

**MINUTES**  
**ARPRD Annual Business Meeting**  
**Amery City Hall Council Room**  
**10:00 a.m. on August 17, 2019**

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. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting.
5. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report. As of July 31, 2019, there was a balance of \$27,957.09 with income of \$35,108.86, expenses of \$19,607.79, and investment in the Capital Fund of \$25,000.
6. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Audit Committee Report from January-July 2019, which indicated everything balanced, provided by Derrick Carlson.
7. The Weed Harvesting Committee report.
  - a. provided by Dale Richardson with a detailed PowerPoint presentation, reported that they're making a difference in the Curlyleaf with the channel staying clearer. In June the loads were light, in July loads were average, but in August the Coontail exploded with the worst they've ever seen. Perhaps the Coontail is worse because of high rain events as all area lakes are also experiencing high volumes, but it hard to determine exactly why. Dale indicated that in 2018, harvesting began May 21, and they harvested for 69 days until September 12. There were 351 total loads removed with 96,525 cubic feet of material, which was 1,575,639 pounds of material. This amount was down 5% from 2017. In 2019, harvesting began May 20. The May total was 18 loads, which is up 3 loads last year. In June, the total loads were 95, which is down 38 loads from the year before. In July, the total loads were 113, which is down 3 loads from year before. For the first half of August, there have been 117 loads, which is up 55 loads from the year before. The graphs from over the years show that harvesting is making a difference. The equipment and truck are doing well, and we haven't had any major issues. Dave Schleusner's mechanical abilities are much appreciated. Currently, we have the approval of the WI DNR to mark the 100-foot channel in the area south of the Hwy. 46 bridge as was done until someone decided to remove the markers. This has made it difficult for boaters to know where the channel is. If boaters use the channel, it continues to make the channel cleaner. Discussion about how to address this included if we should try the markers again and whether to make them legal markings from US Army Corps to make it a crime to take the markers; however, it takes many months for a response from them. Another suggestion is to educate people and put it in the newsletter again to tell people why the markers are there. Putting in 4 no wake type buoys would be expensive.
  - b. Roland Peterson gave 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. Things are running smoothly with good weekend coverage with no problems, and they will have completed 215 hours at the end of the season. The grant requires a minimum of 200 hours of boat inspections.
  - c. Dave Schleusner provided an update on the 2019 Healthy Lakes Projects of 4 buffer strips. No grant was applied for this year as there was leftover money from last year. Things are going well, and Tom Scheffel will install the plants this year. We have a total of 18 projects in place. Requirements include 350 sq. feet plot that touches the water, and \$1200 is provided per project. Contact Dave if you are interested in a project for next year.
  - d. Roland Peterson reported that the payroll handled by Carlson SV to pay the harvester employees and the Clean Boats/Clean Water Inspection Team is going well.
  - e. Dale Richardson reported on the Apple River Flowage Water Quality. In 2018, the average summer Secchi disk reading in the Deep Hole was 6.29 feet with water reported as clear and brown (tannic because of forests). In the Deep Hole, average summer Chlorophyll was 16. The Total Phosphorus average was 83.6. The overall Trophic State index in the Deep Hole was 56 so the Apple River Flowage was eutrophic. He sends samples monthly to Madison.

- f. Regarding Aquatic Invasive Species, Derrick Carlson, who has taken 60 samples to date at four sites, indicated that things look good. We have no Zebra Mussels or Eurasian Water-milfoil. If anyone is interested in helping with the sampling, please contact Derrick.
  - g. The website ARPRD.org can be accessed for information about ARPRD activities.
8. Action Items:
- a. By unanimous ballot, Roland Peterson was elected as Chairman for the ARPRD Board of Commissioners term for 2020, 2021 and 2022.
  - b. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve a motion to seek the following for 2020: an application for permission to harvest weeds in 2020, 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.
  - c. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the proposed 2020 Budget.
  - d. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the purchase of an Inland 10' harvesting equipment as proposed in the following discussion pending the approval of a Wisconsin Waterways Grant. The following information was shared regarding the current harvesting equipment and the proposed purchase:
    - 1. The current harvester is a 7' Aquarius machine.
    - 2. This equipment has about an expected life of 10 years. Also, because we received a WI Waterways Grant to purchase this equipment, it cannot be sold or traded for 10 years. It is 8 years old at this time and in good condition thanks to our harvesting team who works hard at daily maintenance. This equipment must be loaded on the trailer and moved to harvest the area above the Hwy. 46 bridge. This is done at least 3-4 times each season. This equipment moves slowly in the water when harvesting and loaded and when transporting the load to the conveyor and onto the dump truck. As a result, sections of the flowage are not kept clean throughout the season.
    - 3. The Board of Commissioners has had discussions about the purchase of a larger machine and the ones today are constructed to travel faster as well. As a result of this discussion, the Board checked and discovered we are eligible for another WI Waterways Commission grant. Based on that finding, and since ARPRD only meets once per year, the Board sought bids for a 10' harvester and the subsequent equipment needed. The following bid information was shared. There are 2 companies that manufacture this equipment that have a solid reputation: Inland and Aquarius. Aquarius provided a total bid of \$285,300. Inland provided a total bid of \$215,750. We will need to purchase some additional items with either bid like a GPS system, a "Heavy Duty Truck" backup camera, diesel pump, and tank on the truck plus other things needed, probably at a cost of \$25,000, but that has not been pursued. The harvesting plan would be to place the current 7' harvester on the north end for the season and parked when not in use in an area that is not readily visible. The conveyer can be removed from visibility when not in use. The new equipment would be used in the total area east of the Hwy. 46 bridge all the way into the dam area in Amery for the season.
    - 4. The financing could be as follows: Total cost \$215,750---WI Waterways Grant at 35%= \$75,512.00, ARPRD contribution \$35,000, and a loan from Bremer Bank in Amery for the \$105,238. Preliminary discussion indicates if we ask for \$112,000, we can obtain a loan at 4% interest and on a 5-year repayment plan with 2 payments per year, which would be \$12,500 per payment or \$25,000 per year; 8-year plan payments would be \$9,300 per payment or \$18,600 per year. WI Waterways will only provide a grant on the harvester equipment so our request to them must reflect the \$105,238. It was felt we could do this without raising the tax rate which is currently at about .00132 mills based on \$50,000 per year. The entire plan is based on getting approval for a WI Waterways Grant as presented in the motion.
9. A concern was raised regarding erosion of the river bank and the possibility of a No Wake Zone at the narrow area to the north of North Park as residences in that area have eroding shorelines from the boats

moving fast through that area, causing large wakes which undercut the nearby shore. The Board will contact the DNR about procedure and purchasing No Wake Zone buoys for that area. Another concern was if something could be done about people not observing the No Wake Zone such as a sign on the Cameron Bridge. A resident expressed interest in hosting a web camera to record speeding boats; the Board can put another reminder about the No Wake Zone in next newsletter. People can call Polk County 911 to report violators.

10. Residents were appreciative and 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 Project Team, and the ARPRD residents for their continuing support.
12. The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angie Johnson, Secretary