

MINUTES

Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District (ARPRD)

Board of Commissioners' Meeting

Saturday, April 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Amery City Hall Council Room

1. Chairman Roland Peterson called the meeting to order and set the agenda.
2. Board Members present were Roland Peterson, Billie Jo Schleusner and Kitty Miller. Guests included Dave Schleusner and Derrick Carlson.
3. Reports:
 - a. The Minutes of the July 15, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting were approved.
 - b. The Treasurer's Report was approved:
 1. Checking Account Balance as of April 6, 2024, is \$35,936.20.
 2. Carryover funds from 2023 were \$12,262.11.
 3. Income to date is \$33,571.10.
 4. Expenses to date are \$9,897.01.
 - c. The Final Report of the Audit Committee for July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 showed accurate accounting and was approved.
 - c. Roland Peterson confirmed that the DNR has approved the Weed Harvesting Permit and Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) grant.
 - d. Harvesting Operations Manager Dave Schleusner reported that Weed Harvesting is likely to start earlier than usual this year, before the first of May. The water level had been very low but is now near normal with recent snow and rain. Harvesting is difficult when the water is too low. Dave has sufficient weed harvester operator staff, with some new employees this year. For the previous fiscal year, there were 6 harvester operators with a total of \$18,282 paid out for labor. Harvester operators were paid \$16 per hour in 2023, and a motion was made to increase the amount to \$17 per hour. The motion was carried. Curlyleaf pondweed, which comes up early, can be removed everywhere it grows. Coontail removal is limited to the main channel and dock access points. All floating weeds can be removed. Dave has maps showing where the DNR allows removal. Each operator has a daily log showing weed removal location and specifics. So far this year, the harvesters have only required common maintenance. Diesel fuel has risen 78% in the last three weeks. There were previous discounts ARPRD could get through Speedway but due to ownership changes that is no longer true. Some lake districts can save money on fuel by buying in bulk as they have a place to store fuel. Roland Peterson discussed DNR land purchase grants. Acquiring some land and a shed to store the harvesters and maintenance materials and buy fuel in bulk would be good. The land would not have to be on the river. Currently all equipment is stored on rental properties.
 - e. Isaac Wiczorek was not at the meeting, but Dave had spoken with him to confirm Isaac will continue to lead Clean Boats Clean Waters inspections. There needs to be a minimum of 200 hours. There are two helpers, both trained. Inspection team will continue to be paid \$13 per hour. Isaac determines inspection days, usually alternating between Saturdays and Sundays on the weekends, and some weekdays. CBCW signs are up at both landings. There is a place on the signs to hang weed removal tools and

cleaning brushes. Dave will pick up brushes and the landings should be set up for cleaning with bleach solution by next weekend. There may be a delay at Lincoln landing as a snowbank needs to melt. Dave will watch to make sure the bleach solution for cleaning stays stocked. He may enlist help. There was also discussing of using trail cams and where to place them. There is a mailbox to hold the CBCW instruction sheets/flowage map at one landing; Dave will get another one for the second landing and put it up.

e. Derrick Carlson will continue to monitor for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Zebra Mussels are the major concern in our area but so far none have been found in the flowage. It is not too early to check for them; look at dock posts to see if any are attached. Derrick went to AIS training last year and will again this year to stay up to date.

f. There were no city or county representatives present so no discussions of any changes from them.

g. Although he has moved out of state, Micah Darling will continue to manage the arprd.org website.

4. Action Items

a. The Board approved Billie Jo Schleusner as a nominee for position of Treasurer for 2025-27.

b. Finances were reviewed. See treasurer's report 3(b) above. Right now, the finances seem good, but there may be unexpected expenses such as harvester repairs. Consider establishing a reserve fund.

c. Carlson SV will continue to manage payroll for 2024. They have done a good job for a reasonable price.

d. Tom Sheffel will continue to do water quality tests in 2024.

e. See 3(e) above the CBCW decontamination signs are up at Lincoln and Birch Street landings. Dave placed them where he was told they would be allowed.

f. Roland Peterson will continue to write the ARPRD summer newsletter. It will be mailed to flowage residents along with the annual meeting notices as well as being posted at arprd.org.

5. July 20th and August 17th were confirmed for the next board meeting and the annual meeting dates.

6. The Board thanked both Dave and Billie Jo Schleusner for their work for ARPRD. It would be very difficult to find anyone who could take their place.

7. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kitty Miller, Secretary

