

# Minutes of Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Meeting

Monday, June 10, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Chris Webb at 8:45 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, Barb Clements, Cris Neff (Liaison for FOECLA), and on Zoom: Andy Teal (Bayfield County AIS Coordinator) and Dave Blumer (LEAPS LLC)

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

**Verification of Public Notice:** Public notice of meeting was posted on June 6, 2024 at 8:02 AM by Lisa Meyer, Clerk/Treasurer.

**2. Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Barb 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 Sally and seconded by Barb to approve the revised minutes of our previous meeting held on May 13, 2024. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

## 4. BAISS Coordinator – Cris Neff

The BAISS boat divers surveyed Sweet Lake on May 13<sup>th</sup> and found no aquatic invasive species, only native plants and lots of filamentous green algae. On the 14<sup>th</sup> they moved the pontoon through the river channel while checking the area for invasive plants, finding none. Upon entering Shunenberg Lake, they located the curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) patch and it had spread substantially from last year. They did a survey of Smith Lake also, on two different days and did not find CLP, but found the environment in Smith Lake could be conducive to a CLP out-break. In the 5½ work days pulling CLP in Shunenberg Lake, 48 bags of weeds were collected. The difficulty in Shunenberg is the filamentous green algae and the silty bottom. The algae is thick and heavy when bagged up, and it easily blocked up the collection tub to overflowing. After 2 weeks on the Headwater Lakes, the pontoon started working in Upper EC Lake (May 28<sup>th</sup>), pulling CLP. Cris reported the CLP is “out of control!” The original patch behind the island that has been worked on for several years now, extends from the shore to the island and then extends down the shore toward Lyndale Bay. There is a big patch in the entrance to Lyndale Bay. Also, a new large, deep-water patch has been located along the south shore of Pease Bay. In the first week on Upper, 33 bags of weeds were collected and 34 bags during the second week. The BAISS boat will be in Upper for this week and two more after that until June 27<sup>th</sup>. The CLP has grown quickly and has begun to surface with the turions forming and releasing (they can root to form new plants). Soon, the plants will begin to break up as part of their life-cycle. Boaters are being warned to stay out of these infested areas to avoid spreading this invasive plant. Matt Berg, Research Biologist, will soon begin surveying all the lakes in the EC chain and this data will help us pinpoint the locations of the patches. The big question is: Can the BAISS boat handle all the CLP that needs pulling in all the lakes?

## **5. Douglas and Bayfield County AIS Coordinators:**

### **Andy Teal, Bayfield County AIS Coordinator**

Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference will be Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 AM-4 PM at Spooner High School. Snap Shot ID Day for June at NGLVC is cancelled. In fact, the NGLVC is temporarily closed for the parking lot paving project. Andy Teal is going to take a diving shift on the BAISS boat on July 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>. Andy is also going to take a 4-hour shift at the boat landing on Upper EC for the CBCW monitoring program on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Also, Andy will be searching for yellow flag iris plants in the Barnes area later this week. He will be pulling any plants he finds. In particular, he will be looking at Bony Creek and Middle EC Lake. Does anyone know of other locations where this invasive plant is growing?

### **Zach Stewart, Douglas County AIS Coordinator**

Zach was not able to attend today's meeting. Zach is also searching for yellow flag iris in Douglas County. This is the ideal time to do this as the plants are flowering now and can be easily spotted.

## **6. Projects Funded by Friends of Eau Claire Lakes Area (FOECLA) and Town of Barnes:**

### **a. Tomahawk/Sand Bar Lakes EWM Chemical Treatment:**

The ProcellaCOR chemical treatment was completed on June 4<sup>th</sup> on Sand Bar Lake. It cost \$21,484 to treat 5 Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) beds. Results should be seen in a couple weeks, continuous checking will be done. Benefits of this chemical are the ease of application and the effectiveness. The cost is not covered by a DNR grant this year. However, most of the cost is covered by some reimbursement dollars coming back to us from previous years (\$19,327.21 from Tomahawk Lake grant and \$2,180.18 from unused money on Middle EC grant). The BAISS boat will be pulling EWM on Tomahawk and Sand Bar Lakes in August, so the divers will be able to get a close look at the situation. Also, Matt Berg will be surveying these two lakes in the next few weeks.

## **7. Projects Funded by Grants:**

### **a. Headwaters of Eau Claire Lake Chain – Early Detention Rapid Response AIRR29724**

The Headwaters are done for this year. There is a lot more CLP growing in Shunenberg Lake. Sweet and Smith Lakes will be checked again next year. The mapping of data points needs to be completed and volunteer's hours still need to be compiled. The results are in Cris Neff's report that is written above.

