

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, March 4, 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 Office and via Zoom Video Conferencing.

1. Roll call:

Members Present: Diane Menard, Chris Webb, Mavis Gagne on Zoom, Cris Neff (Liaison for FOECLA), Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator) on Zoom, Dave Blumer (LEAPS, LLC), and Bill Flood (visitor).

Members Absent: Sally Pease, Doug Stearly, Barb Clements, Julia Lyons, Eric Neff (Liaison for the Town of Barnes), and Tyler Mesalk (DNR Water Resource Management Specialist).

Verification of Public Notice: Public notice of meeting was posted on March 1, 2024 at 11:00 AM by Lisa Meyer, Clerk/Treasurer.

2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Chris Webb and seconded by Mavis Gagne to approve the revised agenda. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

3. Approval of last month's minutes: A motion was made by Cris Neff and seconded by Diane Menard to approve the minutes of previous meeting held on November 13, 2023. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

4. Review Bill Flood's job application for diver position. Motion for recommendation to Town Board. Bill Flood introduced himself and described his background with freshwater and saltwater diving over the last 18/20 years. He lives on Shunenberg Lake and often dives in Upper Eau Claire Lake. A motion was needed: **Cris Neff made a motion to recommend to the Barnes Town Board to hire Bill Flood as a diver on the BAISS boat. The motion was seconded by Chris Webb. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.**

5. Recognition of Gus Gustafson's dedication to the AIS Program. The family has asked that memorials for Gus be sent to the Town of Barnes AIS Program. The AIS committee was saddened to hear of Gus's death this winter. Gus was a dedicated member of our committee for many years. He was instrumental in the creation, building, and maintaining of the BAISS pontoon and the limno curtain that is used to contain portions of the lake during chemical treatments. He will be deeply missed. A celebration of life will be held on June 15th at a time and location to be determined.

6. Reimbursement requests for 2023 expenses submitted to DNR.

Final expenses were sent to Jill Sunderland in January. Our committee used all our requested grant money.

7. Grant EDRR Early Detection Rapid Response #AIRR28724 total award \$24,974.56

- a. 3-year grant estimated expenses \$43,492.88, total award \$24,974.56
- b. 2023 Expenses \$14,275.36
- c. 2024 is 2nd year with balance of grant money \$10,699.20

The difference between \$43,492.88 and 24,974.56 is \$18,518.32. This money is accounted for with the volunteer hours provided for the project.

8. Grants awarded for 2024

- a. CBCW of \$20,000. Expenses in 2023 totaled \$30,262.51.
- b. Upper/Middle Eau Claire CLP Dash Management Project
 - i. 2 year estimated expenses \$90,406, total award \$47,812.40.

9. New application for EDRR for Headwaters of Eau Claire Lake Chain.

- c. 2 year estimated expenses \$34,592.64, requesting \$25,000.

\$25,000 covers the cost of the divers, plant surveys, mapping, etc. The difference in moneys (\$9,592.64) is accounted for with the volunteer hours worked for the project.

10. Tomahawk/Sand Bar Lakes project- grant application unsuccessful.

- d. Estimated expenses over 2 years \$98,943.97, grant request was \$69,899.17.
- e. Potential revenues for Sand Bar Lake chemical treatment, and BAISS on Tomahawk Lake
 - i. Reimbursement for 2023 expenses, remainder of grant \$19,327.21
 - ii. Sinking Fund of \$24,755.41
 - iii. Friends of Eau Claire Lakes Area annual donation

Our grant for Tomahawk Lake and Sand Bar Lake was rejected. Therefore, we do not have money for the ProcellaCOR chemical treatment for Sand Bar Lake and the BAISS boat work removing Eurasian milfoil from Tomahawk Lake. Last summer's chemical treatment in Tomahawk Lake seems to be successful, however, there is a patch in deeper water that was not treated. The divers would work on that patch and check all the EM along the north shore and in the panhandle bay. In order to fund these two projects, we will consider using the two sources of money mentioned above and will look at our options to gather remaining needed money to do the chemical treatment of Sand Bar (\$28,000) and BAISS boat work for at least 2 weeks in August, 2024. The Sand Bar chemical treatment requires additional expenses for chemical concentration testing and survey work. This could cost an additional \$3,000 to \$5,000 and increase the cost of our project. Therefore, a motion was needed:

