

BLPRD Harvesting Committee meeting minutes

Wednesday, November 16, 2022 1PM

Packwaukee, WI Town Hall

Meeting was called to order at 1PM. Roll Call was held: Committee members present: Darrel Unsinn & Bob Fohey. Committee members absent: Gary Doudna & Sara Scheel. 3 property owners of the district were also present.

- It is worth noting that all in attendance agreed that we should continue to try to find additional volunteers to serve on this committee. If you are interested in becoming a member of the committee, please go to the District website to find out how to sign up.
- There were no changes or additions to the agenda.
- Brief discussion held about technology to invite members to attend meetings remotely. I will continue to look at options for this and report back.
- Bob reported on the results of the application grant. Although there were more applications than funds available, we are happy to report that our grant application was approved at the full 50% level. The grant amount is \$153,587.50. Bob has submitted the correct paperwork to the DNR, and the district will be receiving a check for half of that grant amount (\$76,793.75) to assist with the down payment for the harvester, conveyor, and trailer. Final cost for the equipment is \$307,175.00. Bernie has the contract and will be presenting the details to the board at the December 3rd meeting. As soon as the contract is signed, we can move ahead with the process. We are trying to make arrangements to obtain the new conveyor in time for our 2023 season, so time is of the essence.
- Lengthy discussion on Class B CDL requirements for our truck drivers. Mike Murphy has done a lot of investigative work on this topic and has done a great job! He presented his findings to all present. It turns out that the district has been operating the trucks outside of parameters of Wisconsin law. Unfortunately, we are not able to qualify for a farm exemption. Because our trucks have a GVW of 33,000 lbs our drivers are required to have a class B CDL. This requirement adds a whole list of requirements that must be met that vary depending on how we accomplish this task. There are too many variables to be detailed in these minutes. Darrel, Bob, and Mike will continue to look at every option available to us and report back at the next meeting. If people from the membership are interested in hearing more about this, we encourage you to attend the harvesting committee meetings.
- Discussion on weed treatments being used to supplement our harvesting operation. Bernie suggested that we consider treating areas that have landowners on the lake that have areas that can't be cut. I also suggested we should consider doing the areas of the lake that are furthest from the conveyor drop off sites that cause delays in off-loading harvesters because they must wait for the transporter. I will be working with Bob to identify on our segment maps what those areas are and then reach out to Wisconsin Lake and Ponds to investigate feasibility and costs.

No additional comments/questions

Meeting adjourned at 2:30PM by Darrel