Harvester Information Packet

August 2025

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August 8, 2025

Potter Lake Homeowners,

As you may or may not know, our 40-year-old harvester is failing at an increasingly rapid rate as it becomes obsolete. The Lake District held a Special Meeting on July 30, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, and at that meeting, the current status of our harvester was discussed. Discussion was held on various options of continuing to repair the harvester, purchasing a new machine, and contracting for a weed harvesting service.

The board is now taking the next step to formally inform the Potter Lake homeowners at another Special Meeting to be held on August 12, 2025, at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall. At this informational meeting, the board will present the following;

1. Current status of our 1984 harvester.
2. Probable future repair costs and obsolete part replacements.
3. Weighing the options: Purchasing vs. Contracting.
    a. Purchase a new harvester and continue internal weed harvesting operations.
    b. Contract an outside weed harvester service.
4. Financing options.

Please read through the packet attached to this letter. Once we have gone over this information on August 12th, there will be an opportunity to ask questions. If you are unable to attend this Special Meeting, you may email your questions to me at chairperson@potterslake.org. I will make sure that your question gets asked and answered.

The district's goal is to maintain transparency and take a constructive approach to make informed decisions. This involves the need to continue weed harvesting operations without interruption, protecting the lake, and ensuring fiscal responsibility with the district's reserves.

With that being said, the Lake District will be requesting an elector's vote on September 13, 2025, at the Annual Meeting. This vote by the riparian owners will determine:

(1) Whether to purchase a new harvester with equipment delivery beginning with the 2026 season

(2) And if approved, the best financing option

These proposals, for the above considerations, will be presented to the electors **before** the Budget and Annual meetings to be held on September 13, 2025, at 9:00 AM at the Town Hall.

Depending on the outcome of the district's proposal for new capital equipment, the electors may consider and vote on amendments to the 2025 and 2026 budget before final budget approvals. The budget shall separately identify the capital costs and the costs of operation of the district, and shall conform to the applicable requirements under s. 33.29 (1) (g) and shall specify any item that has a cost to the district in excess of $10,000, Wis. Stat. §§ 33.30.

Please plan to attend these important upcoming meetings on August 12 and September 13, 2025.

Sincerely,

Cathy Schulz, Chairperson

Our Current Harvester

Harvester History

- A weed harvester, conveyor, and truck were purchased in 1976.
- The weed harvester was replaced in 1984.
- In 1996, the weed harvester was completely serviced, and a new cutting head was installed.
- In the minutes of the Spring Meeting in May of 2002, it was reported that it did not appear they would need to harvest that season, and that would make five seasons since the District last launched the weed harvester.
- Minutes from the Annual Meeting in September of 2003, report harvesting 180 loads of weeds
- No mention of harvesting in Annual Meeting minutes 2004-2006. The Spring Meeting of May 2007 minutes state the weed harvester may need to be reactivated next year; however, it does not appear the harvester was used in 2008, 2009, or 2010, based on the minutes of the Spring Meeting in May 2008, and Annual Meeting minutes of September 2009 and September 2010. Also reported in 2010 was the good news that Elodia was returning to the lake, having been killed along with invasive plants
- According to the Annual Meeting in August of 2011, harvesting was happening on the lake and would continue through September. They were harvesting six loads each day they went out (unable to determine how often the harvester was run).
- In the minutes from the Annual Meeting on August 25, 2012, it states the following, “to date, we have taken out over 300 loads of weeds. On an average day, they pull out 5 to 9 loads and run 4 days a week, depending on the weather.” (*From Karen Winkleman – 47 loads cut in June of that year, and 71 were cut in July!)
- Though few details are provided in the minutes, it appears harvesting was done in 2013, 2014, and 2015
- In June of 2016, Inland Harvester estimated $15,000 to replace the engine
- No mention of harvesting being done in 2017, 2018, and 2019 (*Note- a whole-lake treatment was done in 2017). There were complaints from residents about having to rake large amounts of weeds from their shorelines after harvesting.
- Few details are provided in the minutes, but it seems there was some harvesting done in 2020 and 2021 108 loads were removed.

It is important to recognize that during these years, the District was able to do whole-lake chemical treatments that often killed native plants along with invasive weeds.

