

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, 11, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chris Webb at 9:00 am. Roll call of committee members verified that 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, Chris Webb, Barb Clements, Julia Lyons, Mavis Gagne, Cris Neff (Liaison for FOECLA),

Guests: Dave Blumer (LEAPS LLC-in person), Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator-via Zoom)

Members Absent: Doug Stearly, Diane Menard

Recognition of the passing of Marcia Wellnitz, longtime member of this Committee and many other Committees, and EMT in the Town of Barnes with a moment of silence.

Verification of Public Notice: Public notice of meeting was posted on September 7, 2023, at 8:43 am by Judy Bourassa, Interim Clerk/Treasurer.

2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Sally Pease and seconded by Barb Clements to approve the agenda. A voice vote was taken, and the motion was carried.

3. Approval of last month's minutes: A motion was made by Barb Clements and seconded by Sally Pease to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, held August 14, 2023. A voice vote was taken, and the motion was carried.

4. County AIS Activities and Educational Opportunities: Andy Teal, Bayfield County A.I.S. Coordinator

Aquatic Plant Module at local school scheduled for later this week.

County AIS meeting on September 23 at 11:00am in Cable will be held at the Rivers Eatery in Cable.

Last Invasive Species ID Day scheduled for September 29th.

Spring Aquatic Invasive Species training and Plant ID will be held at Barnes Town Hall on Friday, April 26 and/or May 3, 2024.

5. Motion by Julia Lyons seconded by Mavis Gagne to approve draft Amendments 1-3 to APM Plan for Upper, Middle, and Lower Eau Claire Lake and recommend to Town Board for approval.

The draft APM Amendments were sent previously to AIS Committee members, Friends of Eau Claire Lakes, Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club, and was posted to Town website on September 1, 2023. No comments have been received yet. After 21 days of public review the APM Amendments will be sent to DNR for comments and approval. Tom Renz, Barnes Town Chairman, and Chris Webb, AIS Committee member are scheduled to meet with the Town of Gordon Town Board at their regular monthly meeting in October. The Aquatic Plant Management Plan and Amendments will be presented to the Gordon Town Board and a request for volunteer and financial support will be made to the Board. A copy will be presented also to the Town of Highland Town Board, and to Bayfield County.

6. Current Year Activities:

a. Tomahawk and Sand Bar Lakes:

Volunteer hours will need to be divided between the different segments included in this grant: Chemical Treatment will include all hours dedicated to installation, removal, cleaning and storing of limno curtain, surveying and marking GPS coordinates on maps to target treatment, collecting water samples and delivery to shipping center, time spent recruiting volunteers, along with any our volunteer hours in connection with the actual treatment of the lakes, such as monitoring of treatment areas for effectiveness. There should also be hours allocated for education, communication, and signs.

Harvesting efforts will include all volunteer hours spent on mechanical harvesting using the BAISS boat, manual harvesting by hand-pulling or raking, time spent recruiting volunteers, surveying, and marking GPS coordinates on map for targeting BAISS, and shoreline monitoring.

Biological Control efforts will include all volunteer hours spent setting up and maintaining beetle rearing ponds, collecting parent plants, and dispensing beetles to combat Purple loosestrife. Diane Menard has submitted her volunteer hours on this project, Barb Clements still needs to submit her hours, as well as anyone else that worked with Diane and Andy on this project. Andy Teal was asked to provide a Beetle Rearing Report as required in the Grant. Diane and Barb will supply photos as well.

Boat Landing Monitoring hours are reported in SWIMS under the Clean Boats Clean Waters program.

Cris Neff assisted by Mavis Gagne, did a visual survey of treatment areas in Tomahawk and Sand Bar Lake at the end of August. The limno curtain was installed across the lower handle/bay of Tomahawk and chemical treatment of 2-4D applied earlier this summer. The treatment was very effective as the area previously was thickly carpeted with Eurasian watermilfoil; but there were no invasive plants found at the end of the summer. Cris used the video camera but only found craters where plants once existed. Native plants were in abundance. Cris found similar results along the shoreline and shallow areas of Tomahawk Lake where Procellecor was applied, resurgence of native plants and little indication of watermilfoil.

b. Upper and Middle Eau Claire Lakes:

There are two grants for these lakes: one to write the APM Amendments 1 & 2, and one to cover the harvesting of plants in 2023.

Creating APM will include volunteer hours when providing information to LEAPS LLC as requested.

Harvesting efforts will include all hours for GPS mapping of existing and new infestations, mechanical harvesting with BAISS, manual harvesting by hand-pulling, shoreline monitoring, time spent recruiting volunteers, social media postings. Dave Blumer of LEAPS LLC will suspend billing of contract work as support has been provided but no longer needed.

c. Lower Eau Claire and Cranberry Lakes:

This is the Early Detection Rapid Response grant which covers the cost of creating the APM Amendment and harvesting efforts in both 2023 and 2024. We would like to summarize 2023 in early preparation. Volunteer hours need to account for GPS mapping of existing and new infestations, mechanical harvesting with BAISS, manual harvesting by hand-pulling, shoreline monitoring, time spent recruiting volunteers, social media postings.

d. Clean Boats Clean Waters Program

Barb Clements, CBCW Coordinator reviewed hours through August as posted in SWIMS for each lake. There are additional hours to be posted for Labor Day weekend, and hours will be posted after the Musky tournament October 6, 7, & 8th. It was determined that after those hours are posted, each landing will have exceeded the 200-hour minimum requirement. Barb was asked to contact DNR SWIMS personnel to combine the Lower Eau Claire Lake Station IDs as there is only one public boat landing on Lower Eau Claire Lake, Town of Gordon, Douglas County, Wisconsin. Chris will assist Barb if asked.

