

***Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District (ARPRD) Newsletter
Spring 2013 (May)***

To: All ARPRD Residents

Will winter 2012-2103 ever end? This has been a very long and nasty winter. Hard to deal with more snow...even in May! Our 640 acre lake is a bit open but it appears things will be a bit delayed this year.

The 2013 activities are underway. The following paragraphs should bring you up-to-date:

Harvesting Operations:

The Wisconsin DNR has approved our application to harvest in 2013. The Operations Team is performing some minor upkeep and maintenance practices on the equipment. They are installing a new GPS which will make harvesting movements more accurate and efficient. They are preparing to launch the harvesting operations as soon as the appropriate time arrives. The starting date was set for about mid-May. Please note that date may be delayed a bit. The operators will be watching the growth of Curlyleaf Pondweed (an invasive species) which covers about 300+ acres in the flowage). When it is ready to be harvested, they will begin to operate on a full-time basis. Please note that Curlyleaf Pondweed naturally dies about July 1. At that point, the harvesting operations will focus on Coontail, Duckweed and other plants that seem to have overtaken us in the past years. Hopefully, you can soon watch harvesting underway.

Water Quality:

As you may know, we have a committee of residents who are working on an Apple River Flowage Lake Management Plan. This plan is focused around developing a set of goals to improve the quality of the water in the flowage. This effort is focused on Goal #1 of the overall plan which you approved at the Annual meeting in 2011. This plan is under development by the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department. Jeremy Williamson and Kaitlin Holms are leading this effort. The ARPRD is deeply engaged in cooperating with the development of this plan. The proposed plan will be brought to you at the 2013 Annual meeting for your approval. The plan will then go to the Wisconsin DNR for final approval. If you are wondering what will be in this plan we will briefly explain, first some of you returned questionnaires which gathered our opinions and thoughts about the water quality and practices we are doing on our properties....that is all presented in the plan. Jeremy and Kaitlin have conducted extensive nutrient studies in many sites including creeks that flow into the flowage, their data is present in the plan. The plan is creating a series of goals which will guide us over the coming years to continue various way and means to improve water quality. The vision is to have the Apple River Flowage to be a healthy body of water with appropriate nutrient levels which support recreational uses and a diverse population of fish, wildlife and native plants. **You will be asked to approve this plan at the 2013 annual meeting.**

Clean Boats / Clean Water:

We will be continuing to develop activities around this grant which began last year. This effort focuses on preventing invasive species from coming into the flowage. We already have Curlyleaf Pondweed, we do not want others. You will see boats being checked. We hope to do other activities to continually monitor growth in the water. We will be working with

neighboring districts to stay on top of this threat. If anyone is interested in being a volunteer who regularly monitors the flowage, please let us know. We can use your help.

Activities for 2013:

Please note the following:

1. We will be having an ***Annual Cleanup Day on Saturday June 1st starting at 10:00 a.m. from Lincoln Landing.*** We will bring our pontoons and boats. We aim to spread out all over the flowage and pickup junk, broken docks, and other unsightly materials. If you have old broken down boats and junk on your property, would you consider removing it? Come prepared to get wet and dirty. Please call Roland Peterson at 763-571-4835 or email at peter015@umn.edu if you can help.
2. Attend the **Annual meeting of ARPRD to be held on Saturday August 24th at 10:00 a.m. in the Amery City Hall Council Room. (Note, the Bremer Bank room is no longer available)**
3. The ARPRD Board of Directors will meet on Saturday July 27th at 10:00 a.m. in the Ida Mae Café's Conference Room. We will set the agenda for the annual meeting and prepare a proposed 2014 budget for the annual meeting.

Hope this gives you an update on ARPRD activities. We are trying to make things better.

You can keep up-to-date on the ARPRD website which is...arprd.org

Have a great spring and summer. Hopefully we can all enjoy the Apple River Lake/ Flowage or whatever...that 640 acre body of water that touches our properties

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