Recent History (from Rick Witt's Records)

- In 2021, the throttle cable was repaired and the hydraulic motor for the paddle wheel was rebuilt – total cost **$922**.
- In 2022, both fuel tanks were replaced, and damaged wiring from mice on the motor was repaired – total cost **$760**.
- Two hydraulic cylinders for the cutter, six hydraulic hoses, a bad control switch, and the cutter roller shaft were replaced in 2023 – total cost **$3,447**
- In 2024, several items were replaced, including the swivel bearing for the paddle wheel cable, the paddle wheel control cable, the cutter roller mat due to muskrat damage, and some bad grease fittings. There was also a repair done on broken welds on the railing base. - total cost **$973**
- In 2025, a bad circuit breaker was replaced, and the cutter bar linkage was repaired - cost **$146.**
- A total of 15 repairs have been done in the last 5 years, 13 of which were based on the age of the harvester, for a **total cost of $6,248.**

Probable Future Repair Costs and Considerations

- These items would need to be done to use the harvester in 2026:
    - Replace the hydraulic solenoid valve (part no longer available) for the harvester bed with a different type valve and replace 3 hydraulic hoses
    - Total: **$1038**
- If another solenoid fails, we will have to overhaul the hydraulic controls completely. The projected cost to do this is **$30,000.**
- The current motor is 10 years old and no longer made because it won't pass EPA requirements.
- The hydraulic paddle wheel motors have been rebuilt at least once. Based on the experience of a representative from Inland Harvester, you can't keep rebuilding these motors, so this could be another significant expense in the future, in the range of **$15,000**.

PLPRD Replacement Harvester Quote Comparison

August 2025

Cost, Options & Warranty	Inland Lake Harvesters, Inc.	Aquarius Systems
Total Cost Harvester & Trailer	**$132,400**	**$237,500**
Costs Harvester	$119,800	$215,240
Cost Trailer	$12,600	$22,300
Shipping Cost	No Charge, PLPRD can pick it up directly.	No Charge, the vendor would deliver to PLPRD directly.
Harvester Model	ILH7-250	HM-320
Harvester Trailer	ILH Dual Axle	TR-23 Triple Axle
Barge Dimensions	Length 24’, Width 8’, Height 24”	Length 24’ 0”, Width 8’ 6”, Height 26”
Paddle Wheels	Tilt when transporting, included	Hydraulically Retractable Paddle Wheels add $10,500
Warranty	Full 2 Years / 2000 hr. for hydraulics	5 Year on Fabrication
Engine	Honda iGX800	Hatz 3H50 TIC Tier-4 Final Diesel
Engine Warranty	3 Years	2 Years
Trailer Dimensions	Length 32.6’, Width 8.6’, Height 3’	Length 35’ 11”, Width 8.0’
Horizontal Cutting Bar	7’	6’
Super Structure Warranty	10 Years	Unknown
Manufacturing Schedule	240-365 days	Up to one year, 365 days
On-site Training	2 days @ time of delivery	Up to 2 days of on-site training
Spare Parts Kit, Tool Kit	Initial Kits at No Charge	15% Spare Parts Discount for all Equipment

P O Box 225 / 762 Brookview Avenue
Burlington WI 53105
1-262-763-3620
www.inlandlakeharvester.com

Inland Lake Harvesters, Inc. was established in 1983 in Burlington WI. We are a family owned and operated business for the last 42 years providing heavy duty aquatic weed harvesting equipment to clients around the globe. Starting our business as a contract harvester company we understand that reliability and ease of maintenance are the #1 factors for any aquatic weed harvester program. Our harvesters are built with this in mind and most of the components are readily available at your local farm implement store intentionally for low cost and easy maintenance.

We provide a two (2) day on-site training program at the time of delivery. Our warranty is a full two (2) year / 2000-hour warranty for the hydraulics. The Honda Engine has a three (3) year warranty. Inland Lake Harvester provides 24/7 phone support as well as a 48 hour guarantee onsite support when necessary, during the 2 year/2000 hour warranty period. Inland Lake Harvester has two fully stocked repair vehicles ready at a moment's notice. We also provide a 10-year warranty for the super structure.

Inland Lake Harvester currently has a 240 – 365 day manufacturing schedule due to supply chain restrictions.

