

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

### **Newsletter – Summer 2019**

Once again, we want to share events taking place on the Apple River Flowage for 2019. It appears we are experiencing another unpredictable year. We hope you are able to use our lake...river...flowage for many uses. This newsletter is hopefully our means to communicate activities for ARPRD. Just a reminder, this is the 44<sup>th</sup> year of ARPRD's existence.

#### **Meetings:**

The Board of Commissioners will be holding a meeting on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> in the Amery Public Library at 10:00 a.m.

The Annual Meeting for ARPRD will be held on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Amery City Hall Council Room. Notice of this meeting will be posted in the Amery Free Press. All ARPRD residents are invited.

### **ACTIVITIES for 2019**

#### **Weed Harvesting:**

This is year number 8 for our weed harvesting operation. If you recall, we began in August of 2012. As we reported in last year's newsletter, the following data reflect the 8 years of a committed effort to reduce the weed population in the flowage. We do want to recognize the men who have made these 8 years really function. Dale Richardson and Dave Schluesner have kept the equipment functioning and working most every day each week. We are extremely fortunate to have these 2 men who have made a full commitment to make this harvesting effort work. We are confident the data reveals that their efforts are paying off in a huge way. A quick look at the following data will present some clear evidence:

2012...removed 112 loads in 22 days

2013...removed 566 loads in a full season

2014... removed 513 loads in a full season

2015...removed 500 loads in a full season

2016...removed 564 loads in a full season

2017...removed 368 loads in a full season

2018...removed 351 loads in a full season

2019...have removed 113 loads through the end of June

Just a reminder...a load means 275 cubic feet or 10 cubic yards of weed materials. A load weighs about 4,480 pounds. Just a further reminder, a substantial quantity of weed materials no longer rest on the bottom of our 640 acre lake. Also know that when the weed materials rest on the bottom, they decay and release nutrients back into the water. In the early days, they could get a load in less than an hour more like 20-30 minutes. Today it may take 2-3 hours to obtain a load. We hope you will appreciate the work of our harvesting team. **Please note, the following paragraph has some key bits of information:**

**As you may know, the weeds that appear early are Curlyleaf Pondweed, an invasive species, and we are allowed to harvest them most anywhere we can find them and have the time and resources to harvest them. As the season progresses, the Curlyleaf begins to die off, and Coontail, a native species, starts to takeover. This usually occurs around late June and early July. At this time, we are only allowed to maintain navigation channels and certain public areas. These "navigation" channels are fairly self-evident in most areas of the flowage. We are allowed to maintain a 25' wide channel near the shoreline in populated areas for local boat navigation. We are also allowed to maintain "access" channels that connect the "navigation" channels to the "main" channels, which are in the middle of the flowage and are usually obvious to those who use the flowage. THERE IS ONE EXCEPTION in the large 'lake area' east of Hwy 46 and southeast of the Hwy 46 bridge. In this area there is no obvious "main channel". We have been approved by the DNR to indicate the "main (100') channel" with markers. This helps harvester operators and boaters know where this area is located. These markers**

were used last year and were successful. UNFORTUNATELY, some person(s) unknown has recently removed the markers. Once again, there is confusion by boaters to figure out where is the “main channel”. Whoever has removed these markers, you have made it very difficult for harvester operators and boaters. As a result, ‘fouled’ props and other nuisances associated with unharvested weeds will plague many. We would appreciate knowing who and why they took this action.

#### **Clean Boats/Clean Water Project:**

This project has been going on for several years and is an effort to prevent invasive species like Eurasian Milfoil and Zebra Mussels from coming into the flowage. We have been VERY fortunate so far. Steve Schieffer ,has once again organized and trained a team of boat inspectors who work at the Lincoln Landing. They will work for at least 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 shares in the costs. We hope you will appreciate this effort, which is our means of trying to improve and/or protect the flowage.

#### **Healthy Lakes Project...Native Shoreline Buffer Strips:**

2019 is our 5<sup>th</sup> year into this project. Why? Our “Lakes Management Plan” approved by the DNR in 2016, has several goals, but two of them state that we aim to Goal 1. Reduce excessive watershed nutrient input and Goal 2. Minimize the release of nutrients from the flowage. We determined that we need to show that we are doing something to prevent nutrient movement into the flowage from our properties before we begin to ask others to create buffer strips or other practices to reduce nutrient input into the flowage. Just a reminder, the flowage is a 640 acre lake but has a watershed of about 125,000 acres. This is a huge watershed with many creeks and the Apple River forming above Turtle Lake and flowing through White Ash Lake so it is exposed to forest areas, cities, residences, and farm land. We feel we need to show that we are taking action to reduce nutrient input from our properties. Here are the results so far:

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 ...4 Native Planting Buffer Strips were installed  
2019 ...2 and possibly 4 are being planned for installation

If you travel around the flowage, these buffer strips are marked with signs. We ask you to look them over and see if they fit your property.

#### **The Size**

The buffer strip must be 350 sq. ft. or 10’ x 35’ and must be parallel to the lakeshore edge.

#### **The Cost**

The cost per resident is \$200. The average installation cost is \$1,200. The WIDNR has given us a grant which provides for 75% of the cost. ARPRD shares in the costs not covered.

#### **Who to Contact**

Dave Schluesner, the chief harvesting machine operator, as he knows your property because he watches it daily. Contact him at [bschluesner@yahoo.com](mailto:bschluesner@yahoo.com)

#### **SUMMARY**

We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting in August. Watch for notices in the Amery Free Press. We hope you will enjoy your summer on the flowage. We hope we are working to make the flowage a better body of water for everyone’s enjoyment.

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

Roland Peterson, Chair

Jay Luke, Polk County Representative

Angie Johnson, Secretary

Paul Isakson, Mayor, City of Amery Representative

Billie Jo Schluesner, Treasurer