

**ARPRD Annual Business Meeting MINUTES**  
**Bremer Bank Community Room, Amery, WI**  
**August 25, 2012 at 10 a.m.**

1. Chairman Roland Peterson welcomed the group and announced that the meeting notice had been published in the Amery Free Press on August 14 and August 21<sup>st</sup>. According to the sign-up sheets, forty-eight residents attended the meeting.
2. Chairman Roland Peterson called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and set the agenda.
3. The minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting were approved.
4. The Audit Committee's Report was presented by John Dressen and approved.
5. The Treasurer's Report indicated a balance of \$2,814.78 to date and was approved.
6. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Chairman Peterson reported on the purchased Weed Harvester Equipment:

a. Harvester 1- HM-420 Aquatic Plant Harvester.....	\$114,600.00
b. Trailer 1- TR-23 Standard Trailer.....	\$ 13,030.00
c. Conveyor 1- S/C-23 Shoreline Conveyor.....	\$ <u>25,950.00</u>
	Total.....\$153,580.00
d. Truck.....	\$ <u>5,200.00</u>
	Total.....\$158,780.00

Chairman Peterson also provided information on the financing. The Wisconsin Waterways Commission approved the grant, which will provide \$65,780. The Apple River Association donated \$5,000. The bank loan will provide \$82,760, and ARPRD donated \$40. The total is \$153,580. The mil rate will remain the same as 2012 at 1.25 or \$44,000.

B. Dale Richardson reported on the Harvester Operations:

\* Operators are Dave Schleusner and Wayne Jones with two backup drivers of Dale Richardson and Gale Tappe. All have been trained. The harvester will operate 8 hours a day five days a week with weather permitting from May to October. Operations started August 9 at the Birch Street Landing and the North Park area, moving up to the Lincoln Landing and the Cameron Bridge area. The harvester is currently operating north of the Highway 46 bridge. The DNR permit allows clearing the channel 50 feet wide and selected areas for access to the flowage. Because of the paddlewheels, the harvester cannot get too close to docks and must have 1 ½ foot water depth. The harvester is 16 feet wide and travels two miles an hour. The plans for 2013 will be to start in early spring above the Hwy 46 bridge and then move south to get a jump on the Curly Leaf Pondweed. Over time, the native plants should come back. A GPS to be purchased will help operators know exactly what's been cut to save time and money.

\* Unloading sites include an area east of the 46 Bridge at Apple River Resort, just north of Cameron Bridge on East Bank, the main access, North Park in Amery, the Birch Street access, and the Bowles property. One more place between Birch Street and the Lincoln Landing is especially needed. Residents are asked to contact Dale Richardson at 715.268.4061 if they are willing to offer their place for unloading. To date, 66 loads of weeds have been removed, which is approximately 300,000 pounds of weeds or 130 ton.

\* Numerous weed disposal sites have been identified such as the Dragonfly Nursery so disposal will not be a problem. Selling it does not seem worth the trouble.

\* Site preparations included the Bowles property above the Hwy 46 bridge area.

C. Chairman Peterson reviewed the Board of Commissioners' action to not accept the lowest bid. The Board approval did not exceed the lowest bid by 20%. In fact, the bid accepted was only about 7.5% above the lowest bid; therefore, the board was well within the low bid rule of the bylaws. However, the board did want to share the reasons they followed not to accept the lowest bid:

The Purchasing Committee recommended a slightly higher bid than the lowest bid for the following reasons (note 2 members also visited the manufacturing sites of the 2 lowest bids)

1. Aquarius Systems is a well-established, very reputable company with a long history in manufacturing weed harvesting equipment. The site is very orderly, and the firm continually seeks ways to be more efficient and serve their customers well. They are selling and have sold equipment all across the USA as well as many countries in the world. They have a very strong reputation.
2. This was the only bidder that provided some assistance with duckweed harvesting. (None of the other bidding companies have that ability.)
3. They carry a full supply of repair parts and daily deliveries if needed.
4. All contacts with this company by other customers reported they have not experienced problems.
5. The machines have 2 unique features if obstacles are hit during operations: first, there is some spring-loaded release at the cutter bar; and, second, there is also a spring-loaded release of the entire cutter bar assembly if objects are encountered.
6. The equipment will be delivered within 90 days of the order, which is about mid-July to early August depending on the exact date of the order.

