

An Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District (ARPRD)

Newsletter

Spring 2012

To All ARPRD Residents...

The ARPRD has been very active during the past few months. We want to share with you things that are taking place to date.

ANNUAL MEETING...please mark your calendars for August 25th 2012 for this annual event. We will send you more details later.

Activities:

This is the latest information on our activities since the annual meeting last August. **First**, the Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APM) which you all approved was submitted to the DNR in mid September. We received the notice that it had been approved by the DNR in about mid November. That was good news and gave us confidence to move ahead with plans to implement the goals outlined in the plan. **Second**, two committees were formed and they have been working.

A. A "Harvester Purchasing Committee" was formed. Dale Richardson is the Chr. Members are Tom Dunn, Richard Goulet, Doug Greene, Doug Johnson This committee has studied weed harvesting equipment, sought bids form 3 manufacturers and have made a recommendation to the ARPRD Board on a harvester they feel is best for us..

B. A "Harvester Operations Committee" was formed and John Dressen is the Chr. Members are John Hayes, Gale Tappe, Jim Johnson, Dave Schleusner, Doug Johnson. This committee has worked out a cooperative arrangement with the City of Amery to manage the payroll for employees, store equipment during the off season, and seek assistance with trucking as well as use of the dump site for waste material being harvested when those who want the material cannot take it away when it is harvested. They have a list of businesses, farmers and others who want the harvested materials. The committee has studied sites as to where the harvester may be able to unload materials into waiting trucks. They will identify people who will be trained to operate the harvesting equipment. They will also manage the fuel and lubricants needed as well as repairs if necessary.

Third, the following three grant applications have been prepared and submitted to help carry out the APM Plan:

#1."Improve Water Quality in the Flowage". We have worked cooperatively with the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department. They submitted a grant which was approved for \$19,390.97. This effort focuses on Goal #1 to determine various water quality issues. **Please read the attached information sheet from Jeremy Williamson and Katelin Holm. We will need volunteers to help carry out various tasks which Jeremy and Katelin will lead.**

#2 "Prevent the Introduction of Aquatic Species" The ARPRD submitted an grant application to address this issue. We already have 344 acres of Curly leaf Pondweed and do not want any more problems like this one. The grant was awarded for \$9,000. This will be referred

to as the “Clean Boats, Clean Water” effort. Individuals will be trained to check boats at the public boat landings during the busy season.

#3. “Purchasing Harvesting Equipment” This grant is aimed at maintaining navigation for boating, fishing and other recreational activities on the flowage. The ARPRD has submitted a grant application to the Waterways Commission. Chr. Peterson will be attending the Commission meeting in early April. We are hoping this request will also be awarded. This has been difficult to pursue because we were informed that the Commission had spent all its funds for this fiscal year. We tried to find equipment for rental and everything has failed either the equipment we sought became unavailable or the rental fee was too expensive. Recently, we were informed there may be funds available so our application is in and we will keep you informed if we are successful in getting a grant for the harvesting equipment. Our financial plan for purchasing the equipment seems to be in order with the bank in Amery.

We hope you will bear with us as we try to implement a plan to manage a huge weed problem. If all goes well we would hope to have our harvester operating by mid summer. We also expect you will see activities taking place around the water quality and prevention of more invasive species happening this summer.

Please watch our website (arprd.org/) for the latest development. We will also be sending you another newsletter within the next few weeks.

Sincerely,
The ARPRD Board
Roland Peterson
Deb Lein
Angie Johnson
Dave Myer
Jay Luke