federal Fish and Wildlife Agency because about \$10,000 less money is coming into the county's budget.

* Andy's 50/50 county position is in jeopardy. His contract is being debated in county committee. Chris Webb stated that we would send a letter of support if he needed it.

* The Healthy Lakes and Rivers projects are being formulated by property owners for work like rip-rapping shoreline, plantings, etc.

* Andy will be an instructor for the LEEP program, in-class and on the school field trip on September 28.

* Andy hasn't learned anything new about the invasive weed, Arrow Arum that was found on Middle Eau Claire Lake and was discussed at last month's meeting.

* Andy stressed the importance of communication about AIS to the public and property owners. Most people don't know anything about invasive weeds, snails, etc.

* The DNR website has tons of valuable and important information on it. We should check it out and find ways to communication the available information to the public.

* Andy will check his calendar and set dates for training for Saturdays in middle/late April and the middle of May, 2022.

* The Lakes Conferences in Stevens Point is April 6-8, 2022. Mark your calendar.

5. Grant Application 2022

a. Surface Water Planning Grant Tomahawk/Sandbar lakes:

The Town of Barnes has hired Dave Blumer from Lakes Education and Planning Services (LEAPS) of Chetek to apply for a DNR Surface Water Planning Grant for Tomahawk and Sandbar Lakes. The grant pre-application was due September 2nd, with final application due in November. If awarded, the DNR grant will cover up to \$10,000 toward an Aquatic Plant Management Plan. The recommendation will be to hire LEAPS to assist the town in writing the APM in 2022. The cost to the town is included in the grant financials and so will be cost shared with the DNR. It is a 5 year plan and it is needed to help us get grants and give us future direction. He has filed the pre-application, and he will act on the town's behalf during the application process. Matt Berg's study will help, but may need new ones too. Blumer gets 25% of his fee now for writing the application; 50% if our applications are approved; and the remaining 25% after the grant requirements have been completed (2 grants).

The Surface Water Planning grant is for Upper and Middle EC Lakes, and soon Lower EC will be included. Letters of support from community organizations, townships and counties will be needed as part of the grant application process.

b. Surface Water Planning For Upper & Middle Eau Claire Lakes w/Lower EC Phase 2:

Phase 2 is to include Lower EC in our grants and will be included in new APM if it is determined there isn't one already on file for Lower Eau Claire Lake. Phase 3 is to include all the lakes in the Eau Claire chain within 3 years. Again, the importance of communication was stressed.

c. AIS Population Control Grant for four lakes:

Grants are for the operation of CBCW and BAISS programs. Pre-application was due September 2, although DNR personnel are not hopeful about our grants being accepted. Final application is due November 1. We discussed water quality in the various lakes. FOECLA has always done water quality testing with volunteers. Cris Neff will check on the status of the program. We also discussed phosphorus issues. Phosphorus is not just from fertilizers. High levels can be from past land use, internal in the lakes (lake turn-over twice per year), and other things.

6. Wisconsin DNR Input – Tyler Mesalk:

Tyler has received the grants from Dave Blumer. They will be reviewed soon. Tyler stressed the importance of community education too.

7. 2021 AIS Operations

a. Shoreline Monitoring:

1. Summary of time by volunteer and by organization they represent:

Ingemar will collect the forms with help from the Town Office employees. He will send another email out this week to remind everyone to get their forms turned in by September 24th.

2. Drawing Procedures:

The drawing will take place at our next meeting on October 11. Someone commented that the information packet sent out was great. Mystery snail information should be added.

b. BAISS Operations

1. Summary of summer operations:

Julia was absent. She will email her data information summary.

2. Summary of hours by volunteer and by organization they represent:

We may try to extend the BAISS boat operation next year-start earlier and work later. It depends a lot on the weather. We talked about the divers needing warmer wet suits for colder water. Could we give

them an amount of money to buy new equipment? We mentioned that a letter should be sent to the divers to determine their commitment to the program for next season.

8. Clean Boats Clean Waters:

A bass tournament was held this past weekend on Middle EC Lake, Sally volunteered her time. Hayward Musky Tournament is October 1-3 at three landings: Upper, Middle, and Lower. The landings will be manned by our paid boat monitors, and some volunteers.

a. Summary of Hours

Tomahawk/Robinson: 61 volunteer hours; 288 paid hours; 153 boats; 343 people contacted.

Middle EC: 110½ volunteer hours; 394 paid hours; 1,515 boats; 4,235 people contacted.

Upper EC: 86 volunteer hours; 393 paid hours; 1,114 boats, 2,806 people contacted.

Lower EC: 87 volunteer hours; 376 paid hours; 887 boats; 1,946 people contacted.

We should meet the volunteer hour requirement for our grants.

b. Application for program coordinator and for boat landing monitors:

The job descriptions have been rewritten. Interested persons will need to reapply. Ads are going out to newspapers (Ashland and Bottom Line) and notices are going out to local town organizations and the Town of Barnes website. We will create a "performance review" questionnaire and process for future employee evaluations.

c. Meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 20th, agenda/program:

9:00 am meeting for current boat monitors and other interested parties. Several AIS committee members will attend. Data will be presented from 2019, 2020, and 2021 seasons (summary totals by lake). Participants can submit applications at the meeting or anytime up to the deadline.

9. AIS Program Budget/Grant Balances:

2021 State Grants: \$34,390.71 (same)

AIS Expenses: Secretarial: \$42.00 (same)

AIS Population Control, Misc.: \$5,899.18 (including \$3,503.85 for barrier supplies)

BAISS AIS Harvester Maintenance: \$1,121.70 (same)

Diver's Wages, Employer Taxes: \$12,527.24

CBCW Expenses: Wages-Boat Ramp Monitors, CBCW Coordinator, Employer Taxes: \$18,889.33

Total Expenses: \$38,479.45

Total Grant Money Remaining: -\$4,088.74

We show a negative balance because money from the DNR for CBCW will not be disbursed to us until after the final data is compiled. There is a musky tournament on October 1-3. The three Eau Claire Lakes will have paid monitors attending them.

10. Next meeting Date for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, October 11, 2021 at 9:00 am. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

11. Adjourn: A motion was made by Diane and seconded by Marcia to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Menard
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