

A Minute with the Chair

Someone needs to arrest Punxsutawney Phil. I think we all done with winter. I know I am. I just wanted to take a minute to introduce myself and give a brief update on all that has been going on behind the scenes. For those that do not know me, I am Ro Klecz. Although I am not a full-time resident just yet, I will be shortly. I have been a Municipal Building/Zoning Inspector for the last 27 years and my husband, Don and I are located at W4707 Co C. Feel free to stop by and say hi.

It is getting closer to Spring and the Board, Committees and Volunteers have been very busy. We have a great group of people this year who are diverse in their abilities, experiences and thinking. The Harvesting and Operation Committees have been busy hiring seasonal employees, working on equipment evaluation and getting a list of repairs necessary before the harvesting season gets underway. We are scheduling a cleanup day at the District's property sometime mid- April weather permitting. Dave Burton is looking for 20 volunteers to help with the cleanup and organization of items on the property. If interested, please contact Dave either by email: fixme123@yahoo.com or call him at 608-369-4331.

The 2019 harvesting permit has been applied for and approved by DNR. A grant application was submitted for future purchase of a transporter. The District should find out if the grant is awarded by April 10, 2019. Thank you Bill Lewis and Marcel (Joe) Dion for working hard on these items.

The Communication Committee has been busy by redesigning the email blasts and making sure that information is getting to membership on a more consistent basis. The committee is also looking for your feedback on possibly hosting an open house at the District's property mid-summer. I don't think many members have ever had the opportunity to visit the District's property, learn about the operations or see the equipment up close. So please let me, Ro Klecz know if this is an interest to the District Members by emailing me at doginspector@yahoo.com

Ecology Committee as always, is looking for ways to involve the County school kids on projects that teach them about ecology and assists the District in saving money. The Committee is also investigating the continuation of erosion on Dredge Island. This year there were several people who have taken advantage of the Healthy Lakes Grant program. Water clarity testing will be starting soon and if you would like to get a group together to do a garden walk or a possible ecology type program, contact Karyn Niin Kitigade, email: karyn@movingyourenergy.com

We are starting something new this year. The District will be implementing a Harvesting Hotline. If you have any concerns, comments or questions during the 2019 harvesting season there will certain people that you can contact directly, and they will make sure to address your concerns, comments or questions within 24 hours. The Harvesting Hotline information will be posted soon on the website, Facebook and sent via email blast. A huge thank you to Larry Haygood, Linda Huggett and Gary Kershaw for volunteering to be the three musketeers.

Last but not least, a huge thank you to you, our membership. You keep the Board on their toes and provide the District with the necessary feedback to assist in making 2019 a great harvesting season.

We ask that you please support all the local businesses of Montello and Packwaukee and Buffalo Lake volunteers are always needed and appreciated.