

Minutes
ARPRD Annual Business Meeting
Amery City Hall Council Room
10:00 a.m. August 20, 2016

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 2015 Annual Meeting were approved.
5. The Treasurer's Report was approved. As of July 31, 2016, there was a balance of \$37,957.39. The harvester loan will be paid off in August 2017.
6. The Audit Committee Report from January-July 2016 was provided by Derrick Carlson and approved.
7. a. The Weed Harvesting Committee report, provided by Dale Richardson, indicated that in 2015, harvesting began on May 8 and commenced on September 9, which was 5 more days than 2014. There were 500 total loads, 137,500 cubic feet of material, and 2,244,500 pounds of materials gathered, which was down 9% from 2014 so perhaps the harvesting is making a difference. In 2016, harvesting began on May 11. As of August 15, there were 101 loads in May (down 7 loads from 2015), 144 loads in June (down 19 loads from June 2015), and 117 loads in July (up 86 loads from 2015). Harvesting has been going well with 1900 hours on the machine. Harvesting began up north where the curly leaf is the worst in May. Dale indicated that coon tail is unusually heavy this year. Dave Schleusner reported unscheduled maintenance on Sycle bar, 2 hydraulic motors rebuild, and feed apron. The harvester has made 3 rotations down the river. Dale indicated that coon tail is unusually heavy. The truck brake master cylinder needed repair and the steering hoses. Minimal days were lost due to repairs. Dale explained that the DNR permit prohibits harvesting shallower than 3 feet. It allows 25 foot channel for access in front of residences. They are free to cut curly leaf anywhere because it's an invasive species. The harvested material is taken by organic farmers and Lincoln Township. Duckweed is difficult to remove, and no good solution to remove it has been found so far. Duckweed reproduces in 6-12 hours so it is hard to manage.
- b. Dave Schleuser reported that 4 homeowners are participating in the Healthy Lakes Project for native plantings on the shorelines in an area 350 square feet as a buffer between the lawn and the water. Dragonfly Gardens provides short, medium or tall plant choices. Homeowners can log volunteer hours to cut costs. Five homeowners are interested in participating in 2017.
- c. Derrick Carlson reported on the AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) grant activities. Colin Bursik is 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 have logged 180 hours. Derrick Carlson, who has monitored 6 sites for 8 times, indicated that other than curly leaf pondweed, no other invasive species have been found. He has found Chinese mystery snails. Rusty crayfish are supposed to be in the north and south, but he hasn't found any yet. They also may not be as pesky as once thought.

d. Dale Richardson reported on the Apple River Flowage Water Quality. In 2015, the average summer secchi disk reading in the Deep Hole was 5.4 feet with water reported as clear and brown. In Deep Hole, average summer Chlorophyll was 22.6. The overall Trophic State index is 58 so the Apple River Flowage was eutrophic.

e. The APM Plan, which was written in 2011, must be updated. As part of the plan, Matt Berg and his team have conducted a weed population survey in 700 different spots, and the report will be provided in the fall.

f. Derrick Carlson reported that Polk County is working on its AIS plan.

g. ARPRD communications include a newsletter and a ARPRD website.

h. 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, Roland Peterson was elected as Chairman for the ARPRD Board of Commissioners term for 2017, 2018, and 2019.

b. The proposed 2017 Budget was approved. There was no tax increase requested for the 2017 budget. Discussion included considering when to replace the '88 harvesting truck, building a reserve if we need another harvester landing up north, asking the City of Amery and Chamber of Commerce to help, and whether to purchase or rent another harvester in the future.

c. A motion to continue the Clean Boats/Clean Water grant was approved for 2017. A motion to continue the Healthy Lakes project to provide assistance to residents for shoreline plantings was approved for 2017. The Lake Management Plan will be updated by a committee again with the assistance of Cheryl Clemens for a grant.

d. 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, and the ARPRD residents for their continuing support.

10. Concerns were expressed about weeds in between harvesting. The harvester usually takes 4 weeks before areas can be covered again. Dale Richardson showed slides of the areas of the Apple River that can be harvested by DNR permit. Another concern was ice house occupants burning refuse on the river. This is not legal, and DNR should be notified. A committee was formed to look at future purchase or rental of another harvester. Volunteers include Doug Johnson, Brian Olson, Denise Pray, and Robert Nelson.

11. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Angie Johnson, Secretary