Inland Lake Harvester requires a 1/3 deposit with the signed contract, 1/3 progress payment at halfway manufacturing and final payment at the completion of manufacturing before delivery.

Inland Lake Harvester's proposal to furnish and deliver for Potters Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District:

One (1) ILH7-250 Harvester	$ 119,800.00
One (1) ILH Dual Axle Standard Trailer	$ 12,600.00
Proposal Amount:	$132,400.00

ALL SHIPPING CHARGES WILL BE THE RESPONSBILITY OF THE BUYER.
ACTUAL SHIPPING CHARGES WILL BE BILLED.

FLOTATION BARGE

- HULL & CONSTRUCTION: The barge is constructed with 11-gauge stainless steel welded as a solid steel framework. Internal support structures are complete top to bottom sealed bulkhead placed at 48” on center throughout the barge with incorporated angle framing. All deck load bearing areas are reinforced with a solid formed framework bulkhead with a ¼” stainless steel plate welded into the deck. All construction of Inland Lake Harvester hulls is 100% stainless steel throughout.

- REINFORCEMENT STRUT: Barge sidewalls are formed and constructed with an indented reinforcement strut measuring approximately 4” tall and extending the entire length of the barge.

- BOTTOM PROTECTION: Replaceable 4” x 4” high density polyethylene runners are installed on the full length of the bottom to protect the bottom and to guide the barge on and off the trailer.

- COMPARTMENTS: The hull has 6 airtight and watertight compartments that are fully tested. Each compartment has a 1” inspection plug on the starboard side of the deck and a 1” drain plug on the lower starboard side.

- OUTFITTING: There are four (4) lifting eyes located near the outside corners of the barge. There will be twelve (12) anti-skid grip-tape on the top side port and starboard sides of the deck.

- BOW: The bow of the hull is configured in a slant wave breaking design to augment stability, reduce resistance when cutting through the water and to enhance the capture of vegetation and debris on the pickup conveyor. A heavy-duty clevis shall be mounted toward the forward and rear center of the barge.

- DIMENSIONS: Barge dimensions will measure:

  Length: 24’
  Width: 8’
  Height: 24”

- DRAFT REQUIREMENTS:

  Empty: 12”
  Fully Loaded: 18”

#1CONVEYOR: CUTTING & COLLECTION HEAD

- CONSTRUCTION: The cutting and collection head will consist of a bow mounted structural pivot frame supporting the pickup/loading conveyor. The conveyor bed will be made of structural steel with sidewall pans engineered and designed to create suction and reduce shock wave. Inland Lake Harvester's unibody designed cutter head is built for durability and structural rigidity.

- FUNCTION: The cutting and collection head will serve to simultaneously cut aquatic plants and collect floating vegetation and debris. Then transfer that material from the water into the storage hold container. Plants and refuse will be brought on board by means of hydraulically powered conveyor belts traveling at 85' to 100' per minute. Vessel will allow the operator to disengage the cutters and operate the pickup conveyor only.

  The cutting and collection head is capable of rising out of the water by 12" and lowered to a maximum of 6'. Elevation and adjustment is accomplished by means of two (2) single acting hydraulic cylinders.

- CUTTER BARS: The cutting and collection head does consist of three (3) cutter bars, each having a 3" reciprocating stroke. The cutting blades will be serrated and plated. The horizontal cutter will be mounted across the lower front end of the pickup/loading conveyor frame. The two (2) vertical cutters will be attached to the unibody front end for rigidity.

- DIMENSIONS: The cutter bars will measure:

  Horizontal: 7'
  Vertical: 6'

- DRIVE SYSTEM: Each of the cutter bars shall be powered by three (3) high torque hydraulic motors and 5/8" diameter pitman rods with 5/8" rod end bearings. The loading conveyor is driven by one (1) high torque hydraulic motor by means of positive chain drive couplings. Hydraulic motors are of sufficient capacity to continuously move a fully loaded conveyor belt.

- IMPACT PROTECTION SYSTEM: The cutter head will incorporate a single pivot swing away impact protection system.

- DRIVE SHAFT**:** Cutter head conveyor drive will be a bearing mounted shaft with ten (10) drive sprockets. Conveyor is driven by ½" steel x thirteen (13) toothed machined sprockets welded to the shaft. Laser cut and precision timing of all teeth. All drive shafts are heavy duty 1 ½"

- IDLER SHAFT: Cutter head conveyor idler roller is a bearing mounted smooth tube shaft. All shafts are heavy duty 1 ½".