D. Katelin Holm and Jeremy Williamson gave an update on the "Water Quality Project" as ARPRD is cooperating with the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department to address our Goal #1 in the plan with a grant of \$19,390.97. Water quality testing is occurring biweekly at 2 sites for physical/chemical data and at 6 tributary flow sites. Monthly data collection includes chemistry, metals, zooplankton, algae, and chlorophyll a. A comprehensive data report will be available next year. Volunteers Dale Richardson and Norval Doddridge are tracking lake levels and precipitation. The sociological survey for public input was mailed in June with 89/225 returned for a response rate of 40%. Education opportunities include a pontoon classroom on 9/12/12 at 10 a.m. and a future shoreline restoration workshop. Volunteers are needed for a shoreline survey this fall to identify sensitive areas, erosion issues, and fish habitat with a training scheduled for 9/10/12 at 10 a.m. Those who signed up will be notified with details. Contact is Katelin Holm if interested. End products include meeting with the water quality committee to set goals, objectives, and action items. The final plan is necessary for future grants and as a roadmap for decision making.

E. Bob Strobush reported his 2011 water quality findings. The average July-August secchi disk reading for the Apple River Flowage, Deep Hole was 5 feet. Typically, the summer water was reported as murky and brown, suggesting that the secchi depth may have been mostly impacted by suspended sediments, tiny particles of soil or organic matter

that are suspended in the water. The Chemistry data from the Deep Hole indicated average summer chlorophyll was 16.8. The summer Total Phosphorus was 101. The overall Trophic State Index for the Deep Hole was 56, suggesting that the Deep Hole was eutrophic. The Trophic State Index Graph with data from 1986 was included.

F. Chairman Peterson read a report from Steve Schieffer on the "Clean Boats/ Clean Water" Aquatic Invasive Species grant, which was received to address our Goal #2. Activities in 2012 included the monitoring of the landing north of Amery off Highway 46 by six Amery High School students at various times such as Memorial Day weekend and other weekends in the early morning on the weekends when use was high. The last monitoring time will be Labor Day weekend. The monitors made contact with each vehicle launching boats, inspecting the boat and trailer as well as asking them questions about their knowledge of AIS as well as previous lakes they had visited. They also offered to inspect their boat/trailer for plants after they took the boat out while reminding them to leave bait and any bilge/live well water before going to another lake. The final data will be tabulated and by forwarded to the Apple River District and the Wisconsin DNR when completed. The students have worked a total of 155 hours at the landing to date. Educational flyers were distributed. Because it is a two-year grant, activities will continue in 2013.

G. Chairman Peterson indicated that residents should contact Gale Tappe from the ARPRD Design Team about the procedures for individual corridor cleanup.

H. An election for a new Treasurer was held, and Billie Jo Schleusner was elected.

I. The 2013 budget was unanimously approved with total revenue at \$89,983.12, total expenses at \$65,738.12, and an expected balance of \$24,245.00.

J. Chairman Peterson recognized Deb Lein for 8 years of service as Treasurer and presented gifts of appreciation to Deb Lein and former secretary Peg Pechacek.

K. Chairman Peterson recognized members who have served in many capacities

**Dale Richardson, Purchasing Team:** Tom Dunn, Richard Goulet, Doug Greene, Doug Johnson, John Dressen

**John Dressen, Operations Team:** John Hays, Gale Tappe, Dave Schleusner, Jim Johnson, Doug Johnson, Dale Richardson

**Gale Tappe, ARPRD Design Team:** Dave Schleusner

L. Chairman Peterson also recognized others who have given much help and support: Cheryl Clemens, Jeremy Williamson and Katelin Holm from Polk County LWRD, and Steve Schieffer

M. Chairman Peterson thanked the Apple River Association (ARA) and Peter Henry, President, for their \$5,000 donation for the Weed Harvester purchase.

N. Chairman Peterson thanked all ARPRD residents for their interest and support as we begin to implement our plan to manage the weed growth in the flowage in a responsible manner. Audience member Doug Johnson thanked Chairman Peterson for his leadership and his many hours of service.

7. Chairman Peterson adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Angie Johnson, Secretary