

MINUTES
ARPRD Annual Business Meeting
Amery City Hall Council Room
10:00 a.m. on August 19, 2017

1. Chairman Roland Peterson welcomed all ARPRD residents.
2. Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order and set the Agenda.
3. The official notice of the meeting was posted twice in the Amery Free Press.
4. The Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting were approved.
5. The Treasurer's Report was approved. As of August 19, 2017, there was a balance of \$26,166,98. The harvester loan is paid off. Next year a written report will be provided.
6. The Audit Committee Report from January-July 2017, which indicated everything balanced, was provided by Derrick Carlson and approved. A request was made that a written report be available next year.
7. a. The Weed Harvesting Committee report, provided by Dale Richardson, indicated that in 2016, harvesting began on May 11 and commenced on September 9. There were 564 total loads of approximately 155,100 cubic feet of material, weighing 2,531,796 pounds. This was up 15% from 2015. In 2017, harvesting began on May 15. There have been 271 loads, weighing 1,216,519 pounds. As of August 15, 2017, harvesting is down 32% from last year. Each month in 2017 the loads have been down, averaging only 5.5 loads per day. There was no Curly Leaf Pondweed in the north end this year. It appears that harvesting is making a difference. In the areas that are harvested, the weeds are going away. Dale indicated that Coontail is very sparse this year. A new GPS with the ability to store hazards has been helpful. For the shore conveyer, the hydraulic motors were rebuilt, and an equipment bin was added. Dale explained that the DNR permit prohibits harvesting shallower than 3 feet. It allows a 25-foot channel for access in front of residences. They are free to cut Curly Leaf anywhere because it's an invasive species, but can only cut in approved areas for other weeds. Dale showed maps with the channels and areas that are permitted to be harvested on PPT slides.
b. Derrick Carlson reported on the AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) grant activities. Colin Bursik was in charge of the Clean Boats/Clean Water grant in which students are paid for activities such as checking boats and monitoring at the landing. They logged 200 hours and checked 123 boats. Some boats are power loading. They rarely had to take off a weed. All boaters were cooperative and willing to answer questions. Derrick Carlson, who has monitored 4 sites 4 times, indicated that other than Curly Leaf Pondweed, no other invasive species have been found. He ran a sample to Balsam Lake that checked out as native milfoil, but it is okay as it is native. We have no Zebra Mussels or Eurasian Watermilfoil. Sampler plates to check for Zebra Mussels at the Lincoln Landing have been clean. He asks residents to check their dock poles for Zebra Mussels.
c. Dave Schleusner provided an update on the 2017 Healthy Lakes Projects of 4 buffer strips. Six had applied, but you must have grass touch the water in order to qualify. Residents must let Dave know before January 2018 if they are interested for next year. The grant covers \$1,000. The landowner pays \$350. This is part of the Lakes Management Plan to help the high phosphorus level by putting in buffer strips.
d. Derrick Carlson reported AIS activities are going well.

e. ARPRD communications include a newsletter and an ARPRD website with information and meeting notes. The website can be accessed at arprd.org.

f. Dale Richardson reported on the Apple River Flowage Water Quality. In 2016, the average summer secchi disk reading in the Deep Hole was 5.17 feet with water reported as murky and brown. In the Deep Hole, average summer Chlorophyll was 27.1. The Total Phosphorus average was 76.3. The overall Trophic State index in the Deep Hole was 60 so the Apple River Flowage was eutrophic. In 2017, Dale notes that the weeds are less dense, and the water clarity is better at 5 1/2, 7, and 9-foot depths.

Doug Johnson of the Watershed Committee reported that the county has a demonstration project in Horse Creek Watershed with producers, and things are going well. In the future, the producers will work with other producers.

8. Action Items:

- a. By unanimous ballot, Angie Johnson was elected as Secretary for the ARPRD Board of Commissioners term for 2018, 2019, and 2020.
 - b. The 2017 updated Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan as recommended by the Board was approved. The plan needs to be updated every 5 years. A committee met to clarify some of the language in the 2011 plan. Regarding the use of chemicals around docks, you have to have DNR approval for that, but 30 feet by your dock can be cleaned of weeds manually. You can use a mechanical hand harvester, but you can't use a hand sprayer with Round Up. Matt Berg had conducted a weed population survey in 700 different spots in 2016 and provided a report for the plan.
 - c. A motion for an application to continue harvesting in 2018 was approved. A motion to apply for a Clean Boats/Clean Water grant in 2018 was approved. A motion to apply for a Healthy Lakes project grant to provide assistance to residents for shoreline plantings in 2018 was approved.
 - d. The proposed 2018 Budget was approved. There was no tax increase requested for the 2018 budget. A Capital Improvement Fund for any future needs has been included. The budget includes funds in case we have to ask Carlson/Highland to assist with payroll and money for Workman's Compensation as the City of Amery has indicated they will no longer do so in 2018. The City of Amery's Finance Committee will meet on August 29, and ARPRD will ask them to continue to do payroll and Workman's Compensation for the harvester operators as our work is benefitting the City.
9. Chairman Peterson recognized and thanked all who have helped the ARPRD this past year, including the Weed Harvesting Operation members, the Clean Boats/Clean Water inspection teams, the Healthy Lakes Project Team, the APM Planning team, and the ARPRD residents for their continuing support.
10. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Johnson, Secretary