- TENSIONING DEVICES: Proper belt tension on the pickup conveyor is maintained with two (2) external telescoping threaded tensioning devices at the drive shaft.

- CONVEYOR MESH: Cutter head conveyor mesh is 1” x 1” window standard duty stainless steel flat wire belting. Conveyor bed is made up of two (2) 30” belts.

- WEAR STRIPS: Conveyor #1 will have UHMW Blue Iron ASM ½” x 1” plastic to protect the conveyor frame and return rails.

#2 & #3 CONVEYOR: STORAGE HOLD CONTAINER

- CONSTRUCTION: The storage hold consists of two (2) separate structural steel frames with sidewall pans engineered and designed to allow for maximum water drainage. The storage hold conveyor design allows for a minimum of 2” clearance between the conveyor belting and the top side of the barge.

- #2 CONVEYOR DRIVE SYSTEM: The #2 storage hold conveyor is driven by one (1) high torque hydraulic motors by means of positive chain drive couplings. Hydraulic motors are of sufficient capacity to move a fully loaded conveyor belt. The #2 conveyor belt speed is fully adjustable.

- #3 CONVEYOR DRIVE SYSTEM: The #3 storage hold conveyor is driven by one (1) high torque hydraulic motors by means of positive chain drive coupling. Hydraulic motors are of sufficient capacity to move a fully loaded conveyor belt. The #3 conveyor belt speed is fully adjustable.

- STORAGE CAPACITY: The storage hold container is self-draining and has a capacity of 250 cubic feet.

- FUNCTION: In the operating mode the storage container is kept in a horizontal position. To unload, the discharge end is hydraulically raised to an inclined position. A brace/stop framework is used to prevent the #3 conveyor from being lowered to the absolute horizontal position. This framework assists when making the connection to the shore conveyor or trailer conveyor.

- DRIVE SHAFTS: Storage conveyor drives will be a bearing mounted shaft with ten (10) drive sprockets. Conveyor is driven by ½” steel x thirteen (13) toothed machined sprockets welded to the shaft. Laser cut and precision timing of all teeth. All drive shafts are heavy duty 1 ½”

- IDLER SHAFT: Storage conveyor idler roller is a bearing mounted smooth tube shaft. All shafts are heavy duty 1 ½”

- TENSIONING DEVICES: Proper belt tension on the storage hold conveyors are maintained via external threaded tensioning devices on the bearing plates. The

#2 conveyor tensioners are mounted at the idler shaft, #3 conveyor tensioners are mounted at the idler shaft.

- CONVEYOR MESH: Storage hold conveyor mesh will be 1” x 1” standard duty galvanized flat wire belting consisting of 6-gauge welded rods. Conveyor bed is made up of two (2) 30” belts.

- DISCHARGE REACH: The #3 discharge conveyor extends a minimum of 7’ beyond the barge stern to be capable of raising a minimum of 5’ to unload. Raising and lowering the #3 conveyor is accomplished by means of two (2) single acting hydraulic cylinders. Unloading time is ninety (90) seconds.

POWERPLANT AND HYDRAULICS

- LOCATION: The engine and hydraulic pump are mounted on rubber vibration isolators and is platform mounted alongside the hydraulic tank and lockable battery box away from the operator. Engine Tower will be a split tower design.

- ENGINE: The harvester will be powered by a Honda iGX800 engine.

- FUEL TANK: The harvester is equipped with one (1) 6 gallon fuel tank.

- HYDRAULIC PUMP SYSTEM: The engine directly drives a variable volume pressure compensated demand pump to power all hydraulic systems on the harvester. Total flow capacity / gallons per minute (GPM) is sufficient to operate both paddle wheels as well as all cutting and loading conveyor motors simultaneously. The system allows for all operating functions at infinitely variable speeds from zero to factory set maximum speeds.

- HYDRAULIC RESERVOIR: The hydraulic reservoir has a capacity of 15 US Gallons and includes a lockable filler/breather cap, water collection drain petcock, magnetic particle collector, suction strainer, 10 micron return filter, visual oil level and temperature gauge and electronic low level sensing unit with alarm. The hydraulic tank is mounted on an elevated platform next to the engine.

