

MINUTES
ARPRD Annual Business Meeting
Amery City Hall Council Room
10:00 a.m. on August 18, 2018

1. Chairman Roland Peterson welcomed all ARPRD residents.
2. Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order and set the Agenda.
3. The official notice of the meeting was posted twice in the Amery Free Press.
4. The Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting were approved.
5. The Treasurer's Report was approved. As of July 31, 2018, there was a balance of \$41,820.57.
6. The Audit Committee Report from January-July 2018, which indicated everything balanced, was provided by Derrick Carlson and approved.
7. a. The Weed Harvesting Committee report, provided by Dale Richardson with a detailed PowerPoint presentation, reported that this past week the coontail exploded, and they have been hitting it hard in the main channel. Dale indicated that in 2017, harvesting began May 15, and they harvested for 71 days until September 5. There were 368 loads removed with 101,200 cubic feet of material, which was 1,651,952 pounds of material. This amount was down 65% from 2016. In 2018, harvesting began May 21 on the north end (6 days later because of the cold, late spring); they harvested all day with only one load compared to many loads in previous years. The harvester was parked for a week, and there was only one load again when harvesting again on May 29. The May total was only 15 loads, compared to 57 loads last year. In June, the total loads were 82, which is down 38 loads from the year before. In July, the total loads were 116, which is down 1 load from year before. For the first half of August, there have been 62 loads, which is up 5 loads from the year before. The harvester is running the same hours as last year, but it is taking longer to get full loads. The graphs from over the years show that harvesting is making a difference. In the areas that are harvested, the weeds have been significantly reduced. Weather does have an impact. In 2018, spring was late so we had less Curlyleaf. Then in June, Coontail came in early because of the heat. Dale showed pictures from June 22, 2018 in area north of the Hwy. 46 bridge to show the weeds are sparse in the channel where they have been harvesting. In the area where they are not harvesting, weeds are still growing vigorously. The equipment and truck are doing well, and we haven't had any major issues for 6 years. Minor issues such as water in fuel tank, engine fuel leak and hydraulic leaks have been fixed; Dave Schleusner's mechanical abilities are much appreciated. They haven't lost a day of harvesting this year because of equipment issues. Dale built a new walkway and steps for the trailer for safety. Another resident said he appreciated the plastic jugs that mark the 100 foot channel in the main section.
 - b. Roland Peterson read a report from Sam Schieffer on the Clean Boats/Clean Water grant in which students are paid for activities such as checking boats and monitoring at the Lincoln Landing. In order to find students, the pay was increased to \$12 an hour. Things are running smoothly with good weekend coverage with no problems, and they should achieve the required 200 hours by end of August. One resident had a question about duckweed. You should clean it the best you can from your boats before transporting. Phosphorus causes more duckweed so reducing phosphorus would help.
 - c. Dave Schleusner provided an update on the 2018 Healthy Lakes Projects of 5 buffer strips. Things are going well, and someone from Duluth is coming to help residents with the projects Aug. 27-28. We will have a total of 18 projects as of this year.
 - d. Roland Peterson and Dave Schleusner were asked to speak at the N.W. Wisconsin Lakes Conference on June 22, 2018. They provided a copy of their handout, which included details

about the flowage, the Aquatic Plant Management Plans, Lake Management Plan, harvesting, and the Healthy Lakes Projects. The DNR has been happy with our efforts and provides help.

e. Roland Peterson reported on the payroll status and Workman's Compensation Insurance. The City of Amery had been handling it for us, but starting in 2018 we needed to handle it ourselves. Carlson CV is handling payroll for the harvester employees and the Clean Boats/Clean Water Inspection Team members. Bremer Bank assisted in helping us obtain Workman's Compensation for employees at a reasonable rate (\$508).

f. Dale Richardson reported about the Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR) meeting on June 20, 2018, where information was provided about alum treatment to help reduce the amount of nutrient phosphorus; however, it doesn't work for rivers and is costly.

g. Dale Richardson reported on the Apple River Flowage Water Quality. In 2017, the average summer secchi disk reading in the Deep Hole was 6.8 feet with water reported as clear and brown (tannic because of forests). In the Deep Hole, average summer Chlorophyll was 10.5. The Total Phosphorus average was 74. The overall Trophic State index in the Deep Hole was 53 so the Apple River Flowage was eutrophic. He sends samples monthly to Madison.

h. Regarding Aquatic Invasive Species, Derrick Carlson, who will have taken 72 samples by the end of the season, indicated that things look good. He ran a sample to Balsam Lake that checked out as native milfoil, but it is okay as it is native. We have no Zebra Mussels or Eurasian Water-milfoil. Bryozoans (clear, jellyfish-looking animals) are native and of no concern. He asks residents to continue to watch your docks for zebra mussels and also for Starry Stonewort, a new invasive species, and report any concerns to Derrick Carlson.

i. The website ARPRD.org can be accessed for information about ARPRD activities.

8. Action Items:

- a. By unanimous ballot, Billie Jo Schleusner was elected as Treasurer for the ARPRD Board of Commissioners term for 2019, 2020, and 2021.
 - b. A motion for an application for permission to harvest weeds in 2019, to apply for a Healthy Lakes Shoreline Buffer Strips project grant to provide assistance to residents for shoreline plantings, and to apply for a Clean Boats/Clean Water grant in 2019 was approved.
 - c. The proposed 2019 Budget was approved. There was no tax increase requested for the 2019 budget. A Capital Improvement Fund for any future needs was included. We are not eligible for another harvester grant for 10 years; we're at 7 years now.
9. Concerns and questions included if the next Aquatic Plant Management Plan could consider options such as use of chemicals or dredging when it is written; the next Water Plan Committee would have to consider what to put in the plan. Another asked whom to ask about the lower water level this year; for questions about water level, contact the City of Amery. Another concern was if something could be done about people not observing the No Wake Zone; the Board could consider putting a reminder about the No Wake Zone in next newsletter and on the ARPRD website. A question was also asked about the harvesting effect on fishing; Dale said they pop the larger fish off the harvester; the very small fish remain, but there are many, many of them. They leave some weeds and lily pads for the fish. Fishermen report the fishing seems better, and it's easier to find the fish at the edge of weeds.
10. Residents were positive about the effects of the harvesting on the river.
11. Chairman Peterson recognized and thanked all who have helped the ARPRD, including the Weed Harvesting Operation Team, the Clean Boats/Clean Water Inspection Team, the Healthy Lakes Team, and the ARPRD residents for their continuing support.
12. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Angie Johnson, Secretary