

**MINUTES**  
**ARPRD Annual Business Meeting**  
**Amery City Hall, Amery, WI**  
**10:00 a.m. on August 19, 2023**

1. Chairman Roland Peterson welcomed ARPRD residents, called the meeting to order and set agenda.
2. The official notice of the meeting and agenda was posted twice in the Amery Free Press, and the agenda and proposed budget were mailed out and posted on the arprd.org website. The meeting notice was also in the Summer 2023 ARPRD Newsletter, which is on the arprd.org website.
3. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting.
4. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report. As of August 19, 2023, there is a balance of \$13,298.59. The Harvester payment of \$7,598.65 is due 8/24/23. The income from the Clean Boats/Clean Water grant was \$1,000. The taxes received so far are \$38,379.52 with the second part of \$21,621.00 to be paid any day now.
5. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Audit Committee Report from January 1-July 31, 2023, provided by Derrick Carlson, which indicated everything balanced. The Treasurer has a copy of the report signed by all audit committee members.
6. Reports were provided:
  - a. The Weed Harvesting Committee report was provided by Dave Schleusner. Harvesting began May 20, 2023, in the south end, and the Curly-leaf pondweed was thick so they hit the hotspots first. Because Curly-leaf pondweed is invasive, they are allowed to go anywhere to get it. As of August 19, 2023, in the north end, there have been 113 loads taken out for a total of 565,065 pounds/282 tons; in the south end, over 2 million pounds/1,324 tons have been taken out. Some days the wind made it difficult to run the harvester. The sensors hydraulic oil cost has doubled to \$1500. 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. Two tires were cut by cement with a blade when backing into the Birch Street Landing (perhaps from old sawmill) and will cost \$205 apiece. There was an \$1800 repair on the DIFF for the truck. The old truck will need new tires so they will buy 4 new rims and tires. Both trucks are in good running condition. The old harvester is in excellent condition for its age. The water level is controlled by the Blackbrook Dam, and when the electrical company calls for water, the water level is lower. This causes weeds to really grow. Next year they will add a trail up Beaver Brook.
  - b. Dave Schleusner read a report from Isaac Wieczorek about the Clean Boats Clean Water grant, which involves checking boats and monitoring at the Lincoln Landing to help prevent aquatic invasive species. Ali Schleusner was hired to help inspect. They have completed the grant's required 200 hours. To date, they have inspected 87 boats and talked to 123 people, providing pamphlets and information.
  - c. Dave Schleusner read Tom Sheffel's report on the Apple River Flowage Water Quality. Testing is done the third week of each month, starting in May, and ending in October. The results are entered on the Wisconsin DNR SWIMS Site. In 2023, the average summer Secchi disk reading in the Deep Hole was 6 feet with water reported as brown (tannic because of stains from decaying matter); this is a great increase in clarity from past years. Ten years ago, it was only 4 feet.
  - d. Derek Carlson gave the Aquatic Invasive Species report and passed around pictures of Zebra Mussels so that residents can watch for them to report them ASAP to the DNR. Since area lakes have them, we must be vigilant since there is no treatment for them yet. Derek checks for them in locations using a brick or rock to see if they're attached. Information about monitoring can be found on website: [DNR.Wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes](http://DNR.Wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes). Derek has taken 64 samples at four locations to date. He has seen Chinese Mystery Snails. There is still a focus on spotting Eurasian watermilfoil as well; North Twin Lake has it. Derek asked for volunteers to allow him access to the edge of their shorelines to check for invasive species. It was requested that pictures of Zebra Mussels be added to the ARPRD website.

- e. Chairman Peterson provided updates about the Aquatic Plant Management Plan, which must be updated every 5 years. The required aquatic plant survey was completed in 2022 by Matt Berg; report was received spring of 2023. Cheryl Clemens of Harmony Environmental is leading the process. The following process is required for final approval by the WI DNR. The Review of the current APM Plan was completed after two meetings with the review team, and updates have been placed in a proposed plan. Chairman Peterson reviewed the handout with the five goals. **Goal 1: Improve water quality on the Apple River Flowage and downstream on the Apple River. Goal 2: Prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species.** Residents are encouraged to remove purple loosestrife, common forget-me-not and nightshade on their properties. **Goal 3: Maintain navigation for fishing, boating, and access to lake residents.** Harvesting is chosen over chemical measures to minimize environmental impacts; the water turns over every six days so chemicals don't work. **Goal 4: Maintain native aquatic plant functions. Goal 5: Minimize environmental impacts of aquatic plant management.** The draft of the plan was reviewed by the committee and Board by July 21, 2023. Comments on the plan were due back to Cheryl by July 31, 2023. The plan was presented by Roland Peterson at the Annual Meeting on August 19, 2023 and is posted on the website. Public comments opened on August 11 and are due to Cheryl by September 11, 2023, at [harmonyenv@amerytel.net](mailto:harmonyenv@amerytel.net). The information about the process for public comments was mailed to all residents, posted on the website, and published in the Amery Free Press. The plan will be finalized for DNR Review by September 15, 2023. The request for the review of the plan (60 days) will be completed by the WI DNR by November 15, 2023. Grant Requests are due September 15, 2023 (draft) and November 15, 2023 (Final).
7. The action items were as follows:
  - a. By unanimous ballot, Kitty Miller was elected as Secretary for the ARPRD Board of Commissioners term for 2024, 2025 and 2026.
  - b. It was moved, seconded, and carried to submit a grant application to the DNR for the 2024 Clean Boats Clean Water Project.
  - c. It was moved, seconded, and carried to submit a grant application to the DNR for mechanical harvesting of weeds in 2024.
  - d. It was moved, seconded, and carried to install 2 Decontamination Stations, one at Lincoln Landing and one at Birch Street Landing, to provide low-grade bleach treatment to all boats coming in and out. Signs at the landings have been approved by Lincoln Township and the City of Amery and will be installed, and the bleach solution of 2.44 tablespoons of bleach to 1 gallon of water will be replaced each day for each boat's treatment of 10 minutes. Polk County has a \$500 fine if this isn't done. The cost of the signs will be approximately \$2,000.
  - e. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the proposed 2024 Budget and continue the \$10,000 tax increase with the provision that it be reviewed annually as was required when it was adopted in 2022.
8. One concern was the condition of the Lincoln Landing. To help repair it, Dave Schleusner used crushed lime rock pounded into the hole and is working on a grant to fix it. One suggestion was to have a capital fund for the future; Billie Jo Schleusner will check with the bank.
9. Residents were appreciative and positive about the harvesting on the river.
10. Chairman Peterson recognized and thanked outgoing Secretary Angie Johnson, who served for 12 years, and presented her with a gift. He thanked all who have helped the ARPRD, including the Weed Harvesting Operation Team, the Clean Boats/Clean Water Inspection Team, Treasurer Billie Jo Schleusner, and the ARPRD residents for their continuing support.
11. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angie Johnson, Secretary