- HYDRAULIC OIL: Hydraulic oil is Clarion AW-46 biodegradable and passes the US Coast Guard static sheet. Compatible hydraulic oil will be used to match all of clients existing equipment if necessary.

- HYDRAULIC LINES: All hydraulic lines are made of double braided rubber hydraulic hose.

The following minimum PSI hose ratings shall be required:

¼” Hose – 5000 PSI minimum
½” Hose – 3500 PSI minimum
¾” Hose – 2250 PSI minimum
1” Hose – 2000 PSI minimum

- HYDRAULIC FITTINGS: Only high-quality hydraulic fittings are used. All fittings are properly matched in size and rating to the hydraulic hose.

PROPULSION SYSTEM

- PADDLE WHEELS: Two bi-directional paddle wheels are center mounted on the port and starboard sides of the barge. Paddle wheels are easily attached and removed via eight (8) bolts for over-the-road transportation. Paddle wheels are powered by a heavy-duty direct drive hydraulic wheel bearing motor. Each paddle wheel motor is protected by a crossover relief valve.

- DIMENSIONS: Each paddle wheel measures:

Diameter:	48”
Width:	22”
Paddle Depth:	16”

- FINISH: Paddle wheels and entire paddle wheel guard system is painted black.

CONTROL BRIDGE

- LOCATION: The operator control area is a raised bridge, permanently mounted at the forward end of the harvester over the storage hold container. Bridge is surrounded by safety railings with access to it from the barge deck by means of non-skid ladder steps from both the starboard and port sides. The control tower will be split tower design.

- CONTROL CONSOLE: Manual control levers shall be mounted on the bridge within easy reach of the operator in the seated position. Any hydraulic lines located in this vicinity are shielded. Operator console includes one (1) lockable storage container.

- INSTRUMENTATION: Instrumentation shall include an ignition switch, engine accelerator, tachometer, oil pressure alarm, hour meter and ammeter. Gauges, controls, and electrical circuitry will be of weather resistant design. A USB outlet and hydraulic pressure gauge will also be provided.

- OPERATOR SEAT: The operator seat is ergonomically designed made of foam rubber, padded, and covered with weatherproof heavy-duty vinyl with adjustable height.

- BIMINI CANOPY: The harvester includes a large Bimini canopy designed to shade the operator.

FINISH

- PREPARATION AND FINISH: All weldments and fabricated parts are thoroughly cleaned to remove all grease, oil and foreign material. Weld spatter, slag, flux, rust and corrosion will be completely removed. All carbon steel surfaces are abrasive blasted per **SSPC-SP10 and coated with Devoe 224V Epoxy applied at 4 – 8 mils.**

- COLOR: INLAND 250 GREEN. **Stainless Steel barge will not be painted**

- STAINLESS STEEL FINISH: Stainless steel barge will be cured with a pickling paste for the manufacturers recommended time.

- FASTENERS: Where applicable, fasteners are stainless steel grade 18/8 throughout.

- PARTS AVAILABILITY: Parts and fittings for the harvester and any of its accessories, (ie: engine, hydraulic lines, pumps & valves; hydraulic motors, hoses & fittings; hardware; electrical components; etc.) are of current manufacture, design and size that is readily available to the Buyer.

MISCELLANEOUS

- SPARE PARTS KIT: A spare parts kit will be provided at no additional cost and will include the following:
  - 12 each Sickle Blade
  - 24 each Sickle Blade Bolt
  - 24 each Sickle Blade Nut
  - 4 each Guard Shim
  - 3 each Hold Down Clip
  - 3 each Double Head Treated Guard
  - 1 each Tie Rod End
  - 1 each Pillow Block Bearing
  - 1 each Flat Bearing
  - 1 each Belting (small splicing section)
  - 2 each Belting Connecting Rod
  - 1 each Fuel Filter
  - 1 each Oil Filter
  - 1 each Hydraulic Filter

- TOOL KIT: A complete set of required tools for servicing the equipment will be supplied, along with a tool box, fire extinguisher and life vest.

