

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, September 16, 2024

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, Diane Menard, Chris Webb, Doug Stearly, Mavis Gagne, and Cris Neff (Liaison for FOECLA)

Guests Present: Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator), David Blumer (LEAPS LLC), Bill Stewart (FOECLA), Lea Culliton (social media personnel), Debra Soar (community member), Connie Gustafson and Paul Marcotte (Gus's relatives).

Members Absent: Barb Clements, Julia Lyons), and Eric Neff (Liaison for the Town of Barnes-Excused).

Verification of Public Notice: Public notice of meeting was posted on September 13, 2024 at 9:00 AM by Chris Webb, AIS Committee Chair.

2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Cris Neff and seconded by Sally Pease 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 Pease and seconded by Mavis Gagne to approve the minutes of previous meeting, held August 12, 2024. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

4. Andy Teal, Bayfield County A.I.S. Coordinator, update on County AIS Projects and George Lake

Survey: Andy and 2 DNR personnel (Matt and Dara) inspected George Lake from kayaks a few weeks ago. They used rake throws and observation. No Eurasian water milfoil was detected. However, they did discover freshwater jellyfish which is a native species. The committee found that interesting because most of us have never encountered this species, nor realized that it lives in our local lakes.

* 9/25/2024: LEEP Field trip at Bony Lake with the Drummond 7th graders.

* 9/27/2024: Invasive Species ID Day at NGLVC from 1-3:00 PM with AIS speaker Paul Skawinski.

* 10/9/2024: Student Science Expo at NGLVC--students learning about broad natural resource topics.

* 10/26/2024: Bayfield County Lakes Forum.

5. Intro to CD₃ Systems:

Jacob Utrie from CD₃ (Clean. Drain. Dry. Dispose.) Jacob gave a power point presentation about a method to clean watercraft to prevent the spread of invasive species. The highest priced model included an educational kiosk, cleaning tools, and data collection, all operated by a solar panel system with battery back-up. There were 3 different models with costs ranging from \$4,000 to \$41,000. There are funding opportunities to purchase these units with Wisconsin Surface Waters Grants. The committee expressed an interest in these systems in the future. Jacob offered to provide us with more information on equipment pricing and research links. His website is [www.CD₃systems.com](http://www.CD3systems.com). Another

item that he described was a free QR code that we could post at the landings that shows educational videos describing correct watercraft cleaning techniques.

6. Project Summaries for 2024 BAISS and CBCW:

Cris Neff presented a written summary of our BAISS boat work on our 8 lakes over the 16 week summer period. She emphasized the advanced growth of the weeds this year due to our warm winter with little snow cover. In Tomahawk Lake, they collected Eurasian water milfoil in front of the beach area. That area was the worst spot on the lake with the rest of the lake looking good. We may chemically treat that area next season. Sand Bar looked good after the successful June treatment of ProcellaCOR. There were a couple small areas where they pulled and collected weeds. In 2025, the BAISS boat will start on Lower EC, then the Headwaters (Shunenberg), then Upper EC, before going to Tomahawk and Sand Bar Lakes. Cris's full summary is included with these minutes, at the end.

The summary for CBCW has not been compiled yet. We decided to monitor 4 landings next year: Tomahawk, Upper EC, Middle EC, and Lower EC. We would not continue monitoring Robinson Lake landing.

7. 2025 Grant Application – Tomahawk/Sand Bar Small Scale for EWM Population Control:

Our new Tomahawk/Sand Bar grant is for 2 years (2025/2026). The pre-grant paperwork is due September 15th and final paperwork is due November 15th, 2024 and the DNR has until February 15th, 2025 to review grants and make awards. David Blumer is writing the grant. The pre-grant has our AIS work goals and the budget in it. We would be doing work with our BAISS boat (pulling EWM with our divers) and possibly treating a 3 acre EWM patch in front of the beach with ProcellaCOR. The estimated cost is \$80,000 with \$50,000 coming from the DNR grant and \$30,000 would be our portion.

8. Financial Reports:

AIS Revenues:

Reimbursements from previous years: \$39,007.39

Current Year Advances: \$16,953.10

Donations: \$2,000 (Gus's celebration of life) and raffle \$185

Year-To-Date Revenues: \$58,149.49

AIS Saving Account: \$24,755.41

AIS Expenses:

Administrative/Clerk: \$0.00

Maintenance: \$748.22

Projects:

#56910 CBCW Expenses: \$31,772.95

#56911 Tomahawk/Sand Bar Lake Expenses: \$29,146.97

#56913 Upper/Middle Eau Claire Lakes Expenses: \$19,422.61

#56914 Lower EC/Cranberry Lakes Expenses: \$10,951.33

#AIRR29724 Headwaters: \$5,486.25

Year-To-Date Expenses: \$97,528.33

Sanitary: \$550.00 (PortAPotty)

\$98,078.33

9. Other Discussion:

a. T-shirts for Volunteers:

Mavis suggested that we have t-shirts and other merchandise available to our volunteers. She had a catalog from an online store called Shirts Unlimited in Superior. We discussed a few ideas including stickers for every volunteer and possibly make a monetary coupon available for our most frequent volunteers. More information to come in the future.

