

## ***Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District (ARPRD) Newsletter....Summer 2021***

Welcome to summer 2021! It appears the summer of 2021 will be a very challenging year. It appears that the “hot” “sunny” weather is very good for aquatic plant growth. Hopefully, this newsletter will give you an update on many issues that are happening this summer. It appears we are into our 46<sup>th</sup> year as an organization aimed at making the Apple River Flowage a good place for water recreation, fishing and enjoyable sightseeing. On July 4<sup>th</sup> we traveled over the flowage from the far north all the way to Amery and counted over 100 pontoons, boats and water craft either parked at docks or on the water. Hopefully, you are experiencing a fairly clean body of water. Yes, not perfect but vastly improved over several years ago when navigating required stopping and clearing your engine of weeds.

### **Meetings**

The Board of Commissioners held a meeting on Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The meeting focused on preparations and expectations for summer 2021.

The Board of Commissioners will be meeting on Saturday July 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in the Amery City hall Council Room. The meeting will focus on an update of current operations and preparation for the Annual meeting. The approval of a proposed budget and officer election plus plans for 2022 will be a part of this meeting.

The Annual meeting of ARPRD will be held on Saturday August 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in the Amery City Hall Council room.

### **A Tribute**

We have a very sad bit of news to share. We have lost a very key person who for the past 10 years has made significant contributions to the operation of ARPRD. We know there have been many over the 46 years who have contributed greatly to this organization and we want to thank them all. The loss of Dale Richardson will impact us greatly in the days ahead. Dale passed away on June 30, 2021 after a long battle with cancer. Though the cancer was diagnosed a long time ago, Dale never once complained or stopped working for us. In case, you did not meet Dale, we would like to highlight some of his contributions. He served as Chair of the “Harvesting Team” and was a key person in the purchase of the Aquarius machine in 2012. He operated that machine for many hours and never charged for his work. He made a number of improvements to the equipment and we use them every day. He added tanks and pumps on our trucks so that fuel filling would be easier and safer. He made many repairs and his welder was often in use. He was a key person in the purchase of our new Inland machine this year. He insisted on many features and negotiated with the Inland Company. His greatest sadness was not being able to be present when the machine was delivered and operate it for a few minutes. He was the leader in making sure we had a g.p.s. system on all machines so we could operate without duplicating areas harvested. After Pete tried to complete the first DNR harvesting permit, Dale took over and completed everyone from 2013 to the present. His applications were in clear detail. He reported all harvesting data to the DNR every year. He also took over the “Deep Hole” Inspections for the past 6 -7 years. He would take water samples every week and make

other tests in the “deep hole” area of the flowage and submit them to the DNR. That effort has been ongoing for many years. He served on the planning team for the 2011 and 2016 Aquatic Plant Management teams which is a requirement of the DNR if we want to continue getting harvesting permits. His countless hours of volunteer work must be recognized. We owe much to Dale Richardson. He will be deeply missed.

### **Weed Harvesting**

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of our weed harvesting operations. This has also been the worst year in many for excessive weed growth. The word around the area is that all lakes are struggling to keep ahead of the weed growth. We are fortunate to have 2 machines going steady and it is a challenge to keep ahead of the tons of weed growth. We need to inform you on the new harvesting machine, which, most of you have seen operating. The new machine was delivered by the Inland Company on May 6<sup>th</sup>. They came with a team of employees who unloaded the machine and set up all the parts that are required for operations. The company owners stored the equipment all winter and delivered it to us at “no cost” to us. After the equipment was ready for operation, the company owners spent the rest of the day training and helping Dave operate the equipment. They also took Dave and Billie Jo out to dinner before leaving back to the Milwaukee area. We have learned this is a very fine company.

As you are likely aware, the 2012 7’ Aquarius machine is used above the highway 46 bridge and is in operation at least 3 days a week. You should also know that Dave did some major repairs on that machine this spring. The new Inland 10’ machine is used all the way from the highway 46 bridge to the Birch Street landing in Amery. That goes every day it is possible to work Monday through Friday.

Just a comparison of harvesting over the years;

The loads reported below are dump truck loads, which contain at least 10 cubic yards, and weigh about 4,500 pound per load.

2012	112 loads...largely August to September = 252 ton or 504,000 pounds
2013	566 loads = 1,273 ton or 2,547,000 pounds
2014	513 loads = 1,154 ton or 2,308,500 pounds
2015	500 loads = 1,125 ton or 2,250,000 pounds
2016	564 loads = 1,269 ton or 2,538,000 pounds
2017	368 loads = 828 ton or 1,656,000 pounds
2018	351 loads = 790 ton or 1,579,500 pounds
2019	346 loads = 789 ton or 1,557,000 pounds
2020	388 loads = 873 ton or 1,746,000 pounds

The loads now reflect the same dump truck loads for the north end and the new loads from the new harvester which are now much larger than the old machine (like 4x)...the new loads now weigh about 18,000 pounds (the data below reflect what has happened as of July 12, 2021)

2021 Loads from the north end = 146 ton or 292,000 pounds from 65 loads

Loads from the south end = 1,548 ton or 27,864,000 pounds from 172 loads

It appears the data speak of what is happening in 2021

We all owe a great deal of thanks to Dave Schleusner and his harvesting team for keeping us clear as best they can. They work around everyone's docks as best they can besides keeping a wide area open in the current flow. Many of you have expressed your thanks to Dave and it is appreciated. Just a reminder, what would the flowage be like if all this vegetation was decaying on the bottom of the flowage. It would not take many years before we would be a non-navigation body of water. We hope the current data reflect the value of a second harvesting machine.

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

We are continuing the Clean Boats Clean water inspection project to prevent the invasion of Eurasian Milfol and Zebra Mussels or other invasive species from entering the flowage. We have a team of 4 young men and women who are inspecting water craft as they enter and leave the Lincoln Landing area. They largely work weekends. In addition we have some others who are inspecting boars as well. We have a DNR grant which requires a minimum of 200 hours of inspections over the summer season. We have been very fortunate to have Steve Schieffer (Amery Teacher) who has trained and managed this group for us for years. Unfortunately, Steve is retiring and we are going to have to create a new system for the future if we want to continue boats inspections. We owe Steve MUCH thanks for his very cooperative spirit serving the Apple River Flowage plus North Twin and Pike Lakes in the City of Amery(Those lakes are part of the Lakes District) with boat inspectors.

### **A Second "No Wake Zone"**

You should know that the ARPRD (especially Mayor Paul Isakson) has worked very hard to seek DNR approval for a second "no wake zone" in the narrow area just north of the North park bay area. After numerous applications the permit was denied. Please know Mayor Paul tried to do everything he could to get approval. Please to all of us just go slow through that narrow area as the shorelines are receding on those properties.

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

Roland Peterson Chair "newsletter writer"

Billie Jo Schleusner Treasurer

Angie Johnson Secretary

Paul Isakson City of Amery Representative

Fran Duncanson Polk County Representative