

ARPRD NEWSLETTER ...Summer 2017

Welcome to summer 2017. It seems to be slipping past in a very rapid manner. Hopefully, this newsletter will give you an update on ARPRD activities in 2017.

Meeting:

We will hold the Annual meeting of ARPRD on August 19th, 2017. Enclosed is an official notice of this meeting.

Weed Harvesting:

We were granted a permit by the WI DNR to once again conduct weed harvesting in 2017. This is our 5th full year. The 6th year was about a one month experience, as we received the harvesting equipment in August of 2012. The operators had time to learn how the equipment functioned. You should also know we have made the final loan payment to the Bremer Bank. The 5 year loan has been closed. The equipment is now totally ours. However, since the WI Lakes Management gave us a substantial grant we must keep this machine functioning for a minimum of 10 years. We do not plan to stop harvesting....just may need more upkeep on the equipment. The plan is to continue harvesting every year for many years to come.

As you may know, every year weed harvesting is different. This year harvesting began on May 15th. They removed 72 loads/323,208 lbs. in May and 120 loads 538,680 lbs.in June. The equipment was idle from July 1 through the 4th to keep out of the way of holiday boat use. They have been working daily, but, are getting only about 3 loads per day going from early morning until late afternoon. Overall, they report that the volume is down about 35% from the same time last year. Curlyleaf Pondweed (an invasive species) was far more sparse this year, with some areas having nothing. The Curlyleaf started dropping (end of life cycle) around June 19th and was completely gone by June 22nd. Coontail, which is normally going "gangbusters" by this time, has not made a strong appearance at this time. It is present, but not its normal mess. There are patches of weeds throughout the flowage, but no volume yet. As a result, the harvester crew is working, but it takes a long time to get a load. Please know the crew operates 5 days per week. Hopefully, you will thank the crew for all their work in making the flowage a much better body of water. As of July 10th, it should be clear that 200 loads have been removed.

Clean Boats/Clean Water (CB/CW):

Once again, a team of trained boat inspectors are checking boats at the Lincoln Landing. Colin Bursik has organized a team that will work 200 hours over the summer months. They inspect boats as they come and go. This effort is supported by a grant from the WI DNR and ARPRD sharing in the costs. This is our means of keeping invasive species out of the flowage as well as not sharing our weeds and small creatures with other lakes.

The Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APM):

A team of residents of ARPRD, led by Cheryl Clemons of Harmony Environmental in Amery, has held 3 meetings to update the 2011 APM Plan. The WI DNR requires plans be updated every 5-6 years. As a result, ARPRD employed Matt Berg, Research Biologist of Endangered Resource Services of St. Croix Falls, to conduct another plant survey of the 640 acre flowage. He conducted this survey in May and July of 2016. He had also conducted an earlier survey in 2011. Based on his findings, the volunteer team revised the current APM Plan. A few modifications were made to update the plan. The survey revealed that the number of plants had not changed

significantly. The Curyleaf Pondweed was still present. What he did find was the volume of weeds has been significantly reduced. Obviously, the weed harvesting process has made an impact. Currently, the harvesting team reports it takes much longer today to get a load of weeds than it did a year or two ago. This report will be reviewed, discussed, and approved at the Annual Meeting. Copies of the report will be available for review and input. Once approved, it will be submitted to the WI DNR for final approval later this fall.

Healthy Lakes Native Shoreline Plantings:

This marks the third year for this project. There are 5 projects underway for 2017. In 2016, there were 4 projects completed. In 2015, there were 5 projects completed. As a result, at the end of 2017 there should be 14 installed shoreline native planting projects. As you tour the flowage, these projects can be seen with signs that mark their identity. What is a project? A project requires an installation of 350 sq. ft. or 10 feet by 35 feet with one side touching the water. These are labeled buffer strips. The plantings are composed of native grasses, wild flowers, trees and shrubs. All must be approved and inspected before and after installation. Dave Schleusner heads this project. There is a very low cost to the home-owner. If you have a lawn area that touches the water, you may want to consider making an installation. If you are interested in a 2018 project, you need to sign an agreement no later than the Annual Meeting. This effort is a part of ARPRD's Lake Management Plan. This is a means of reducing runoff into the Flowage. Yes, these projects are small when one considers that, for our part of the Apple River, there is an 111,000 acre watershed. Most lakes in this area have a few 100 acres as a watershed. As a result, managing the Flowage is a far more difficult task than most Districts experience.

Summary:

The ARPRD is an active organization. We hope you have and will continue to have a positive and enjoyable experience when conducting recreational, boating and fishing on the Flowage. We hope you will join us at the Annual Meeting. We need to hear your concerns and positive points.

ARPRD Board of Commissioners

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