

AIS Committee meeting
Monday, August 19, 2013 6:30 p.m.
Barnes Town Hall

Members present: Ingemar Ekstrom, Barb Romstad, Dave Pease, Sally Pease, Gerald Gustafson, Lee Wiesner, Pamela Toshner, Mitch McGee, Jeremy Bates, Leslie Hall

Absent: Glenda Mattila, Steve Krivinchuk

Ingemar called the meeting to order.

1. Minutes from the July Meeting

Ingemar asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting, Dave Pease made a motion to accept the minutes; Gus seconded; passed.

2. Clean Boats Clean Waters (2014 Grant)

Only a couple weeks left in the summer season. We will cover the landings for the Musky tournament. The Upper Eau Claire landing will be closed the day after Labor Day for repairs. Sally indicated that she picked up a couple new volunteers at the annual meeting. Sally thinks it would be good to find a full time monitor for the Middle Eau Claire landing for summer 2014. Some discussion took place concerning the volunteer hours for next summer. The grant has been submitted and approved for 2014. We will also have the remainder of the funds for the Rapid Response grants for George Lake, Middle Eau Claire and Upper Eau Claire lakes.

3. 2013 Volunteer Hours

Ingemar reminded us to submit our hours. We are going to mail the reminder to the Shoreline Monitors again this year. Barb will change the form to include an individual's boat usage for the monitoring.

4. Follow Up of AIS Treatment

Matt Berg did a plant survey of both George and Sand Bar lakes. He found no milfoil on George Lake and no milfoil on Sand Bar Lake; he found an abundance of native aquatic plants. Two weeks after the treatment of Tomahawk Lake, Gus found a large chunk of milfoil on the lake. Matt did a survey of Tomahawk today and found a lot of milfoil laying down that appeared dead, however there are small signs of green on the plants. It is Matt's opinion that the milfoil will return next year. This is the last year of the grant for both Tomahawk and Sand Bar Lakes. Ingemar thinks it will be important to meet with all the property owners of those two lakes next year. Ingemar asked Pamela if there would be someone available to moderate such a meeting next spring. Some discussion took place concerning how to present the options to the property owners for them to have a plan forward.

Leslie shared information she got about lake monitoring from the Lake Owen Association.

Matt did a point intercept survey of Middle and Upper Eau Claire Lakes. Matt indicated he thinks there has probably been Curly Leaf Pondweed in the two lakes for over 50 years. Matt personally did not feel the lake should be treated for that invasive. The Eau Claire Lakes have relatively high levels of phosphorus and he indicated that aggressively educating property owners about that issue would be a good idea. Matt is in the process of completing his reports. It's encouraging to note that Matt did not find any EWM on either Middle or Upper Eau Claire. Matt has submitted his invoice to the Town for payment.

5. Bayfield County AIS activities

Jeremy has received a report and confirmed that there is a Japanese Knotweed site on a shoreline property on Sandbar Lake and he will be conducting some control work on it. Jeremy is doing some continued control of Purple Loosestrife on Lower Eau Claire Lake and will be part of the George Lake aquatic plant management plan this winter. The DNR Lake Blog is a good resource for current information on AIS. Jeremy reported on several other Bayfield County projects; he plans to have a booth at the Bayfield County Fair on AIS.

6. Technical Assistance Position

Grant funding is getting more difficult. The grant funding for treatment the Town of Barnes received for Tomahawk and Sand Bar Lakes this year would not likely be available in the future if it is requested for possible summer treatment. Science and data indicate that summer treatment of invasives is not effective enough to justify the expense. Pamela is suggesting that we have a "Technical Lead" to head our program. One option would be to hire a paid private consultant. Another option for the "Technical Lead" would be to get such a person through the county – such as Jeremy Bates. Pamela indicated that she would take the first step in defining the objectives/role that a "Technical Lead" would fulfill. She will share this information at the September AIS meeting.

7. Other Business

- 12 people attended the Shoreline Monitor Workshop, we've added 9 people to our list of monitors. Ingemar will get the names of those to Barb.
- Leslie showed a sign-up sheet that she has used to get volunteers to sign up to help pull invasive weeds.
- Barb advised the group that she would not be in attendance at the September 16th meeting. Ingemar will find someone else to take notes.

Next meeting September 16, 2013, 6:30 P.M. Barnes Town Hall

Motion to adjourn: Lee, seconded by Dave; passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM