

Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting - Revised

Monday, April 8, 2024

(Note: These minutes were revised on April 18, 2024. The reason for a revision was to clarify and correct the BAISS Boat schedule. Revisions were made in item #5. “Projects Funded by Grants” under points b, c, and d.)

The meeting was called to order by Chris Webb at 9:15 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, Cris Neff (Liaison for FOECLA), and joining on Zoom video: Doug Stearly, Mavis Gagne, Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator), and Dave Blumer (LEAPS LLC).

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

Verification of Public Notice: Public notice of meeting was posted on April 4, 2024 at 9:00 AM by Lisa Meyer, Clerk/Treasurer.

2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Sally and seconded by Diane 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 and seconded by Diane to approve the minutes of previous meeting held on March 4, 2024. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

4. Reimbursement requests for 2023 expenses.

All the necessary forms have been sent to the DNR. We are waiting for a reply from them.

5. Projects Funded by Grants:

a. Clean Boats Clean Waters CBCW14024

Letters to the paid boat landing personnel are ready to send out. They will be sent in the next couple of days. When we get confirmation about who will be returning to work the landings (20 hour per week), then we can make more plans.

i. Coordinating Volunteers

Sally will work as the coordinator until we hear from Barb Clements about her desire to continue at this position.

b. Headwaters of Eau Claire Lake Chain – Early Detection Rapid Response AIRR29724

This grant has been approved by the DNR. It is for \$25,000 over a 2-year period ending December 31, 2025. The BAISS boat will start our season in Sweet Lake on Monday, May 13th. We will spend 2 days on the lake doing visual surveys, and pulling any curly-leaf pondweed that we find. The goal in Sweet Lake is to determine if curly-leaf pondweed is established anywhere in the lake. Then, the boat would be moved to Shunenberg Lake where we will be pulling curly-leaf pondweed in a number of known locations. This will take most of the 2 weeks that is allotted for the Headwater Lakes. Then, we will also do a visual survey of Smith Lake and pull any curly-leaf pondweed that we find.

c. Upper/Middle Eau Claire CLP Dash Management Project AEC135

After the 2 weeks on the 3 Headwater Lakes, the BAISS boat will begin pulling curly-leaf pondweed in Upper Eau Claire Lake. This will start around May 27th. The boat will be docked on Upper, and we will be working this lake for 5 weeks. After Upper, the pontoon will be cleaned and moved to Lower Eau Claire. After Lower EC is finished, we will be pulling curly-leaf pondweed on Middle Eau Claire Lake for 2 weeks, starting around July 15th.

d. Lower Eau Claire/Cranberry Lake Early Detection Rapid Response AIRR28724

While on Lower for 2 weeks, the divers will be pulling curly-leaf pondweed in several known locations.

e. Coordinating Divers and BAISS Volunteers

Letters to the divers are ready to send out. When confirmations and availability is stated, then Cris Neff will prepare the schedule for the divers. The permits for all the DASH boat work have been submitted to the DNR, but approval has not yet been received. Also, letters to the property owners are ready to be sent. The letters are to inform property owners that our AIS work will be happening near their property. A notice will be placed in the Barnes News and Notes to appeal for volunteers. Julia Lyons will help schedule volunteers for the BAISS boat work. We are still hoping to do the schedule on Goggle Docs. There are a few problems to work through, but scheduling could be more efficient. Letters to volunteers will also be send out asking for their help. Without volunteers, the BAISS boat can't work!

f. Financial Report

Advances Received: CBCW -- \$5,000; Upper/Middle -- \$11,953.10 for AIRR135124

Project Grant Awards:

2024 State Grants AIS: \$47,812.40

2024 CBCW Grants: \$20,000

2024 EDRR Grant (Headwaters): \$25,000

Year-To-Date Expenses:

AIS Administrative Expenses: \$346.50

#56903 BAISS Maintenance/Expenses: \$0

Project Expenses:

