

**MINUTES**  
**ARPRD Annual Business Meeting**  
**Lincoln Town Hall, Amery, WI**  
**10:00 a.m. on August 22, 2020**

1. Chairman Roland Peterson welcomed all ARPRD residents, called the meeting to order and set the Agenda.
2. The official notice of the meeting was posted twice in the Amery Free Press, posted on the arprd.org website, and mailed out, and included provisions for remote participation.
3. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting.
4. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report. As of July 31, 2020, there was a balance of \$127,548.91 as of this date. As of this date in August, the balance will be \$52,720.18 because of \$73,775.99 for the harvester payment with a \$25 transfer fee, which was paid in early August.
5. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Audit Committee Report from January-July 2020, which indicated everything balanced, provided by Derrick Carlson.
6. Reports were provided:
  - a. The Weed Harvesting Committee report was provided remotely by Dale Richardson with a handout. Dale reported that in 2019, harvesting began May 20 and ended September 6. There were 364 total loads removed with 101,100 cubic feet of material, which was 1,633,996 pounds of material. In 2020, harvesting began May 30, a later start because of COVID-19 concerns and operators' health issues. The May total was 5 loads. In June, the total loads were 95. In July, the total loads were 141; in the north end, weeds were up from 2019. In August to date, there have been 131 loads removed, making a total to date of 371; the north end was thick with weeds and then the Larson area was thick. It's estimated that the total loads for 2020 will be up in the 400s, which will be much higher than last year. Curlyleaf Pondweed (an invasive species) appears mid-May and is usually dead by July. It's important to harvest it well until it goes to seed. We can harvest all over for Curlyleaf Pondweed. Coontail grows after that. The permit allows us to harvest the 50-100 ft. wide channel and into properties. The harvester had an issue with the hydraulic drive and numerous small items to fix as the old harvester is showing its age. Of concern is that major conveyer belting is wearing thin. Operators must be careful not to overload. Dave Schleusner's mechanical abilities to fix the items are much appreciated.
  - b. Roland Peterson gave a report from Steve 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 to help prevent aquatic invasive species. They are trying to find the busiest times to monitor. They will have completed the required 200 hours for the grant at the end of the season.
  - c. Dave Schleusner provided an update on the 2020 Healthy Lakes Projects. Three buffer strip projects have been completed. A total of 23 projects have been completed. Because requirements are changing next year, it was decided to wait until 2022 for additional projects to see what the changes will entail.
  - d. Dale Richardson reported remotely on the Apple River Flowage Water Quality with a provided handout. In 2019, the average summer Secchi disk reading in the Deep Hole was 5.38 feet with water reported as clear and brown (tannic because of stains from decaying matter), which suggests the depth may have been mostly impacted by tannins. Tannins are natural and not a result of pollution and are important for decreasing light penetration and decreasing algal growth. In the Deep Hole, average summer Chlorophyll was 14.4. The Total Phosphorus average was 87.3. The overall Trophic State index in the Deep Hole was 55 so the Apple River Flowage was eutrophic. He sends samples monthly to Madison but will be unable to do so next year. Doug Johnson volunteered to do the water testing next year.

- e. The website ARPRD.org can be accessed for information about ARPRD activities. The final agenda and budget was posted there by 24 hours before the meeting according to WI Open Meeting Law.
  - f. Roland Peterson gave the new Inland 10-foot harvester purchase update. Currently, the equipment is being painted. It is estimated that it will be delivered in late August or early September after the final payment. The application was submitted to WI Waterways Commission, and on April 14, 2020, Roland Peterson testified via conference call. Dale Richardson prepared the PowerPoint with details, and we were complimented for it and were awarded a grant of \$77,464.80. Cost of harvester in grant application was \$221,327.96. Support equipment for new harvester including ¾ ton 4x4 pickup truck, fuel tank, GPS will be \$24,920.00 (estimated). The estimated total cost will be \$246,247.96 (will be less as plans for additional equipment is being considered). For the purchase, the capital improvement funds were used. Also, we will be paying loan payments of \$15,197.30 annually for eight years. The loan payment will be about \$3,000 less per year than the payments we had on the loan for our first machine because of lower interest rates and extended years. Taxes were not raised. A new truck to haul the new trailer conveyer will be purchased. The Town of Lincoln has offered a 2012 truck with 51,000 miles for \$18,000; on the lot that model is sold for \$27,000-\$29,000 so it is a good deal. A storage pole shed off County Road H will be used in the winter for harvesters at \$1050 fee per year; we have insurance on all equipment. Next year, the old harvester will be docked at Roland Peterson's place on the north end above the Highway 46 bridge and be used for that area. The new harvester will be used on the south end below the Highway 46 bridge. The larger and faster harvester, a trailer/conveyer instead of a shore conveyer, which lessens the time to move the shore conveyer, and eliminating the need to truck the harvester to/from locations, should result in more efficient harvesting.
  - g. Paul Isakson reported on the DNR application for the 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 City of Amery adopted the required ordinance on August 6, and the application was sent to the DNR for approval on August 7.
7. The action items were as follows:
    - a. By unanimous ballot, Angie Johnson was elected as Secretary for the ARPRD Board of Commissioners term for 2021, 2022 and 2023.
    - b. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve a motion to seek an application for permission to harvest weeds in 2021.
    - c. It was moved, seconded, and carried to apply for a Clean Boats/Clean Water grant in 2021.
    - d. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the proposed 2022 Budget.
  8. A question was raised about storing the old harvester at the Peterson dock in the north end next summer and whether the conveyer could be hauled out when not in use.
  9. Residents were appreciative and positive about the harvesting on the river.
  10. 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.
  11. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angie Johnson, Secretary