



MINUTES

February 22, 2017 (to be approved)

Present: Nan Olson, Jim Krueger, Jeremy Oswald, Mike Defoe, Sally Pease, William Bussey
Staff: Andrew Teal, AIS Coordinator
Absent: Sarah Boles
Attendance: Adam Haecker, NCWMA Coordinator

1. **Call to Order:** Nan called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.
2. **Introductions:** Brief introductions were conducted.
3. **Public Comment:** None
4. **Motion:** Approve minutes from November 30, 2016 - AIS Committee meeting. Krueger / Pease – carried.
5. **Grant Updates:** Andy noted that the funds from AIS #4 have been used in full. He has compiled the grant deliverables and the final report, and mailed them to Jane Malischke, Grants Coordinator, and to Pamela Toshner, WDNR Water Resources Management Specialist in the Spooner office. Andy forwarded two emails containing information pertinent to this final report when they came in, after submission of the final report. These included data and survey work for yellow iris on Lake Owen, and attendance numbers from the 2016 Invasive Species ID Day events. The AIS#5 grant has approximately \$114,000 remaining for its balance (the exact number is not in yet, as budget work without Arianna's expertise moves slower). Andy is working on compiling a grant payment worksheet for partial reimbursement, which includes three months' worth of information. And good news: the DNR approved funding for the CBCW - Lake Superior grant of \$16,000 and the CBCW – Iron River Area Lakes grant of \$20,000. Andy mentioned that we (Bayfield County AIS Project and NCWMA) are advertising now to hire the interns and/or Bayfield County employees as CBCW inspectors for the 2017 season. Applications are still open.

Jeremy asked about the state of Wisconsin's bi-annual budget from 2017-2019, which was recently announced by Governor Scott Walker, and how this budget affects AIS grants. Important to note: large amounts of AIS funding come from a motorboat fuel tax-this may not be widely known. Andy said that historically AIS coverage has been a patchwork across the state, but that the WDNR is proposing a new funding structure that will help get even, more sustainable, and to some extent, flexible coverage throughout the state. Andy offered to forward the PowerPoint slides containing the proposed AIS program changes.

6. **Discussion – Eagle Scout project focused on AIS monitoring and control in NCWMA service area:** Andy said that he got a call from PC Rasmussen, whose son is trying to get an Eagle Scout project on AIS monitoring and control work. As of this writing, the Boy Scout Council has not seen the proposal or approved the project. Andy thinks this would be great if his project gets approved, and he can do work within our service area. If approved, August Rasmussen hopes to get started by fishing opener on May 6, 2017. If Andy has a choice, he would like to see the project focus on controlling yellow iris, curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, and in the southern part of Bayfield County, small populations of purple loosestrife.

Nan asked if he would be looking for any funding to complete his project. Andy doesn't think so. Nan further added that Long Lake Association, of which she is a member of, has helped fund and support Boy Scouts on her lake in the past. Andy thanked Nan for the comment, and thinks that this project will help bring lake associations together. Nan further added that his project would be great material for a presentation at the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference on June 16, 2017, at the Hayward High School.

7. **Discussion – DIY field equipment:** Andy mentioned that the Town of Barnes is interested in doing a Do-It-Yourself (DIY) workshop that would entail making equipment for AIS monitoring and control. Some examples include hand scoops to look at lake bottoms and Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) collection bags. We have the designs for rusty crayfish traps too, but Andy thinks that these are probably too time consuming and costly to build. The Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area contributed \$300 match toward the workshop(s). Andy added that he would like to find a workspace through the Highway Dept./Maintenance crew as well, which could provide the

workspace, workbench and tools. Andy offered to host a workshop as well on behalf of the Bayfield County AIS Project, if funding is available.