  - 1 each 14 pc Combo Wrench Set SAE ¼" – 1 ¼"
  - 1 each 21 pc Socket Set SAE/Metric 3/8 Drive
  - 1 each Allen Wrench Set SAE and Metric
  - 1 each Pipe Wrench
  - 1 each Crescent Wrench
  - 1 each Flat Head Screwdriver
  - 1 each Philips Head Screwdriver
  - 1 each Pliers
  - 1 each Hammer
  - 1 each Vice Grips
  - 1 each Side Cutters
  - 1 each Grease Gun
  - 1 each Needle Nose Pliers

ILH Dual Axle Standard Trailer

The dual axle standard trailer is a DOT trailer designed to launch, retrieve, and store the harvester.

- DIMENSIONS:
  Length: 32’ 6”
  Width: 8’ 6”
  Height: 3’
- ELECTRICAL SYSTEM: 12 Volt Electrical System with a six (6) prong connector
- AXLES: 8,000 lbs each – 16,000 GVW
- BRAKES: Electric with Break-away Safety Kit
- SUSPENSION: Leaf Spring
- HITCH: 2” Pintle (adjustable)
- WINCH: 12,000 lbs Electric
- JACK STAND: One (1) 8,000 lb capacity jack stand with base
- SAFETY CHAINS: 2 each 26,000 lb rated 3/8” x 36”
- LIGHTS: Tail, Stop, Turn
- VIN/ID PLATE: Laser Etched
- FINISH: Sandblasted/Black Enamel

AQUARIUS SYSTEMS

PO Box 215

200 North Harrison Street

North Prairie, Wisconsin 53153 U.S.A.

Phone: 262-392-2162

POTTERS LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
BUDGETARY QUOTATION

Proposal Number: 080425.01

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE EACH*
1	**HM-320 Aquatic Plant Harvester**	**$215,240.00**
	Hatz 3H50 TIC Tier-4 Final Diesel Engine	*Standard*
	6 ft. Cutting Width w/ Dual Impact Protection	*Standard*
	304L Stainless Steel Barge	*Included*
	Optional: Centralized Manual Grease Bank	*$6,010.00*
	Optional: Electronic Joystick Controls	*$6,850.00*
	Levers & Foot Pedals	*Standard*
	Optional: Hydraulically Retractable Paddle Wheels	*$10,500.00*
	Optional: Full Platform (Conjoins Engine & Operator Platform)	*$5,430.00*
MUST DECIDE BETWEEN FULL PLATFORM & RETRACTABLES (Cannot Choose Both)		
	Access Platform Attached to Starboard Side of #3 Conveyor	*Standard*
	Raised Storage Conveyors (approx. 2” off hull for ease of cleaning)	*Standard*
	Flat Rung Ladders	*Standard*
	Environmental Marine Safe Hydraulic Oil & Grease	*Included*
	Permanent Mounted Aluminum Fuel Tank	*Standard*
	Aquarius Blue Color Scheme	*Included*
	Basic Spare Parts & Tool Kits	*Included*
	Large Sun/Rain Bimini Canopy	*Included*
	Safety Equipment Kit	*No Charge*
	TR-23 Standard Trailer	**$22,300.00**
	Three (3) 7,000lb. Axles	*Standard*
	9,000lb. Electronic Winch	*Standard*
	DOT Lighting	*Standard*
	Estimated Residual Value of Current Aquarius Harvester & Trailer	**$20,000 - $70,000**
	Five-Year Warranty on Fabrication & Two-Year Warranty on Engine	**Included**
	Two Year 15% Spare Parts Discount for ALL Equipment	**Included**
	Four Free Registrations to Annual Training Seminar	**Included**
	Estimated Freight	**Included**
~	**TOTAL**	**TBD**

*Budgetary Pricing Valid Until December 1, 2025

AQUARIUS SYSTEMS

POTTERS LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
CONTRACT PROVISIONS

"Company" shall refer to Aquarius Systems; "Buyer" shall refer to the Potters Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

EQUIPMENT: Aquarius Systems will furnish the equipment as stated above. Any equipment the Buyer wishes to exclude from this Contract should be indicated by strikeout *(~~example~~)* and initialed by at least one of the Contract endorsers.

