

## BLPRD Harvesting Committee meeting minutes

Saturday, February 25, 2023 9:00AM

Packwaukee Town Hall

Meeting was called to order at 9AM. Roll Call was held. All committee members present: Darrel Unsinn, Bob Fohey, Gary Doudna & Sara Scheel. 2 property owners of the district were also present.

- Short discussion held on the need for additional committee members. It's worth noting that both property owners agreed to join the committee after the meeting adjourned. Thanks to Brad and Tim for joining the group.
- Bob mentioned our dump sites. Bob to send Sara the list of people that took weeds last year and Sara will reach out to them for this season.
- Bob gave an update on the equipment. We purchased 2 trucks to replace the large trucks we've used in the past. We got a Ford F700 Box dump truck and an F250 Super Duty to pull the new conveyor trailer that is being delivered on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Once we have all the titles squared away, the plan is to sell the large trucks to recoup some if not all of the money that was spent on the trucks we bought. This was all done so that we no longer have to worry about CDL requirements. Darrel mentioned that he spoke to Inland and everything is on pace for the conveyor trailer to be delivered on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Bob mentioned that Inland took back the conveyor we bought last year to make some changes we requested (at no cost to the District) and that will be ready in the spring at well. Bob stated the plan is to start spring maintenance in late April on the equipment.
- Darrel obtained an updated quote for the well point. Price increased slightly to \$4214.29. All members agreed that this has to be done. Darrel will share the new price with Bernie so the board knows that it went up slightly. This project was already approved last year, so this is really a formality. We just want to keep everyone informed.
- Bob and Darrel will meet with the electrical contractor after this meeting has adjourned so that we can get a quote to get the electrical work done for the new building and office/shop building that did not get finished last year. All agreed that this work needs to be completed. Once we have the quote we will share with the board for their review and approval.
- WIFI Phone move. Now that the primary power with the meter has been moved from the old trailer to the new building there is no power in the trailer. The WIFI and Phone needs to be moved from the trailer to the new building now. Bob reached out to the phone company and they can do it in the spring. It will cost about \$400 to have it brought over. They are a phone company and we must have the phone in order to have the WIFI. When it get's closer to spring Bob will contact them to schedule the work.
- Bob and Darrel completed all of the interviews prior to this meeting. We have enough candidates to fill the positions we have open. All but 2 employees from last season are returning. Darrel will be confirming with last years staff and making offers to new hires this coming week.
- Weed Treatment/Maps/harvesting patterns/consistency/shoreline identifiers/flags: Darrel asked the committee if we could agree that during July and August that the crew just could not keep up with the growth of the weeds. Bob mentioned that with hot dry weather weeds can grow between 8"-12" in 24 hours. All agreed. Darrel mentioned that he believes there were

other factors that played into this situation. One in particular was the number of laterals that are being cut on the east side of the lake. When you compare the maps that were submitted to the DNR for our application for weed harvesting with the satellite photos that depict the laterals and navigation paths that are actually cut it is clear that our crew is cutting more laterals than are identified on our application maps. The committee agreed this is a problem. When our harvesters are cutting areas they are not supposed to be in, it takes them away from cutting in the areas they should be cutting. All were in agreement that the correct thing to do would be to cut only in the areas identified on the maps submitted with the harvesting application to the DNR. In order for us to follow the established laterals, the plan is to install shoreline identifiers on the north and south shores of the lake. Gary and Sara have agreed to contact the property owners that would be impacted by this. We will need their permission to access the shoreline on their property to put up a post and flag for our crew to use as a target so that the laterals are put in the SAME PLACE EACH AND EVERY YEAR. The buoys will be placed mid channel using GPS coordinates and depth finders. There was mention that some of the buoys may have been placed in the wrong location last season. Bob & Darrel will follow up with Bernie on this prior to the start of the season. In conjunction with the harvesting patterns Darrel has been working with Wisconsin Lakes and Ponds regarding the possibility of doing chemical treatments of certain areas of the lake. Darrel presented a map outlining the areas of the lake that he and Bob identified as the areas that were the greatest distance from the weed drop off sites and an area in segment 4 that is too shallow for the harvesters to cut. All agreed that this is a good starting point for this project. It will free up our harvesters from cutting in areas where they have to sit and wait for the transporter to get back and forth from the conveyors to drop off the weeds. This will allow them to spend time cutting weeds vs. sitting idle. While the funding for this is already in the budget the committee felt more comfortable sending this on to the board chairman before moving forward. This is just the first step in the process. We will share the information at the appropriate time.

- Additional comments: Bob brought up the availability of 42" stainless steel belting from Aquarius. They reached out to him while he was on vacation. Although we don't need it right now, we will at some point down the road. All agreed that the smart business move would be to make the purchase now to save the money. Darrel to send the information to Bernie to get approval to spend the money on the belting.
- Meeting adjourned 10:10 by Darrel