

MINUTES

Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District (ARPRD)

Board of Commissioners' Meeting

Saturday, July 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Amery City Hall Council Room

1. Chairman Roland Peterson called the meeting to order and set the agenda. Welcome to new board member Fran Duncanson for Polk County.

2. Chairman Roland Peterson, Treasurer Billie Jo Schleusner, Polk County Representative Fran Duncanson, Harvesting Operations Manager Dave Schleusner and Secretary Kitty Miller were present.

3. Reports:

a. The Minutes of the April 26, 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting were approved.

b. The Treasurer's Report was approved:

1. Checking Account Balance as of July 20, 2024, is \$14,981.25.

2. Income to date is \$37,008.93.

3. Labor Expenses as of July 19, 2024, are \$14,918, payroll went out yesterday.

4. Carryover from 2023 was \$12,262.11

c. Dave Schleusner reported that harvesting started early, including the whole month of May. There have been many extra hours of labor so far this year, with an average of 16-24 loads per day. Final loads report will be given at the annual meeting. Labor was budgeted at \$23,500 for the season but is likely to be \$27,000. Pay for the six-member harvesting crew has stayed at \$16 for this season but has been approved to go to \$17. Many surrounding lake organizations already pay much more. Largest costs have been labor and fuel, and there are still 28 harvesting days left this season. Dave has been doing much of the maintenance and repairs without pay but costs included new \$160 sensors for one truck, new brakes for the trailer/hauler, and two new tires for a truck. The trucks were serviced once, and another oil change will be needed. A new GPS was needed for a harvester and that was around \$2,500. Also, a harvester will need a hydraulic oil change this fall and that will be expensive. A drawdown was discussed but is likely not feasible due to a power plant downriver. A complete report will be given at the annual meeting on August 17th.

d. Dave reported that for the year to date at Lincoln Landing Isaac Wiczorek and his trained team of two have completed 166 hours of Clean Boats Clean Waters Inspections. They checked 88 boats. They hope to have the required CBCW grant 200 hours in by August 1st.

e. The decontamination stations are being used. Dave replenishes the cleaning solution and supplies. The original high-quality brushes had to be replaced with lower quality brushes that would not be taken. There was also discussion of reporting CBCW violators and how to follow up. More information to come from Katelin at Polk County Land and Water Resources Department.

f. Derrick Carlson was unavailable for the Aquatic Invasive Species report but is continuing to monitor for them. We are all aware that while we primarily deal with curly-leaf pondweed, adjacent lakes and rivers have other invasive species that could too easily enter the flowage.

g. No City of Amery or Polk County changes were reported.

4. Action Items

a. The nomination of Billie Jo Schleusner for position of Treasurer for 2025-27 was moved and seconded.

b. Derrick Carlson, Tim Graf and Erin Schleusner were approved for the 2024 Audit Committee.

c. Finances were reviewed. See 3.c above for harvesting labor and equipment expenses. Harvesting demands have been high this year, and labor costs which were estimated as \$23,500 will more likely be \$27,000. Fuel costs have also been higher than originally anticipated. Some money can be saved through burning offroad fuel due to a tax break. It would be less expensive to be able to own sheds and buy fuel in bulk, as well saving money to have our own place to store the harvesters and other equipment. Would it be possible to get a piece of land from the township? Remaining tax income will be received in August. Estimated operating cash carryover for 2025 is now just \$1,212.67. The \$10,000 tax levy increase started in 2022 needs annual review. Discuss an additional \$10,000 tax levy increase at the annual meeting. Fran will work up cost estimates for discussion. The extra amount is very reasonable on an individual basis, and having a usable river should help property values. If approved for 2025 it would be collectable in 2026.

d. Carlson SV will continue to do payroll management.

e. Approval for continuing harvesting in 2025 moved and seconded.

f. Approval for requesting CBCW grant in 2025 moved and seconded.

g. Proposed budget for 2025 was reviewed moved and seconded.

h. Proposed agenda for Annual Meeting on August 17, 2024, was reviewed and approved. Additional \$10,000 tax levy request was added to the agenda.

5. August 17, 2024 annual meeting was discussed. Roland is hoping for more people to attend this year than in some past years.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kitty Miller, Secretary