b. Property Tax Bill Insert:

Chris is preparing a letter to be included in the property tax statements that are mailed out in December to all property owners.

c. Update of AIS website:

Lea Culliton will continue to update the website.

d. Social Media Assistant:

Julia Lyons will be asked to help Lea out with social media.

e. Off Season Efforts:

We are hoping to get some pre-planning done for the volunteer picnic on Labor Day and pre-planning AIS training events in the spring season. Also, we are looking to buy a new motor for our BAISS pontoon. The Conservation Club is helping with this by getting estimates from various marine dealers. After 3 estimates are prepared, a motor (40hp) will be selected. The Conservation Club will handle the installation details, and the Club has offered to donate 50% of the cost up to \$5,000. The committee has \$2,185 gathered in donations presently. More money will need to be raised, and Lea is brainstorming fundraising ideas. The Conservation Club has graciously offered to let us store the pontoon in their shed during the winter season. Presently, it is stored outdoors in the Town's work area behind the ice rink. Tom Renz, Town of Barnes Chairperson, has agreed with this storage plan.

10. Next meeting Date for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, October 14, 2024 at 9:00 AM. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Sally Pease and seconded by Doug Stearly to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Menard
715-795-3464, menard5@msn.com

Barnes AIS & BAISS Boat population control 2024 Summary

By Cris Neff

In 2024 the BAISS boat surveyed and/or worked on 8 lakes over 16 weeks spanning from May 13- August 29th: Sweet, Shunenberg, Smith, Upper Eau Claire, Middle Eau Claire, Lower Eau Claire, Tomahawk and Sand Bar Lakes. Tomahawk Lake was treated with ProcellaCOR and 2,4D in June 2023 and Sand Bar was treated with ProcellaCOR in June 2024.

Curly Leaf Pondweed grows under the ice and thrives in cold water. After a particularly mild 2023-2024 winter in this area, lakes frozen a substantially shorter time than average and little snow cover on the ice, the CLP matured much earlier than in previous years. This contributed to plants spreading and sparse areas of CLP developed into larger, thick patches. In Upper Eau Claire Lake, the CLP in the narrows East of the island, where it had originally been discovered, was already laying on the surface in the first week of June. Previously, it had never reached this stage in Upper Eau Claire Lake. Due to the efforts of our volunteers and the excellent skills of our media coordinator, the critical state of the CLP was communicated to the public. Many people avoided boating through it and the July 4th Boat Parade took a different route to assist with containing the CLP in this area. (Bags removed: 180)

The Curly Leaf Pondweed found in Moony Bay on Lower Eau Claire was also prolific this year. The early development of the plants meant the divers mostly found the CLP to be lying on the bottom, decomposing. However, in the Narrows about 60% of the CLP was still standing and the divers were able to remove those plants more effectively. (Bags removed: 52.5)

The other one of the 8 lakes where the CLP increased in 2024 was in Shunenberg, where a new infestation was reported in 2023. The BAISS boat started removing the plants on May 15. This lake has a predominantly silty bottom with thick fibrous algae, shallow areas and numerous springs. The visibility degrades rapidly when the roots of the CLP are dislodged, and the algae and silt clog the screen. The volunteers were amazing, going way above and beyond! They worked in mostly cold, rainy conditions with screens that needed constant vigilance and preventative action to keep the clogging and flooding at a minimum. (Bags removed: 48)

Each of these 3 lakes are covered by Grants for one more year in 2025. On May 12, 2025, the BAISS boat plans to start two weeks of work on Lower Eau Claire. The goal is to find and remove CLP plants in their early stages. Then on May 26th the BAISS boat will begin two weeks of work on the Eau Claire Lakes Headwaters. Most of the time will be concentrated on Shunenberg. This will be followed by Upper Eau Claire. The challenge with Curly Leaf Pondweed is how quickly it develops and begins to die back. In 2025, the plan for the four weeks on Upper will be to fill 3 volunteer slots a day and to schedule 4 extra hours of diving. This will utilize all 12 hours of daylight, adding the benefit of the often calmer, evening hours. Hopefully this winter will be average and the CLP will develop later, allowing the divers to remove the less mature plants in fewer, but longer days.

The other five lakes are primarily in good shape.

- The divers surveyed the Headwaters and found no CLP in Sweet or Smith Lakes.
- Middle Eau Claire Lake's CLP is under control and its native plant beds continue to be diverse and healthy. (Bags removed: 16.25)
- One year after treatment, Tomahawk Lake has very little Eurasian Water Milfoil in most of the previous areas of infestation and its Native plants have rebounded well. Unfortunately, a significant regrowth of EWM was found off the Swimming beach area at Tomahawk Lake Park. The divers worked to remove much of what was in this area and have recommended a spot treatment in 2025 to prolong the control of the EWM in Tomahawk. (Bags removed: 51.5)
- Sand Bar Lake's treatment was successful. The divers surveyed the lake and found very little EWM. They found and removed some small, mostly individual plants in treatment areas and the rest of the EWM plants were found and removed in areas that weren't treated. (Bags removed: 15)