#56910 CBCW Expenses: \$72.00

#56911 Tomahawk/Sand Bar Lakes Expenses: \$1,152.16

#56913 Upper/Middle Eau Claire Lakes Expenses: \$3,525.52

#56914 Lower EC/Cranberry Lakes Expenses: \$5,538.59

Total Expenses To-Date: \$10,634.77

6. Project Funded by Friends of Eau Claire Lakes/Town of Barnes:

a. Tomahawk/Sand Bar Lake EWM Harvesting and Surveys

i. Estimated Diver Expense

A "public notice" ad is being posted in the next issue of the Bottom Line newspaper and several local locations to inform the public of the chemical treatment happening in Sand Bar Lake this summer. We will also be using the BAISS boat for pulling Eurasian milfoil in Tomahawk Lake and possibly some in Sand Bar Lake. We have a 4 week schedule for these two lakes with 2 divers being used 4 days per week at \$30 per hour.

ii. Surveys and Mapping Completed by Volunteers

We will begin the season using the mapping done in 2023. After our summer work of treatment and DASH work, surveying will be conducted by Matt Berg, Research Biologist from Endangered Resources Services LLC for around \$3,000.

iii. Potential Cost of Chemical Treatment

We have no DNR funding for chemical treatment work (our grant was not selected), therefore, concentration testing is not required, saving us lots of money. Mavis Gagne will still do Secchi depth readings. Docking of the BAISS pontoon will be at Gus's dock, and volunteers will be picked up at Tomahawk Lake Park boat dock. Mavis will pick up the bagged weeds daily on Tomahawk Lake, but we still need volunteers to do this task on the other lakes. Because this is not funded by the DNR, volunteer hours will not count for grant dollars (no grant), but they will still be tracked. Sand Bar will be treated with ProcellaCOR. We cut the acreage down a bit to save money. Now, we will treat 8.7 acres distributed in 8 different areas around the shoreline. It will cost about \$20,000. We are still looking at funding options, like FOECLA and the Town of Barnes. Dale Dressel of Northern Aquatic Services will apply the chemicals. Permits are required for all our projects, including the chemical treatment. Dave Blumer submitted the permits and we are still waiting for the approval to come back from the DNR.

b. Financial Report (See financial report above)

7. CBCW and Aquatic Plant ID Training on April 26th

A training session will be held from 10:00-12:00 at the Barnes Town Hall. All are welcome. Our agenda includes Invasive Plant ID training by Andy Teal, Bayfield County AIS Coordinator; "Stop Spiny Waterfleas" program by Zach Stewart, Douglas County AIS Coordinator; CBCW training; and a short update on our AIS work. Coffee, water, muffins, and cookies will be served.

8. Education, Training, and Sharing Information with Stakeholders

a. Chris Webb attended FOECLA Board Meeting on Friday, April 5, 2024

Chris Webb shared information about our 5 grant projects by presenting a spreadsheet of financial data and task lists with the FOECLA board members. FOECLA donates to our projects and encourages members to volunteer in our AIS work too.

Training and educational projects discussed:

A future presentation on Shoreline Monitoring may be held at the Barnes Town Hall later in the summer season by Callie Lier, DNR Regional Coordinator (callie.lier@wisconsin.gov). Watch for details.

The DNR Conservation Congress had comment sessions on April 8th. There were discussing 3 resolutions about WAKE boats and how to regulate them. The sessions were held in every county, including in the towns of Washburn, Solon Springs, and Ashland.

This week, April 10-12, was the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention in Stevens Point. Virtual sessions were held on April 11 and 12th. Andy Teal was attending this convention.

June 21, 2024 is the Northwest Lakes Conference at Spooner High School. It is from 8:00 AM-3:45 PM, one day only. Registration begins May 1st at nwwislakeconference.org.

Invasive Species ID Days on June 21st at NGLVC in Ashland may be cancelled or moved to a different location due to the facility being closed for parking lot paving. This change is for June 21st only.

Andy Teal and DNR personnel will be surveying George Lake this summer. They will be checking for Eurasian milfoil by visually searching, raking, and snorkeling. It has been 10 years since the milfoil has been eradicated from George Lake. Is it still gone??

9. Town-Wide Volunteer Appreciation Day on May 11th

All volunteers are invited! Watch the Barnes website for more details. www.townofbarneswi.gov

10. Next meeting Date for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, May 13, 2024 at 9:00 AM. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Cris to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.