

MINUTES

Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District (ARPRD)

Board of Commissioners' Meeting

Saturday, May 30, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Amery City Hall, Amery, WI

NOTE: The public was able to access the meeting via telephone or online.

Dial-in number (US): (701) 802-5345; Access code: 1988408#

International dial-in numbers: <https://fccdl.in/i/iker9>

Online meeting ID: iker9

Join the online meeting: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/iker9>

1. Chairman Roland Peterson called the meeting to order, set the agenda, and verified that the official notice was published twice in Amery Free Press.
2. Board members present were Roland Peterson, Angie Johnson, Paul Isakson, Billie Jo Schleusner, and Fran Duncanson.
3. Reports:
 - a. The Minutes of the Board of Commissioners' Meeting on July 20, 2019 were approved.
 - b. The Treasurer's Report was approved:
 1. Bank balance on Dec. 31, 2019 was \$27,179.50.
 2. Bank balance on May 26, 2019 was \$34,764.34.
 3. Total income for 2019 was \$57,691.98.
 4. Capital Improvement Fund balance is \$11, 565.30.
 - c. Update on grant applications
 1. The Clean Boats/Clean Water grant for 2020 was approved. Steve Schieffer has an inspection team, who will follow the recommended COVID-19 safeguards, and is scheduled to begin June 3. The team plans to inspect at the Lincoln Landing during mornings until early afternoons on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays to fulfill the required 200 hours of inspections needed. The student inspectors will be paid \$12 an hour. The cost will be approximately \$875.00 to ARPRD with the remainder paid by the grant.
 2. The Clean Boats/Clean Water grant for 2019-application for final payment was submitted, and funds were received.
 3. The application for a new harvester grant was prepared by Cheryl Clemons and submitted to the WI Waterways Commission. Roland Peterson testified at the meeting on April 14 via conference call, and the application was approved. Dale Richardson prepared the PowerPoint, and ARPRD was complimented for it. The grant contract was signed on April 21, when it was received, and mailed back. It did not arrive in Spooner for more than a week so Roland resent it via overnight delivery, and Ed Slamanski received it. The advance payment of \$38,732.40 was slow, but it finally arrived on May 23 and was deposited on May 26.
 - Application total was for \$221,327.96, which included the added power washer for \$1,827.96, and the auto greasing system for \$3,750.00; the basic application was for \$215,750.00. The grant pays \$77,464.80, which is 35% of the total cost.
 - The contract to Inland Lake Harvesters was sent to Mitch Cole on May 14 upon recommendation by Mitch.
 - The first payment was sent on May 28, 2020 for \$73,775.99, which consisted on the grant advance of \$38,732.40 plus \$35,043.59 from the ARPRD Capital Improvement fund.

-As of May 29, 2020, the construction of the machine is underway, and all parts on the contract are in place. It is estimated that it could be the end of September before the machine is completed.

-The midpoint payment in approximately 60 days will be \$73,775.00, and the final payment in another 60 days will be \$73,775.98.

Several residents asked questions about the purchase of the new harvester. The purchase of a new harvester pending the approval of the Wisconsin Waterways Grant was approved at the 2019 Annual Meeting. Operations and staffing of the harvesters were discussed. The Chairman stated taxes would not be raised for the new harvester.

4. The loan status for the new harvester will be \$110,000 for eight years. The annual cost is approximately \$16,000 with two payments, half due in February and half due in August. The loan is basically approved, and Scott Wagner at Bremer Bank is our banker for the loan. Because we are tax exempt, the interest will be about 3.95%. The annual loan payment will be about \$2,000 less than the loan for the first harvester.

5. Healthy Lakes Projects

- The grant was extended with carryover for 2020. Dave Schleusner indicated four projects with native plantings touching the river are approved for 2020 with one project as a carryover from last year. Dragonfly Nursery is providing the plants, and Tom Scheffel will help plant again this year. The cost is approximately \$200 for the homeowner with the grant covering the rest of the cost. The total number of projects to date is 18.

4. Action Items:

a. The Board approved the purchase of three additional No Wake Zone markers of up to \$250 per marker for the narrow area north of North Park. The residents have requested the No Wake Zone for safety and to prevent further significant loss of the shoreline. For violators of the No Wake Zone, the DNR recommends determining the boat registration number and report it to a conservation officer who can issue a ticket.

b. The Board approved the Audit Committee of Derrick Carlson, Erin Schleusner, and Rosemary Scheffel to audit from July 1 through Dec. 31, 2019.

c. The weed harvesting permit for 2020 was approved on Oct. 2019 by DNR, and harvesting began May 29, 2020 in North Park with 8 loads in half a day.

d. Regarding a concern raised of who's liable if dam failed, the City of Amery and the Town of Lincoln have insurance to cover it. The dam is inspected regularly, and inspectors work diligently to try to ensure a failure won't happen.

e. The summer Board of Commissioners' meeting was set for July 18 at the Amery City Hall, and the 2020 Annual Meeting was set for August 22.

5. An amount of \$12 a month was approved to be reimbursed to Dave Schleusner to pay for a larger garbage can as he is taking the garbage from Lincoln Landing to his home twice a week.

6. Positive comments: Harvesting has improved the river, tourism, and property values. Dave Schleusner and Dale Richardson have done a good job of keeping the harvester working.

7. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Johnson
Secretary