

## **APPLE RIVER PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT (ARPRD)**

### **Newsletter- Summer 2018**

Greetings for summer 2018. ARPRD has existed for 43 years. We hope this will be a positive year for the Apple River Flowage (Lake)(River). It seems it has been a very different winter, and now we are experiencing a very different summer. This newsletter is meant to give you an update on ARPRD activities in 2018.

#### **Meetings:**

We will be holding the Annual Meeting of ARPRD on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Amery City Hall. Enclosed is an official notice of this event. Also, watch for details in the Amery Free Press.

### **ACTIVITIES in 2018**

#### **Weed Harvesting:**

Once again, we were granted a permit to harvest weeds (aquatic plants) in 2018 by the Wisconsin DNR. This is our 7<sup>th</sup> year of harvesting, which began in August of 2012. The following data will give you a picture of our efforts to reduce the volume of weeds in the flowage:

2012-removed 112 loads in 22 days

2013-removed 566 loads

2014-removed 513 loads

2015-removed 500 loads

2016-removed 564 loads

2017-removed 368 loads; this was 65% less than the previous year's total even though we operated more hours and burned more diesel fuel than previous years

2018-removed 97 loads though the end of June. This is about half the amount of weeds harvested last year during the same period.

**It should be noted when we began harvesting we could get a load in less than an hour. Today it takes more than 2 hours to get a load. Could it be we are having an impact? Recently, the operators reported working 10.5 hours and getting 3 loads.**

**When we refer to loads, what does that mean? Our harvester holds 275 cubic feet (or 10 cubic yards) of weed materials, which weighs about 4,480 pounds per load. If you want to calculate a total, it appears a huge quantity of weeds no longer rests on the bottom of the flowage where it decays and releases the nutrients back into the water.**

We hope you are thankful to the operators who go from early morning 5 days per week removing weedy plant materials. Please know that the DNR restricts where we can harvest once the Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP) (an invasive species) has disappeared, which is from mid-June to about July 1; this varies every year depending on the winter weather. The Flowage is about 640 acres, and at the last survey in 2016, it was determined we had about 380 acres of CLP. The operators say CLP was not so widespread this year. Once the CLP is gone, the operators must stay primarily in the channels (25', 50', or 100' widths). Also, residents can make hand removal of weeds within 30' of their docks.

We are now into the Coontail weed season and that is what you see floating around. We hope you appreciate the work of the ARPRD Harvesting Team.

**Clean Boats Clean Water (CBCW):** We have been working on the Clean Boats Clean Water Project for several years. This is a statewide effort to prevent invasive species (plants Eurasian Milfoil and animals like Zebra Mussels) from coming onto the flowage. This year Steve Schieffer has organized a team of boat inspectors who work the Lincoln Landing. They will work a minimum of 200 hours this summer. They inspect watercraft as they come and go from the Flowage. This project is supported by a grant from the WIDNR and ARPRD sharing the costs. It is our hope that this effort will keep the Flowage clear of invasive species.

**Healthy Lakes (Native Shoreline Buffer Strips) Project:** 2018 is our 4<sup>th</sup> year in this project. Our “Lakes Management Plan” approved by the DNR in 2016 has several goals, but Goals One and Two state that we aim to 1. Reduce excessive watershed nutrient input, and 2. Minimize the release of nutrients from the flowage. **It was felt that we need to show we are doing something to prevent nutrient movement into the flowage before we begin to ask others to create buffer strips or other practices to reduce nutrient input. You should note that the Apple River Flowage (our 640 acre lake) has a watershed of 125,000 acres. This is a huge watershed with many creeks and streams flowing in as well as the river, which flows through White Ash Lake. We hope you can see many chances for nutrients to move into the flowage. As a result, we began the process of installing Native Planting Buffer Strips on residents’ property. To date here are the results:**

2015- 5 Native Planting Buffer Strips were installed

2016- 4 Native Planting Buffer strips were installed

2017- 4 Native Planting Buffer Strips were installed

2018- 5 Native Planting Buffer strips are to be installed.

That is a total of **18** by the close of 2018

**Size:** The buffer strips are 350 sq. ft. 10” x 35’ and must be parallel or perpendicular to the lakeshore edge

**Cost:** The cost per resident is \$200. The average installation cost is \$1,200. The DNR grant we obtained provides 75% of the cost. ARPRD shares in the costs not covered. **Whom to contact?** Contact Dave Schleusner, the chief harvesting machine operator, at bschleusner@yahoo.com.

### **Summary:**

Hope you have a great summer on the 640-acre lake/river flowage called the Apple River. We also hope to see you at the Annual meeting.

### **ARPRD Board of Commissioners:**

Roland Peterson, Chair

Angie Johnson, Secretary

Billie Jo Schleusner, Treasurer

Jay Luke, Polk County Representative

Paul Isakson, City of Amery Representative