### **b. Upper/Middle Eau Claire CLP Dash Management Project AEC135124**

The BAISS boat is working on Upper now. Dick Webb has volunteered by pick up and dispose of collected weeds on Upper. Thanks Dick for your help with this big job! Letters (about 200) recently went out to all the property owners on Upper EC and the Headwaters Lake (Sweet, Shunenberg, and Smith) asking for volunteer help and support for our mission of keeping our lakes clean and free of invasive species.

### **c. Lower Eau Claire/Cranberry Lake – Early Detention Rapid Response AIRR28724**

#### **i. Douglas County Involvement:**

CLP pulling with the BAISS boat will begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The pontoon will be docked at Clearwater Resort. It seems that CLP has been detected below the Gordon Dam. This would be a new patch. Douglas County will continue to check the river between Moody Dam and the Gordon Dam.

#### **ii. Town of Gordon Partnership:**

Chris Webb is trying to work on a partnership with the Town of Gordon. There has been no response. Letters to the property owners on Lower EC Lake, similar to the Upper EC Lake letters, will be sent out soon to ask for volunteer help on the BAISS boat and their support for AIS projects.

**d. Social Media and Correspondence**

Lea Colliton is posting on Facebook. Thanks Lea! Chris posted an article in the Barnes News and Notes (find a link on the Town of Barnes website). Chris may write an article for the Bottom Line newspaper in the near future

**e. Clean Boats Clean Waters CBCW14024**

CBCW program seems to be running well. Barb plans to catch up on the data entry in SWIMS soon.

**8. Request for Proposal (RFP) for AIS Grant Consultant for 2025-2026**

Dave Blumer (consulting firm LEAPS LLC) plans to retire at the end of 2024. He may stay on the job to do small projects next year. Therefore, we need to locate another consulting firm. Chris Webb and David will meet to write a proposal (of tasks) that a new firm would be required to do for us and locate several possible companies. Dave volunteered to write the APM for the Headwaters before leaving us. That would be needed in early in 2025. They will share their proposal and selected companies next month.

**9. Motion to recommend the Town of Barnes hire Eric Johnson and Dean Weber as certified divers:**

A motion to recommend the hiring of Eric Johnson and Dean Weber as certified divers on the BAISS boat was made by Barb and seconded by Diane. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. Chris Webb will take the motion to the next Town of Barnes Board Meeting. Eric and Dean will begin working as divers this week. Bill Flood was hired as a diver earlier in the season, however, he withdrew his name before beginning to work.

**10. Education, Training and Sharing Information with Stakeholders at events held in July:**

**a. 4<sup>th</sup> of July**

We do not do anything for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. We entered the BAISS boat in the parade only one year.

**b. FOECLA Annual Meeting:**

Sally will set up and man the AIS display booth at the FOECLA Annual Meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM at the Town Hall.

**c. Taste of Barnes**

Our AIS information will be available at the FOECLA booth on June 15<sup>th</sup> at the Town Park with Cris Neff manning the booth with other FOECLA personnel.

**d. Conservation Club**

Diane is giving an update to the Conservation Club members at their monthly meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at the VFW Hall).

## **11. Financial Report**

### **AIS Revenues:**

**Reimbursements from previous years: \$17,180.18**

**Current Year Advances: \$16,953.10**

**Donations: \$507.28**

**Year-To-Date Revenues: \$34,640.56**

**AIS Saving Account: \$24,755.41**

### **AIS Expenses:**

**Administrative/Clerk: \$346.50**

**Maintenance: \$0**

### **Projects:**

**#56910 CBCW Expenses: \$3,928.53**

**#56911 Tomahawk/Sand Bar Lake Expenses: \$2,201.40**

**#56913 Upper/Middle Eau Claire Lakes Expenses: \$4,064.72**

**#56914 Lower EC/Cranberry Lakes Expenses: \$6,008.59**

**#AIRR29724 Headwaters: \$1,650.00**

**Year-To-Date Expenses: \$18,199.74**

## **12. Other Discussion – CD3 Presentation**

The CD3 presentation is about CBCW decontamination units available for sale. There are different sizes and price ranges. We are not sure it is good for any of our various landings, however, we decided to take a look at the presentation and learn more about them. We will do this at a later date.

Another topic of discussion was presented by Tom Renz, Town Chairman. Paid workers (divers and boat landing monitors) have to enter their hours worked into the Paycom website. Each worker must register correctly and promptly enter their hours. Even though, some employees find it difficult and time-consuming, it must be done.

**13. Next meeting Date** for Town of Barnes AIS Committee is Monday, July 8, 2024 at 8:30 AM. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

**Adjourn:** A motion was made by Sally and seconded by Barb to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Menard  
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