6. Grant Applications for 2024:

Dave Blumer of LEAPS LLC provided task worksheets for Tomahawk/Sand Bar and the Eau Claire Chain Population Control grant applications. The worksheets will be revised to account for the potential of 16 weeks of BAISS harvesting to be scheduled between the four grants in 2024. The columns titles Lake Association and Donated Services reflect the amount of financial support and volunteer hours needed to meet the Town's share of each grant.

a. Tomahawk/Sand Bar Population Control:

This will be a two-year grant, and the costs we associate with it will determine whether it is a small scale or large scale grant. Matt Berg of Endangered Resources Services LLC will be contacted regarding surveys.

Harvesting efforts on Tomahawk Lake will focus on BAISS boat, manual hand-pulling, bed mapping and surveys of past infestations, and shoreline monitoring. It is hoped that pictures and videos can be used to compare to Summer 2023 to monitor effectiveness of 2023 chemical treatment. It is hoped that 4-6 weeks can be scheduled for BAISS operations.

Sand Bar Lake will be chemically treated with Procellecor as watermilfoil population has increased significantly in recent years. There are areas where invasive plants are intertwined with tree roots along the shoreline restricting mechanical harvesting. The BAISS will be used for surveying known populations and monitoring effectiveness of treatment.

b. Eau Claire Chain Population Control:

This will be a two-year grant that will cover harvesting of curly-leaf Pondweed on Upper and Middle Eau Claire Lake. Matt Berg will be contacted regarding necessary survey.

Upper Eau Claire Lake is expected to take 4 weeks of mechanical harvesting. Volunteers will be contacted for BAISS, and to encourage additional shoreline monitoring.

Middle Eau Claire Lake was not addressed in 2023 due to no plants being found by Matt Berg of ERS. It is expected that BAISS will be used if 2023 surveys indicate need. Shoreline monitoring will be strongly encouraged. Lee Wiesner visited known plant beds during summer of 2023 and reported no evidence of curly-leaf Pondweed. Divers will revisit areas treated in 2022.

c. Lower Eau Claire Rapid Response 2nd Year of 3-Year Grant:

There will not be a new grant filed for 2024. This is a continuation of last year's grant to cover the cost of Amendments 3 & 4 for Lower Eau Claire and Cranberry Lake. A Rapid Response grant also covers the cost of mechanical and manual harvesting, education and community outreach.

d. Headwaters of the Eau Claire Lake Chain (Sweet, Shunenberg, & Smith) application for Rapid Response grant.

The application for a Rapid Response grant for Headwaters is dependent on getting approval from the DNR that condition warrants grant attention. Cost for plant surveys, bed mapping, creating an Amendment to the overall Town of Barnes Aquatic Plant Management Plan, mechanical and manual harvesting of plants.

d. CBCW Annual Application:

While LEAPS LLC assists the AIS Committee with filing grant applications, the Clean Boats Clean Waters application will be submitted by town staff. It was decided to continue to pair Island Lake with Robinson Lake for 2024 grant period.

7. Volunteer Appreciation drawings

The Town Board will be hosting an all-town volunteer appreciation day in Spring of 2024. As in 2022, the AIS Committee will ensure that paid staff and volunteers for AIS Population Control and CBCW programs receive notice of date. Efforts will be made to contact those who normally file Shoreline Monitoring hours to request submission of the form by October 1. The Committee will award 3 gift certificates from area restaurants from the submissions. Other awards will be considered for those who volunteer throughout the summer.

9. Education and Training Planning: September 2023 and April 2024:

The date for CBCW Training and Invasive Plant ID has been scheduled for either or both April 26 and May 3, 2024. Training will be conducted by Bayfield & Douglas County AIS Coordinators, along with AIS Committee. Efforts to

increase participation in training and in volunteering means getting dates set and material organized so communication is steadily sent to prospective volunteers. We would like to thank Lea Culliton for her assistance with Social Media communications.

10. Year-to-Date Expenses:

#56903 BAISS Maintenance/Expenses: \$1085.13

#56910 CBCW Expenses: \$23486.95

#56911 Tomahawk/Sand Bar Lake Expenses: \$30492.47

#56913 Upper/Middle Eau Claire Lakes Expenses: \$10672.82

#56914 Lower EC/Cranberry Lakes Expenses: \$4810.44

Total Expenses To-Date: \$70547.81

Items need for BAISS maintenance, either from 2023 budget or to be included in 2024 budget: Console, lift control for motor, new seat.

11. Next meeting Date for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, October 9, 2023, at 9:00 am. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

NOTE: Ingemar Ekstrom gave notice that this is his final year on the AIS Committee. Ingemar was instrumental in originating the AIS Committee along with past-member Gus Gustafson in 2004 when Eau Claire Lakes Property Owners (precursor to Friends of Eau Claire Lakes Association) took initiative to combat Aquatic Invasive Species.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Julia Lyons and seconded by Ingemar Ekstrom to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken, and the motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 am.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Webb/Mavis Gagne