

ARPRD Summer 2016 "Newsletter"

Greetings to all residents in the Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District (ARPRD) . This communication is long overdue. We need to inform you of the current developments in the District.

Weed Harvesting:

We were granted another permit to harvest weeds in 2016. This is our 4th full year of harvesting and the 5th year if you count our first year which was a bit more than one month. We began harvesting this year on May 11th on the area north of the highway 46 bridge. This was about two weeks earlier than our normal starting time. Curlyleaf Pondweed was abundant following a mild winter and spring. Just a reminder, Curlyleaf Pondweed is an invasive species that grows from May until about mid-July. If we do not get it then it goes to seed and adds to our problem. A total of 101 loads were harvested during that 14 day period in May. This resulted in about 453,389 pounds being harvested. In June, the team worked its way over the entire flowage at least once. A total of 144 loads were harvested in the 20 days of operation and about 646,416 pounds being hauled away. There were some days lost due to maintenance needs and adverse weather.

At this point in July, the team has covered the flowage three times. You may still be experiencing weed issues but it is not because the team is not trying to keep the channel areas an access areas open. They can be very discouraged when they clear an area and the next morning it appears they did nothing. Please know they are working hard to reduce the weed problem. The team consists of Dale Richardson Head of Harvesting Operations, Dave Schluesner Head Operator, Dean Swanson, Wayne Jones, Reggie Schluesner and Gary Utecht as operators. Please know the equipment is being used heavily so they do experience breakdowns and must make repairs.

We will be making our final loan payment on the harvester in August of 2017. We hope that is "good news". We do need to "Thank" this team for all they do to keep the flowage useable.

Clean Boats/ Clean Water:

A trained team of boat inspectors is functioning regularly at the Lincoln Landing. Colin Bursik heads this team. They check boats for any invasive species. They will work at least 200 hours over the summer months. They report checking over 100 boats and have only had one person refuse to cooperate. This effort is funded by a DNR Grant. Costs are shared by the DNR and ARPRD.

Healthy Lakes Native Shoreline Plantings:

This project is also funded by a grant from the WIDNR Healthy Lakes Project. This is our second year into this effort. In 2015, five projects were installed. You can see them as you travel the flowage. They are all marked with large signs. This project requires a 350 sq. ft. area (10'x35') and one side MUST touch the water. In 2016, four projects are being installed. This project requires a very low investment by the land owner. The purpose is to improve wildlife habitat, natural beauty and privacy, and decrease runoff. Native plantings include grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees. In 2017, our plan is to install 4 more projects. If you are interested, you need to contact Dave Schluesner, who leads this effort. If you have a lawn area that goes to the water's edge you may want to install a project. You need to sign an agreement no later than our Annual Meeting on August 20th. This whole effort is a part of the objectives of our Lake

Management Plan we developed a couple of years ago to show all of those in the 111,000 acre watershed that we are working at reducing runoff and enhancing wildlife habitat among flowage residents. Our effort was featured in the **June 2016** issue of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine (wnrmag.com) pages 4-6. You will see how this effort fits into making the flowage a healthier body of water.

Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APM):

A two-year effort is underway to update the 2011 APM Plan which was approved in the fall of 2011. This is the plan that launched us into the purchase of the weed harvester as the only real means we had to control weed growth which had become “out-of-control”. The DNR requires us to update the plan every five years. This spring and summer Matt Berg and his crew from Endangered Resource Services have been taking samples of aquatic plant growth over the entire 640 acre body of water. They will report their findings of all species (kinds and numbers) this fall. Their findings will become the basis for updating our APM Plan which must be done in 2017. If called upon, we hope you will help us with the new plan. Our harvesting team says they must take more time to get a load of weeds than when we first started harvesting. It will be interesting to see if harvesting is impacting the weed count.

Annual Business Meeting:

We have set the date and time for our 2016 Annual Meeting. It will be Saturday August 20th at 10:00 a.m. in the Amery City Hall “Council Room”. We hope you will join to get a first- hand view of what is happening in the Apple River Flowage.

Summary:

We hope this newsletter is helpful in learning what is taking place in this organization. We hope you see that the ARPRD is working to make the flowage better. Unlike many lakes in Wisconsin, the 111,000 acre watershed causes us more problems and issues than most have to address. Many lakes have only a few hundred acres of watershed. Hope you will join us in August. In the meantime, we also hope you enjoy fishing, recreation and boating on the flowage.

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