



MINUTES

November 28th, 2018 (to be approved)

Present: Nan Olson-Chair, Jim Krueger-Vice Chair, Jeremy Oswald-Board of Supervisor District #5, Larry Fickbohm-Board of Supervisor District #3 (9:15), Andrew Teal-AIS Coordinator, Reed Saam-Red Cliff Treaty Natural Resources Division, Ramona Shackelford-NCWMA Coordinator, & Melissa Kraft-LWCD Assistant

1. **Call to Order:** Nan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Introductions:** None needed.
3. **Public Comment:** None.
4. **Motion:** Approve minutes from Sept. 12th, 2018. **Oswald/Saam** – motion carried.
5. **Grant Updates:** Andy noted AIS Grant #5 has approximately \$11,501.61 remaining at this time, which will likely take us through the end of 2018 and a little bit into 2019. Currently, Andy is in the process of writing a new grant application due Dec. 10th for grand funding to support the 2019-2021 Bayfield Co AIS position at 50% time per year. The other 50% of the time typically spent on AIS would be spent on work as a Lakes Conservation Specialist for Bayfield County.

The 2018 grant year for Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW)-Iron River and Clean Boats Clean Water-Lake Superior have wrapped up and grant reimbursement requests are being completed and will be submitted and new grants for 2019 will be submitted by the Dec. 10th due date. The Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area *Boat Washer Grant* is done for 2018 with \$16,650 remaining in the grant to be used next year. Ramona noted that we really will need people to run the boat washer next year. Reminder from Andy that the DNR is proposing to switch from AIS Coordinator funding from grants to a contract-based system for funding. Andy presented information from the DNR showing the possible equations and variables they might use to determine how to allocate funds to counties, and in what amount.

6. **Discussion/possible action: Citizen Committee member -Business Representative search/confirmation:** The search continues for someone to fill this vacant spot. Contact was made with Phil Smith, manager of Howl Clothing & Adventure and Howl Adventure Center in Bayfield, WI. Initially, there was interest from Phil in becoming the Business Representative committee member on the AIS Committee; however, after further communications with him it turns out that although there is support for the AIS program, he stated that it doesn't fit into the mission of the company at this time. Jim Krueger will contact the new Chamber of Commerce Director in Cable, WI to see if he has interest in filling the vacant spot.
7. **Discussion/possible action: Discuss language in the new draft of the No Transport Ordinance specifically regarding decontamination- Can we require this or simply encourage it, and if so, how do we make it as feasible and effective as possible?** Andy attended a meeting that was held a few weeks ago in Drummond that discussed decontamination. Suggestion that language could state that decontamination could/should take place within a few miles or so from the lake so that it wouldn't necessarily have to happen at each landing. Basically, creating centrally-located decontamination stations. The lack of man power to occupy each landing, a lack of running water at each landing, and enforcement are some challenges to make certain everyone decontaminates their watercraft; however, the mission is to encourage decontamination.
8. **Discussion/possible action: Recent and ongoing communications to consider centrally located decontamination units in Bayfield County through organization partnerships, and a state-level Decontamination Collaborative.** Pamela contacted Andy discussing Lake Owen as a location to set up a decontamination unit (grant funded thru the state). Drummond would be a good site, but Cable and Namakagon would not be very feasible, simply because the decontamination units need to be at or near Lake Owen as a part of their grant agreement. NGLVC was a suggested possible location as well as the highway garages. It was

mentioned that in addition to boats, decontamination efforts also include kayaks, canoes, and paddle boards. Finding, hiring, and keeping trained/qualified staff at the locations is an issue.