8. **AIS Coordinator's Report:** Andy said that he and Adam met with Roger Kumlien on Feb. 21 at the former Steak Pit restaurant in Washburn to discuss the shoreline vegetation there. (Roger is a friend of the new owners, and acting as a consultant.) Andy reported that we could identify many native plants and trees; and only a few invasive species such as common tansy. Roger is voicing the concern of former patrons of the restaurant who would like to see an open view scape of the Washburn Marina and Lake Superior as a backdrop. Bill asked if the City of Washburn owns the shoreline here, and Jeremy confirmed that the city does own it. (Jeremy sits on the Washburn City Council.) Jeremy then offered to have the city help in any way. Andy is also concerned that a lot of rainwater and subsequent runoff seems to drain from the parking lot adjacent to the building, across an open grassy area and down the hill to the lake. He envisioned and suggested to Roger to have raingardens installed to alleviate this problem. Mike said that his office at Red Cliff also installed rain gardens at Legendary Waters Casino after they cut down trees in front of the building to have a view scape. They did this to reduce erosion and runoff from the parking lot and roof. Andy then wondered about the binational agreement between the United States and Canada, and how this might affect any restoration efforts. Bill said that Lake Superior shoreline and lakebed is under the jurisdiction of the State of Wisconsin per the Public Trust Doctrine.

In other news, Andy talked to Susan Nelson, U.S. Forest Service Interpretive Services Specialist at the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center, about an idea that he had. Specifically, Andy thinks that area realtors could be a great resource for spotting and reporting invasive species as part of their day-to-day duties. In other words, realtors could be a first point of contact. The group thought that this was a great idea, and made several suggestions for contacts. Bill suggested Kathleen Russell, an agent with Apostle Islands Realty, Inc. in Bayfield. Jim suggested Bill King with King Realty in Cable. And Nan suggested John Podlesney with North Star Realty or Peggy Keman with Coldwell Banker in Iron River. Bill recommended just talking with one realtor to get suggestions of how to market this idea, and ask if there is a Realtor's Association in the area.

Andy mentioned that he joined a group called the "Young Professionals of the Chequamegon Bay Area." He further noted that April 23-30 is Young Professional Week, in which something is going on each night of this week to promote professional development in the area and nationally. Andy said that he might give a presentation on AIS some time during this week (likely at night) if possible, otherwise, he will network during this time. He also mentioned that he is helping the Ashland Chamber of Commerce promote and plan an upcoming smelting event this spring. He needs nets and waders, however. Mike said that he has waders that Andy could borrow, but they leak ☹️. Mike will talk to his hatchery manager to see if Red Cliff can loan out a net or two for smelting on April 22.

Shifting gears, Andy is disappointed to report that the WDNR discovered and documented zebra mussels on Big McKenzie Lake, which is on the county line of Burnett and Washburn Counties. This is significant, because it is the first documented zebra mussel case on an inland lake in northwestern Wisconsin. The WDNR and lake association members have established a plan and will be monitoring the lake going forward. Andy attended a public information session at the Spooner Ag Station after the discovery. Nan wondered if the habitat (lake conditions) is really that suitable to maintain a healthy and growing population of zebra mussels. Andy said that Big McKenzie Lake is moderately suitable for zebra mussel growth.

In other news, the Town of Barnes has applied for an AIS established population control grant for EWM and curly-leaf pondweed using a DASH boat. The grant would be good for two to three years. Sally reported that the DASH boat would be used on Upper Eau Claire Lake, Middle Eau Claire Lake and Tomahawk Lake. (She said that Tomahawk is the control lake.) And as is typical, the infestations started next to the boat landings, and unfortunately when the plants were first discovered, they had already fragmented or produced turions. Sally took some samples to show participants in the Lake Ecology Education Program (LEEP) program. Sally is disappointed to report that the populations in Tomahawk Lake looked under control in the beginning, but now the news is not so good. Her latest concern is that the infestations might spread to area lakes due to increased park use. George Lake had EWM and they treated it in 2012-we have not found any EWM there since then. Sand Bar Lake, a literal stone's throw from Tomahawk Lake has EWM again and it is spreading. Sally wonders if the public is complying with CBCW laws when she/other inspectors are not around. In addition, there are not any cameras at these landings. Sally hopes to pull up the root balls this summer. Andy plans to help her. Both Andy and Sally will be looking for divers to suction deeper parts of the lake, and Andy has provided a letter of support saying he will train said divers on plant ID.

