

BLPRD Harvest Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 5, 2020 – 1:00 PM  
Packwaukee Town Hall

Harvest Committee Members Present: Gary Kershaw, Joe Dion, Linda Huggett, Bill Lewis, Jim Barton

Absent: Ed Schams

Spring Start Date – Equipment repair and maintenance crew will be four employees with a start date of April 13 weather permitting. Start of harvest date by DNR regulation is June 1.

Harvest crew will consist of eight employees. Two truck drivers, one transport operator, one mechanic, one working foreman, three harvester operators

Equipment Review – The mechanic, Ron Schiller, will assess equipment on spring start date for repairs and service and order necessary parts. Priorities are stripping conveyor for welding repairs, repairing forklift, installing deuce and a half winch, repairing speedometer on haul truck, and servicing all lake harvesting equipment.

GPS – Gary spoke with Ziegler Ag where GPS units were purchased. They explained current GPS units are designed for agricultural row crop use. Ziegler said they are to be used on solid ground with no wind or wave deviation. There may be a lack of training on the GPS units. Joe found two memory fobs and a CD that came with the GPS units. Gary will review.

Gary also spoke with Chad Lese from Aquarius. Aquarius has had interest on GPS units on lake machines and would research and get back to us.

Gary and Tom Spinnato will review the GPS units in the spring to see what we have and the condition of the units.

Off-Road Fuel – We are approved for off-road diesel fuel purchase from Marquette County. Two employees will be authorized to purchase.

On-road diesel and gas credit approved at Oxford Travel Plaza. Two truck drivers and Tom Spinnato will have authority to sign for those purchases.

Water Level – Even if lake is low, employees will be able to launch harvest equipment shortly before start date of harvesting.

Buoys – The No wake buoys will be installed before May 1. Buoys will be cleaned and inspected before putting into the lake. Joe will email the policy packet on cleaning and condition and policy and procedures of buoys.

Transporters – Delivery date of the new transporter will be between May 1 and May 15 with training provided by Aquarius.

Discussion of sale of existing transporter chose to keep for the 2020 season due to unknown water levels and weeds.

Weed Cutting Permit – Weed Cutting Permit is a three year permit and is good through the 2021 season. Permit start harvesting date is June 1. Any earlier start date requires permission from DNR.

Harvest committee is reviewing DNR approved harvest map to review cutting of laterals.

New Business – Discussion of adding operations line to next harvest meeting agenda.

Weed disposal will be at the closest most efficient site.

Gary asked all attending about future ideas for improving lake site and equipment needs over the next five years. Please bring your ideas to the next harvest committee meeting. Ideas are welcome from all lake district members.

Gary asked BLRPD board to provide harvest committee a breakdown of receipts of harvest equipment in a more refined way so equipment can be segregated to actual expense per month for each machine and fuel totals for each month.

Pat Frank and Linda worked on a new employee handbook which will need BLPRD board approval.

2020 harvest crew applications for employment are being posted in the Marquette Tribune, Facebook, and the BLPRD website March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Next Harvest Committee Meeting will be held April 1, at 10:00 am at the Packwaukee Town Hall.