Cris Neff made a motion to explore the chemical treatment of Sand Bar Lake without grant funding and LEAP LLC consulting. The motion was seconded by Mavis Gagne. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

There are four permits that need to be written by Dave Blumer, LEAP LLC. Three permits are for the DASH (BAISS boat) operations on the Headwaters, Eau Claire chain (Upper, Middle, and Lower) and Tomahawk/Sand Bar. A permit is also needed for the chemical treatment of Sand Bar Lake. Also, Dave Blumer said he would do several other consulting projects for us. He will write an addendum for the Headwaters grant (Smith, Shunenberg, and Sweet). He will write an addendum for George Lake and include Island Lake, and other small area lakes. Andy Teal, Bayfield County AIS Coordinator, and DNR personnel are going to visually monitor George Lake this summer for Eurasian milfoil, just to be sure an infestation has not returned from treatment about 10 years ago. There should be only three grants this year: EDRR grant for Lower Eau Claire, the EDRR grant for the Headwaters, and the DASH boat (curly leaf pondweed) in Upper and Middle EC Lakes. We also discussed consulting firms who may be able to replace LEAP LLC after Dave Blumer retires at the end of 2024. A company from the Vilas County area called Onterra LLC Lake Management Planning was mentioned. They consult on the Pike Lake chain near Iron River.

10. Contacting and scheduling of BAISS divers – Cris Neff BAISS Volunteers – Julia Lyons

Cris Neff will be scheduling divers and Julia Lyons will schedule volunteers. It appears that the program, Google Docs, will not work for us. Letters to the divers are going to be sent out soon requesting availability. We talked about the docking of the BAISS pontoon. Permission letters will be sent out to our previous property owners who allowed us to use their docks. We talked about where to dock on Tomahawk Lake now that Gus is gone. Mavis will contact neighbors along the north shore about docking privileges. Volunteers will continue to be picked up at the Tomahawk Lake Park boat landing dock.

11. Contacting and scheduling of Volunteer Boat Landing Monitors. Letters to volunteers, lakeshore owners, and organizations, newspaper ad, to communicate 2024 activities, radio, social media

Letters will be sent to our boat landing monitors who had paid positions. Ads will be posted to recruit new personnel. Our CBCW coordinator position is in question as to who might do it.

12. CBCW & Aquatic Plant ID training April 26th

We have a meeting scheduled for training and education on April 26 at 10:00 AM to noon. Andy Teal will do the plant identification portion and Zach Stewart from Douglas County will do his “Stop Spiny Campaign” talk. There could possibly be a second session sometime in early June if interest warrants it. Andy Teal mentioned some other upcoming events:

*Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention: April 10-12, 2024, in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

*Kid’s Fishing Day: June 1, 2024, at NGLVC, Ashland, learn to fish and then fish!

*Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference: November 12-14, 2024, in Duluth, MN.

*Invasive Species ID Days: June 28, July 26, August 30, and September 27, at NGLVC.

*Student Science Expo: September, 2024 (date to be announced later).

13. Town-wide Volunteer Appreciation Day May 11th.

All volunteers are invited to this picnic at the Barnes Town Park behind the Town Hall. Watch the Barnes Town website for more details.

Year-to-Date Revenue:

2024 State Grants AIS: \$47,812.40

2024 CBCW Grants: \$20,000

2024 EDRR (Headwaters): \$25,000

14. Next meeting Date for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, April 8, 2024 at 9:00 AM. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Chris Webb and seconded by Cris Neff 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
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