

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, September 15, 2025

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 Office and via Zoom Video Conferencing.

1. Roll call:

Members Present: Sally Pease, Diane Menard, Chris Webb, Doug Stearly, Cris Neff (Liaison for FOECLA), and Bill Sande.

Guests Present (On Zoom): Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator), David Blumer (LEAPS LLC), and Megan Sorenson (Northwest Regional Planning Commission).

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

Verification of Public Notice: Public notice of meeting was posted on September 8, 2025 at 9:00 AM by Chris Webb, AIS Committee Chair.

2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Sally and seconded by Doug 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 Chris Webb and seconded by Doug to approve the minutes of previous meeting, held on August 4, 2025. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

4. Volunteer shirt update:

We have the list of employees and volunteers who signed up for T-shirts. Chris will send an email to all other volunteers reminding them to order their T-shirt using the link that will be provided. Shirts will arrive in the spring. Bill suggested that we set up a committee to plan and work the volunteer picnic.

5. Bill Sande – update:

At the last FOECLA meeting, the FOECLA board agreed that there is too much work pulling curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) for one DASH boat to make sufficient progress in the few early summer weeks that the plant is viable for pulling. CLP is in all three Eau Claire Lakes, but Upper is by far the worst. FOECLA can see the need for additional help in the form of another boat. Bill presented 4 options: hire a company with a DASH boat to help for a few weeks; build another DASH boat; purchase a similar boat; or just focus on the areas with the most density using DASH and chemical treatments. The most favorable option at this time is purchasing a DASH boat. Such a boat is available for purchase in Cumberland (built by the Beaver Dam Lake Association in consultation with our Barnes AIS group) for \$17,000. Several of our members will be going to Cumberland in the next few weeks to look at the boat and test it out. Presently, this boat has an old motor and could use a new 40 hp, 4-cycle motor. The funding of this purchase is a little uncertain. It could be funded by grant money or donations. Other issues that an additional boat would create would be the need for more divers, more volunteers, and more money for miscellaneous expenses. A second DASH boat would mainly be used on Lower Eau Claire Lake because the CLP is mostly confined to Moody Bay.

6. DASH-BAISS Project Lead - Cris Neff:

a. Sand Bar and Tomahawk Lake Report:

*Sand Bar Lake has a lot of Eurasian milfoil (EWM) to pull! The BAISS boat worked on this lake for almost 19 days and removed 170.5 bags of collected weeds. Although certain areas were treated with ProcettaCor last summer, the prevalence of young EWM scattered about the native plants was discouraging. The reason more plants were not killed by ProcettaCor was because of the modified chemical treatment plan we implemented. We were not awarded a DNR grant for chemical treatment in 2024, so our committee spent DNR reimbursement money from previous years. Therefore, we chose a smaller treatment plan to conserve money. We now know that wasn't a great choice as it was fairly ineffective. A complete targeted ProcettaCor treatment will be included in our 2026 DNR grant requests. The plan for 2026 is chemical treatment and DASH harvesting. If we cannot get a chemical treatment grant approved, then it will require more EWM pulling with the BAISS boat.

*Tomahawk Lake looked pretty good! Only about 4 days were spent on this lake with 15 bags of EWM collected. In June, 2025, we did a spot treatment of ProcettaCor in front of the Tomahawk Lake Park swimming beach. The EWM was mostly dead with very few live plants to pull. The health of the native plant population was good. One noteworthy item is that the "handle" portion of the lake that was treated with the chemical 2-4D and the use of the limno curtain in June 2023, is looking great with very few active plants to pull this year. The plan for 2026: the BAISS boat will survey and remove EWM plants as found at various GPS points.

b. Projected plans for 2026:

We are projecting 8 weeks of CLP pulling with the BAISS boat on Upper and Middle Eau Claire Lakes, and 8 weeks of EWM pulling with the BAISS boat on Tomahawk and Sand Bar Lakes (with more time allocated to Sand Bar Lake). At this time, we are projecting that Lower Eau Claire Lake would be covered by a second DASH boat, if that possibility works out.

Our present BAISS boat is in need of "new" (used, donated) pontoons. One of the pontoons was leaking at the end of the season. It was patch welded by Bill Bodendorfer. However, both pontoons have many patches on them, hence the need for different ones. A set has been located (24" pontoons to replace our 18" pontoons), and they will be installed soon. Ron Kalla will winterize the motor, and the boat will be placed in storage for the winter in the Conservation Club shed.

7. Andy Teal, Bayfield County LMPN Coordinator/Surface Water Conservation Technician:

*Student Science Expo will be held on October 8th at 9:30 AM-1:30 PM at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. It is a "hands-on" expo with presentations from various professionals for 7th and 8th graders from local communities.

*LEEP fieldtrip on September 25th at Bony Lake for the Drummond 7th grade class.

*Volunteer planting project for a private landowner planned for spring, 2026.

8. Dave Blumer, LEAPS LLC:

Dave is working on our Aquatic Plant Management (APM) plan for the Headwater Lakes (Sweet, Shunenberg, and Smith). He will complete the APM by the end of September.

9. CBCW Project – summary and plans for 2026:

Our data has not been completely entered at this time.

a. Which landings should be covered for October Musky Fishing Contest?

The Annual Fall Musky Tournament will be held October 3rd-5th on area lakes with Friday hours from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM; Saturday from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM; and Sunday from 7:00 AM-12:00 PM. Our boat

landing monitors will be covering the three Eau Claire Lake landings during these hours (Lower, Middle, and Upper).

10. Megan Sorenson, NWRPC update on grant pre-application:

Megan sent the pre-application grants in on September 15th. There is a grant for 5 lakes: Birch, Robinson, Bony, George, and Breakfast. The CLP Control Grants (the DASH boat) are prepared for the three Eau Claire Lakes. The final applications are due November 15th. Between now and November, Megan and others will be discussing the applications with DNR personnel. Breakfast Lake is a lake that our group has just become aware of. It is a small lake, but apparently “choked” with EWM. More investigation needs to be done with the Potawatomi Association’s help. Another lake mentioned to look at is Turtle Lake which is in close proximity to Sand Bar Lake.

11. Financial Report:

No date has been compiled at this time.

11. Next meeting Date for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, October 13, 2025 at 3:00 PM. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Sally and seconded by Diane 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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