9. **Discussion/possible action: Where to house the Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW)-Iron River watercraft inspectors beginning in 2019.** The Town of Iron River was told by their auditors recently that the number of people on the payroll with respect to the Family Medical Leave Act poses a liability concern, therefore the Town of Iron River gave Bayfield County LWCD notice that they can no longer house the inspectors on their payroll. They are still in favor of the program but feel they cannot continue to keep them on their payroll. Nan stated she will talk to the Town of Iron River Board/Chairman about it for more clarification and follow-up with her findings. It was noted that using the Town of Iron River clerk's time is approximately 1/3 to a 1/2 of the match which is about \$2,500 in match for the grant. The committee discussed the matter and stated that Andy should move forward and apply for the CBCW-Iron River grant which is due December 10th, 2018, even though the inspector payroll issue is still unresolved at this time.
10. **Discussion/possible action: Efforts to prevent boaters from sexually harassing watercraft inspectors at boat landings.** Andy discussed an issue that was brought to his attention when he learned that the Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation at Northland College decided to drop their participation in CBCW altogether. One of the reasons given was boater sexual harassment of watercraft inspectors at boat landings. Andy went to a recent presentation on boat washer use, which had harassment training listed as a topic covered, and has been learning more about efforts to prevent harassment of watercraft inspectors. He will share the PowerPoint presentation to the committee by email after the meeting. It was noted that this problem is one of the reasons why it is hard to hire inspectors. In addition to the PowerPoint presentation suggestions, Committee members said that it may be a good idea to have discussions and training for inspectors on the issue of harassment including with the Sheriff's Office & DNR office before they begin the program as well as training for the AIS coordinator.
11. **Discussion: Surface Water Conservation Specialist funding, and DNR funding changes forecasted for spring 2020.** The Executive Committee didn't create the position; however, there is funding in our budget to support 50% time to work on surface water issues. Oswald clarified that it was nothing against the LWCD, the county simply did not create any new positions this year. Andy passed around a handout of an overview for AIS Coordinator grant funding options that the DNR is considering for determining how grant funds would be allocated in the future to counties in WI. Andy will continue to update the committee as the DNR refines the criteria they will use to allocate the money. Oswald noted that this issue would be a good one to bring to Superior Days next year.
12. **AIS Coordinators Report-**Andy Teal reviewed his report which is on file. *LEEP indoor labs and Field Day*, Barnes, dates TBD. *Invasive Species ID Days*, NGLVC on Sept. 21st, and Oct. 12th (October's date was the Student Science Research Symposium). *Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference*, Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, MN on Oct. 15th-18th, 2018. Learned a lot about carp management, ways to control zebra mussels, attended knotweed presentations on how to control it as well. Creative ways to tackle invasive plants-herbicide ballistic technology-is essentially paint balls loaded with herbicide and fired from a helicopter (Hawaii example). *Lake Superior Collaborative Symposium*, NGLVC on Oct 24-25th, 2018. Talked about invasive species, and other threats to LS-climate change, flooding events, and sedimentation contamination. It was noted that the presentations on the flooding effects and culvert damage which included landscape changes was very well done. Ramona has the link to the presentation and will share them with interested Committee members.

Bayfield Apple Festival event went well despite the cooler temperatures. Ramona noted that more brochures were taken than any other event she has done to date. IPAW-Invasive Plant Association of WI, paid for the vendor spot. Ramona applied for the grant money to have them pay for it.

Ramona also noted she attended the National Public Lands Day. She informed the Committee that she surveyed a new garlic mustard site in Ashland that was found last year by the Bay City Creek behind the carwash. In conjunction with GLIFWC, Ramona is using the Kobo data system for logging site findings and treatments of invasive plants.

Jim Krueger left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

13. **Partner/Department Reports-**

Reed: More zebra mussel sightings have been found around the islands. They conducted plankton tows and collected sediment cores to send in for testing of all kinds of AIS. Conditions aren't ideal for zebra mussels to establish themselves in Lake Superior at this time, but with increases in water temperature, wind speed, and flood events that could change. Red Cliff continues to do dredging as it's important to continue monitoring the environment. There is currently no good control method for zebra mussels (except prevention!) but again, monitoring needs to be continued as it is possible for quagga mussels to establish in Lake Superior. Quagga mussels have a broader range of

environmental tolerances, can live deeper in the water, and can attach directly to sediment, allowing them to outcompete zebra mussels. Reed also noted that Gabrielle Van Bergen is working on obtaining funding to get a decontamination site established in Red Cliff, likely at Buffalo Bay.

14. **Future AIS Activities-** a) Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention, Stevens Point, WI, April 10-12th, 2019. b) Northwest WI Lakes Conference, Hayward High School, June 21, 2019. c) AIS Snapshot Day, August 17, 2019. d) Student Science Research Symposium, Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, October 11, 2019.
15. **Adjournment-** Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. Motion to adjourn **Oswald/Fickbohm**.
16. **Next meeting date:** Future regular AIS meeting date: **Wednesday, Feb. 27th, 2019 at 9AM.; May 22nd, 2019 at 9AM; Aug 28th, 2019 at 9AM; and Nov 20th, 2019 at 9AM.**