

BLPRD Harvest Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, January 28, 2022 – 9:00 AM
Packwaukee Town Hall

Gary Kershaw called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Roll Call

Present – Gary Kershaw, Joe Dion, Ed Scham, Darrel Unsinn, Robert Fohey

Absent – Dave Burton, Sara Scheel, Don Klecz

Topics of discussion

A. Review proposed harvest cutting plan

Joe has been in contact with DNR and they will issue a one year permit for the 2022 cutting season. A weed study will need to be completed before they will issue a future permit beyond this year. Once the study been completed, submitted, and approved, a two-year permit may be issued with a five-year permit after. The 2022 permit will be applied for by mid March.

Discussion on laterals. Laterals will be cut similar to the previous season with minor modifications on the DNR map that is submitted. Major increases of the number of laterals would require more equipment, more crew, and more lake fee money to support it.

A request for early cutting start date of May 15th should be asked for from the DNR for training purposes of new employees.

The startup maintenance, upkeep crew will start April 18th. If equipment repairs go well, the crew of three or four will shutdown, lock the gate, and return when starting the harvest cutting season.

B. Update on weed drop off sites

Gary has been contacting people for potential drop off sites, creating a master list of names, addresses, phone numbers and distance. He found a couple of sites that were willing to take a large volume of weeds. An article in The Marquette Tribune stated that the Packwaukee Hwy D Causeway will be shut down in mid June 2022. He now is continuing to search to find sites to service the west end of the lake during the causeway closing.

Darrel suggested contacting the Nature Conservancy and he will be calling them for a weed dropoff site.

C. Unfinished business

Discussion on personnel. Darrel is handling the advertising and hiring of potential lake district employees. He is posting ads in the The Marquette Tribune, Indeed, Wisconsin Job Service, and public places in the area. Ed suggested to double up on employees having a two-day work period by two employees to cover one job. Darrel, Bob, and Gary will be interviewing potential employees.

Update on lake site building upgrades. Gary contacted the builder this past fall. The lake district is on the list for spring construction for improvements. Upgrades will be used for harvest equipment storage and small workshop for tool storage and supervisor's headquarters.

The district board has approved a credit card for fuel purchases and equipment repair parts so the supervisor can shop for needs and save the district money.

The two dump trucks will need a total of ten tires replaced due to their condition. This will be done in the spring before startup.

D. New business

Discussion on buoys. Some buoys need to be purchased and replaced due to damage. Additional heavier anchor weights need to be built and attached to a number of buoys. Also some buoy chains need to be lengthened. Town of Packwaukee lake no-wake buoys positioning discussed and need to be in the lake by May 1st.

One new conveyer has been purchased to replace an older unit. The harvest committee uses three conveyers. Two older units that have been refurbished in 2021 should be painted this year to preserve them.

There is a need for a hydraulic water pump to clean lake equipment of weeds and debris during the cutting season to prevent damage to the equipment. This should be added to the transporter this season.

Ed discussed possible chemical treatment on ice on the shoreline where the water has slow current during the spring melt.

Establish next meeting

February 26, 2022, 9:00 am, Packwaukee Town Hall

Adjournment

Gary adjourned meeting at 10:35 am.