

**NEWSLETTER.....Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District (ARPRD)
Summer 2014 (June)**

To: ALL ARPRD RESIDENTS

It appears WINTER 2013-14 was THE real challenge for all who hung around this area. It was cold, it was frozen, it was snowing all the time, it was flat out miserable and seemed to last forever! The 640 acre Apple River Flowage seemed to survive thanks to moving water. Once again plant growth seemed to be totally hampered. However, it is now in full growth. It appears to have started a bit late but it came to life fast.

We want to share a bit about the 2014 activities of ARPRD which are now underway in a full blast. Hopefully this newsletter will bring you up-to-date. Apparently the cold winter slowed "OLD Pete" down so he could not get the newsletter going earlier. Sorry about that, so here it is...

Harvesting Operations:

The Wisconsin DNR approved our application to harvest in 2014. The Harvesting Team, led by Dale Richardson and his right-hand man Dave Schleusner, have things clicking along. Just a reminder, we began harvesting in August of 2012, we had a full season in 2013. Hopefully, you can start to see some early results as we launch into year number three. Hopefully, several full years will start to produce the end result of well managed aquatic plants and a quality Apple River Flowage. We have a great crew working on the task of controlling the 300 + acres of Curly Leaf Pondweed at this time. As you know, that plant dies about July 1st so we need to harvest it as much as possible to prevent it from going to seed. After this first battle, they will attack the tons of Coontail and Duckweed that seem to make their annual appearance as they float along the channels. As you know last year the crew harvested 1,648,640 pounds (824 tons) of weed material....that could be resting on the bottom and releasing its nutrients back into the water. We owe a huge thank you to the crew, for a job well done. They are an excellent team. They keep the harvesting equipment going well every day.

Why The Harvesting Operation?

As you may recall, we were not allowed to continue spraying the weeds due to the fact that we did not have an approved Aquatic Plant Management Plan. The DNR approved our plan in the fall of 2011 and we were underway. Another reminder, the Aquatic Plant Management Plan contained 5 objectives. These objectives launched the ARPRD into developing a plan of action. Objective #1 focused on improving the water quality of the flowage as well as downstream. This was done by using practices to control Curly Leaf Pondweed and other out-of-control species to limit nutrient input from the vegetation dieback. Objective #2 was to prevent the introduction of invasive species. We applied for and received a \$9,000 grant (AIS) to launch a "Clean Boats/ Clean Water" program. With the help of Amery High school students under the supervision of Mr. Steve Schieffer (Amery H. S. biology teacher) we are checking boats at the Lincoln landing on busy weekends as well as periodically monitoring the water during the summer months for any invasive species. We can use trained volunteers to fill in the schedule when the students cannot be present. Objective #3 zeroed in on maintaining navigation channels for fishing and boating and other water uses. This led us to the purchase of the harvesting equipment which also helps to meet all the objectives in the plan. Objective #4 addressed the issue of maintaining native aquatic plant functions. Healthy lakes require appropriate native plants.

Objective #5 stated to minimize environmental impacts of aquatic plant management. Hopefully, you are beginning to see the results of managing the abundance of plant growth.

The Lake Management Plan:

Every lake in Wisconsin also needs an approved Lake Management Plan. You approved our plan at the 2013 ARPRD Annual meeting last August. We submitted the plan and it was approved by the DNR late in November of 2013. This plan was developed by Jeremy Williamson and Katlin Holm of the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department along with a team of ARPRD residents as well as some outside experts. We have a huge amount of data in this plan regarding nutrient levels from across the Apple River Watershed. This plan has 8 objectives. They are addressing ways and means to greatly improve the quality of the water in the flowage. To implement this plan is going to require a great deal of assistance from many sources including funding grants to carry-out the requirements outlined. Also, we will need many of you to serve on teams to help us carry-out the many projects. The objectives will quickly give you a look at what we need to get underway. Objective #1 states "Reduce the excessive watershed nutrient inputs to the flowage to improve water quality". Objective #2 states "Minimize the release of nutrients from within the Apple River Flowage to improve water quality". Objective #3 states "Protect, maintain and enhance fish and wildlife habitat". Objective #4 states "Maintain and enhance the natural beauty of the Apple River Flowage". Objective #5 states "Evaluate the progress of lake management efforts through monitoring and data collection". Objective #6 states "Provide information and educational opportunities to residents and users". Objective #7 states "Develop partnerships with a diversity of people and organizations". Objective #8 states "Implement the Aquatic Plant Management Plan". Yes, we have a challenge before us. We need to take this one step at a time. We hope you see that by getting the Aquatic Plant Management Plan going via harvesting we are also assisting with the Lake Management Plan. **We will need many volunteers to help us in these next stages of making the Apple River Flowage better.**

Activities for 2014:

1. Conduct an effective aquatic plant harvest from late may until September.
2. Begin to formulate committees and teams to launch the LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN. We will need consultant assistance as well as many residents who are willing to serve on committees and teams. We have some leaders ...need many members of those teams.
3. We are **not** going to have a "**Clean-up day**" this spring. We are asking all of us to look at our shorelines and remove any old broken docks or other structures as well as any debris that has accumulated. We all need to work at beautifying the flowage throughout the summer.
4. We plan to hold a Board of Commissioners meeting on Saturday July 19th to set the agenda and approve a proposed budget for 2015. 10:00 a.m. Ida Mae's back room
5. We plan to hold the **ARPRD ANNUAL Meeting on Saturday August 23rd in the Amery City Hall Council Room (10:00 a.m.)**. Please come prepared to serve on teams and committees. You can begin thinking about serving on the AIS Committee (Aquatic Invasive Species), Watershed Committee, Education Committee, Fish Committee...we may have more.

See you in August. Have a great summer. Enjoy the Apple River Flowage.

The ARPRD Board of Commissioners...Roland Peterson Chr. Angie Johnson Secretary