

MINUTES

Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District (ARPRD)

Board of Commissioners' Meeting

Saturday, July 15, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Amery City Hall Council Room

1. Chairman Roland Peterson called the meeting to order, set the agenda, and verified that the official notices were published in Amery Free Press and posted online.

2. Board Members present were Roland Peterson, Angie Johnson, Denise L'Allier-Pray, Billie Jo Schleusner, and Eric Elkin. Guests included Dave Schleusner, Derrick Carlson, and Paul Isakson.

3. Reports:

a. The Minutes of the April 22, 2023, meeting were approved.

b. The Treasurer's Report was approved:

1. Checking Account Balance as of July 15, 2023, is \$26,021.96.

2. Carryover funds from 2022 were \$21,874.95.

3. Income to date is \$40,998.08.

4. Expenses to date are \$36,805.88.

c. Dave Schleusner reported that the Clean Boats Clean Water Inspections led by Isaac Wieczorek at the Lincoln Landing are going well, and they've logged approximately 100 hours so far and will cover the required 200 hours by the end of the season. Roland Peterson noted that since 2016, we have surpassed the required hours. Note: 137 Boats were inspected in 2022.

d. Dave Schleusner reported that Weed Harvesting is going well, but with the low water level, it has been hard to keep up, especially with the floaters, and those loads are heavier. They started harvesting this year May 20 on north end and May 26 on the south end. To date, they have harvested 54 loads/324,000 lbs. on the north end and 144 loads/1,728,000 lbs. on the south end. To date, labor costs have been \$7400.28, truck repair \$2011.01, boat landing 198.56, labor in July \$1053, parts \$2217.65, fuel \$2964.53, and Clean Boats labor \$1053. To repair the Lincoln Landing, they used crushed yellow rock pounded into the hole. The sensors hydraulic oil has doubled. Fuel costs have doubled. He plans to buy tires for old Chevy truck at \$1700. On the trailer, the back shaft broke, but Mitch Cole from Inland came immediately from Milwaukee, took the trailer back to be repaired and had it back by that Sunday night at no cost. Dave will write a thank you to him on behalf of the board. The new harvester has logged 968 hours to date.

e. Derrick Carlson gave the Invasive Species update. To date, he has logged 4 inspection hours with 16 samples, which looked good. Zebra Mussels are the major concern in our area with nearby Deer Lake having them. He may have spotted Asian Clams but will check with Katelin Anderson at Polk County since clams look very similar.

f. The Aquatic Plant Management Plan Advisory Committee met twice to update the 2017 plan as required by DNR, and the draft will be posted on the website for public review. Public comment is welcomed from August 11-September 11. A notice about public comments will be published in the newspaper and sent to all ARPRD residents. The plan will be finalized for DNR review September 15, 2023.

4. Action Items

- a. The Board approved Kitty Miller as a nominee for position of Secretary for 2024-26.
 - b. The Audit Committee for 2023 of Derrick Carlson, Erin Schleusner, and Tim Graff was approved.
 - c. The Board approved action for DNR grant to continue Clean Boats Clean Water for 2024.
 - d. The Board approved action to apply to continue Mechanical Harvesting in 2024.
 - e. The Board approved the Proposed 2024 Budget as modified, which includes the \$10,000 tax increase which began in 2022 with the provision it would be reviewed annually.
 - f. The Board approved the agenda for the ARPRD Annual Meeting for August 19, 2023, at Amery City Hall.
 - g. The Board discussed establishing Decontamination Stations at the Lincoln Landing and Birch Street Landing as Polk County is requiring them. We will need to purchase signage and set up bleach stations. The bleach solution application needs 10 minutes to kill Zebra Mussels before unloading boats. Dave Schleusner has received approval from the Town of Lincoln. Eric Elkin will seek approval from the City of Amery.
5. The Board thanked Angie Johnson for her 12 years of service as Secretary, Mitch Cole from Inland for fixing the trailer for free, and Dave Schleusner for his many hours of harvesting and maintenance work.
6. One concern that Dave Schleusner expressed was when the water level is low, it is hard to get in closer to get the floaters so he tries to get the area by the Hwy 46 bridge cleaner to reduce the floaters, which he will explain at the Annual Meeting.
7. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Johnson, Secretary