Andy reported on the following upcoming meetings and conferences:

- **Statewide CWMA/CISMA meeting, March 13-14 in Green Bay.** Adam isn't able to attend, but Andy has graciously offered to give a presentation on the NCWMA during the meeting. Kelly Kearns, WDNR

Conservation Biologist, and the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC), which covers invasive species management in five counties in Wisconsin and Michigan, will demonstrate how to use a boat wash unit (decontamination unit) during the meeting. Lindsay Peterson, WRISC interim coordinator, will be hauling a boat wash unit to the meeting.

- **The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention, April 5-7 in Stevens Point.** Pamela Toshner is presenting on healthy lakes, Sally said. Andy is looking for someone to travel to the convention with him. Mike said that he is interested in going, and will check with his office staff to see if this is possible. Andy said that there also is a keynote address on body and mind therapy.
- **Blue Mind Summit, April 4-6 in Stevens Point. Held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention.** Wallace J. Nichols, is a key person in this summit and will also be a keynote speaker at the Lakes Convention.
- **The Veterans Administration statewide conference (WHEN? (WHERE?))**
- **13th International Coregonid Symposium, Sept. 10-15, Bayfield.** Mike mentioned this symposium, which is a forum of fishing professionals whose careers focus on coregonids. Mike said that Red Cliff will be bringing research boats from Grand Portage and other places.
- **CBCW training in late May or early June in Barnes.** Sally said that she will be hosting. Andy said that he typically hosts a CBCW training at Northland College, too.

Jim gave an update on the hybrid watermilfoil population at Lakewoods Resort on Lake Namakagon east of Cable. He said that there is an upcoming group meeting to discuss it on April 3rd. He said that plans are to block off the harbor and treat the marina this spring once the ice is off in the bay. He also said that there can't be any movement in the marina for two days in order for the treatment to be effective.

9. Partner/Department Reports

- **Red Cliff Natural Resource Department:** Mike said funding has been likely been approved for retrofitting three local wastewater treatment plants for native *Phragmites*, but is in limbo right now (EPA, politics, etc.). He further stated that native *Phragmites* is probably coming from greenhouses, and then transferred to the treatment plants, which include Red Cliff, Greater Bayfield, and Washburn. Jeremy asked if they are waiting to hear back from the EPA, and Mike said 'yes.' Andy asked about how the appropriate parties dispose of non-native *Phragmites*, and Mike said that in most cases, it is put into landfills or incinerated.
- **Northwest Cooperative Weed Management Area (NCWMA):** Adam gave an update on his current grants, as well as ones that he is applying for in the next grant cycle. Right now, the current grants include the GLRI CWMA grant (Weed Co-op), the GLRI boat washer grant and the WDNR Weed Management Area (WMA) grant. He said new grants include the Chequamegon Bay Area Community Fund and Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) funding via the U.S. Forest Service. Adam said that these grants are taking up almost all of his time these days, but he also noted that he had a meeting with NCWMA partners on Feb. 16 about the upcoming field season. He noted that there will be a lot of preparation during the next few months getting ready for the field season. Bill asked about invasive species work being done in Bayfield County. Adam touched on all the treatment that he and Andy did on knotweed last summer, as well as garlic mustard, and cut-leaf teasel at the Greenwood (Port Wing) Cemetery.

10. Future AIS Activities:

- The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention, Holiday Inn Convention Center, April 5-7, in Stevens Point
- Chequamegon Bay Area Partnership Symposium, April 13, at the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center
- St. Croix Summit, April 21-22, at UW-River Falls
- Invasive Species ID Days, Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center, May – October, in Ashland

11. **Other business:** None.

12. **Next meeting date:** Wednesday, May 24, in Conference Room A in Bayfield County Courthouse.

13. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.