

BLPRD Harvest Committee Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, February 20, 2021 – 9:00 AM  
Packwaukee Town Hall

Called to order at 9:00 am

Present: Gary Kershaw, Joe Dion, Linda Huggett, Bill Lewis, Cindi Blumreich, Don Klecz, Sara Scheel, Al Rosenthal

Absent: Larry Haygood, Bernie Sosinsky, Ed Schams

Topics of discussion

A. Hiring methods for 2021 season

B. Lake weed harvest cutting plan

C. Packwaukee Township boat landings

Life jackets must be accessible on the vessel per state law. This information has been added to the job descriptions for transport operator and harvester operators.

Discussion on hiring methods. Repair of equipment will start in April. Had started interviewing at this time last year. Job descriptions will be put on Buffalo Lake website this week. Ads for hiring will be submitted and run for two weeks in the Portage Register, Marquette Tribune, and two free Badgerland papers serving Marquette County and Waushara County. Job descriptions and applications can be picked up and returned at the Packwaukee Library for those who do not have internet access. For those with internet access, the information will be placed on the district website under an Employment tab. Supervisor will be hired first to assist in hiring process. All past employees will need to reapply and go through the hiring process. Applications can be mailed to Linda for applicants that do not have internet access. Questions can be emailed to Cindi. A Facebook posting will be put out for notification of job openings.

Applications will be put in a folder for review before interviewing. Appointments will be set up for interviews. Linda, Gary, Bill, Cindi, Bernie, and Larry are on the subcommittee to interview. There will be standardized questions during the interview as well as individualized job questions. The subcommittee will put a list of questions together. A special board meeting will be called to approve potential employees once the harvest committee and subcommittee recommended applicants.

March 24 is deadline for receiving applications. Motion made by Joe, seconded by Gary for March 24 cutoff date. Motion approved. Subcommittee will meet week of March 27 or earlier to review applications and begin setting interviews. Meeting will be held for supervisor position first. Other applicants will be notified for interviewing.

Work on equipment would like to begin week of April 12 if weather conditions permit. Quite a bit of repairs need to be completed before harvest season begins.

A district member stated that he and his stepson would be willing to volunteer cutting and would be available to work Friday thru Sunday. Al Rosenthal stated weekend cutting was tried several years ago and people complained that the cutters were working during the weekend making it inconvenient and a nuisance for the lake users. Discussion was done in previous harvest meetings this year about standard hours and weekends were not included in the hours.

Volunteers should fill out application and should be interviewed for skill sets.

Discussion on harvest cutting plan. Joe had emailed map to the harvest committee and the approximate cutting calculations of the first section of the lake by dredge bank. No concerns were expressed on how the map is being done. The request being submitted to the DNR states that we will only cut the main channel before June 3.

Three sections are on the West side. There are three offload points – Call of the Wild, Hollenbeck's Landing, and Freedom Rd landing. One harvesting cutter and one truck driver are used. Only one cutter used and offloads onto the conveyer into the truck.

Seven sections are on the East side. Offload points - dredge bank, Buffalo Lake Lodge, Hwy C landing, and lake site. Three harvesting cutters and one truck driver are used. One cutter works by the Causeway and offloads at the lake site onto the conveyer and into the truck that is also used on the West side. Two cutters offload into the transporter and the weeds are hauled to the nearest offload point. Segments are broken up by approximately 1,400 linear foot segments.

Discussion on how to start the flow on the East side. Joe made a phone call to Aquarius on speed estimating distance to be cut. Refer to the calculations sheet that was sent out by Joe. This is a calculation at 1.75 miles per hour and may not be the exact timeline.

The crew supervisor will report to the harvest chairman on weekly cutting accomplishments and it will be posted on the website under the News column and Facebook at the end of the work week on Friday mornings. Lake members and users would like this information posted before the weekend.

Reference: West side of the lake is the area west of the Causeway in Packwaukee and East side of the lake is the area east of the Causeway in Packwaukee down to the dredge bank.

Prioritizing what gets done first. When they get done with a segment, including the laterals, they move to the next segment. That will take care of laterals in the cutting. It would be very difficult cutting the center cut after May. Recommendation was to start at the dam and work toward the Causeway. However, the equipment will be at the lake site. It would not make sense to deadhead to dam to start. The first pass could be that way and meet halfway. Talking about 6-7 passes. 50' in the center would be allowed to cut and would like to change in the next permit after this year. All three cutters would move down together for early cutting. Service truck would go to drop site to next drop site. All three cutters would move down in the middle of the channel in the initial pass and then back upstream if approved to start early. On the way back, we would cut to 50'. No priority set up until DNR approves. Request permission to go down main channel only. Previously, early start was denied because of spawning on shorelines. No cutting has been down the main channel in the last five years and needs attention. Biggest complaint last year was trying to get out to the main channel.

Discussion on dredging. Lake has lost depth. Dredging would be an uphill battle from a cost perspective. Stretch for us with current financial situation.

Discussion of Hollenbeck's Landing. Due to low water level and amount of silt, Hollenbeck's landing needs to have gravel to be able to get equipment into the water. Gary has been in contact with Pat Kilbey and Courtney Trimble. Need to meet with Packwaukee Township for approval.

Packwaukee Township will be redoing Freedom Rd landing and getting grant, etc. but will not be done this year. Will be working on Causeway and will be shutting down 2022. Preliminary work is this fall.

Close meeting, Gary. Seconded Joe.

Establish next meeting

Note: The Buffalo Lake Harvest Committee will require 6' social distancing and mandatory face coverings and asking anyone attending the meeting to bring their own face covering as none will be provided. Please do not attend if you have had a cough or fever in the last two weeks.