OPTIONS: Aquarius Systems will furnish only the options as stated above. Any options the Buyer wishes to exclude from this Contract should be indicated by strikeout *(~~example~~)* and initialed by at least one of the Contract endorsers. If a desired option has been omitted, please notify Aquarius Systems immediately and a new contract will be issued.

WARRANTY: Aquarius Systems will provide a five (5) year warranty on the equipment and two (2) year warranty on the engine.

DELIVERY: The equipment shall be prepared to ship from Company factory within 10 to 14 months after the receipt of order. Prices quoted are F.O.B. factory, North Prairie, Wisconsin, USA. An estimated freight quote may be included as a separate line item on the Contract. Due to current market conditions, freight will be quoted and charged to the Buyer at the time of shipping. NOTE: A crane may be required to unload the equipment upon delivery; Buyer is responsible for all arrangements and costs associated with the crane rental.

The Company shall not be liable for delay or default in the performance of its obligations under this agreement if such delay or default is caused by conditions beyond its reasonable control, including but not limited to Force Majeure, fire, flood, accident, storm, acts of war, riot, government interference, material shortages, strikes and/or walkouts. In the event of any such delay, the delivery date shall be extended for a period equal to the time lost by reason of the delay. Delay in delivery for any other cause shall in no event subject the Company to any special or consequential damages.

PAYMENT TERMS: A down payment of thirty percent (30%) of the total purchase price is due after receiving a written notification from the Wisconsin Waterway Commission (WWC). The Balance is due in full upon delivery of equipment. Taxes are reflected on the quotation. Any variations to the tax rate stated shall be the responsibility of the buyer. Interest will be charged at a rate of 1.5% per month on any unpaid balance commencing on the first day after payment is due, in addition to a service fee of $75.00 per month, until payment is received in full.

DRAWINGS: Any and all drawings, (including but not limited to general layout, arrangement or system drawings), furnished by the Company shall remain the property of the Company and are not to be used, copied or reproduced for any purpose without the Company's prior written authorization.

CHANGES: The Company may, but shall not be obligated to, incorporate in the equipment such changes in design, construction or arrangement as shall, in its judgment, constitute an improvement over former practice. If any of the materials of construction specified or contemplated herein are not readily procurable for their intended purpose, the Company shall have the right to substitute other material suitable for the work.

STORAGE: If the Buyer asks the Company to hold or warehouse equipment purchased under this Contract for any length of time after the date on which the equipment is prepared for shipment, the Company may, but shall not be obligated to store the same, and the Buyer shall pay storage charges at a rate determined by the Company at the time of the request commencing from and after what was to have been the shipment date. If shipment is so deferred, full payment for the equipment shall become due and payable when the Buyer is notified by the Company, by invoice or otherwise, that the equipment is ready for shipment.

SECURITY AGREEMENT: Without relieving the Buyer from the obligation to make payment as provided for, the Buyer grants to the Company a security interest in the equipment described herein for the purpose of securing full payment of its purchase price and any other sums the Buyer shall become obligated to pay hereunder. The Buyer agrees to perform all acts, which may be necessary to perfect and preserve such security interest in the Company. The Buyer further agrees that, until such security interest is terminated, it shall not sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the equipment or in any way impair its value. The Buyer shall also keep the equipment free from all liens, encumbrances and other security interests and shall defend it against all claims by other persons other than the Company until such termination. In case of failure by the Buyer to make any payment when due, the Company may, at its option, take exclusive possession of the Collateral wherever found and remove the same without legal process. The remedy provided hereunder is in addition to all rights and remedies available to the Company at law or in equity.

DISPUTES: The Statutes, Laws and Courts of the State of Wisconsin shall govern the resolution of any and all disputes of any nature whatsoever that may arise in the execution and fulfillment of this Contract.

CANCELLATION: The Buyer may cancel this order only upon written notice to the Company. In the event of such cancellation the Company shall be immediately entitled to receive from the Buyer, as liquidation damages and not as a penalty, the cost of the equipment produced and services performed by the Company up to the date of cancellation, plus a markup of fifteen percent (15%) of such costs. Any money paid as a down payment shall be credited toward this total; any amount exceeding the down payment shall be invoiced to the Buyer and shall be due in full immediately upon receipt.

SEVERABILITY: The unenforceability or invalidity of any of the paragraphs of this contract shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining paragraphs of this contract, but such remaining paragraphs shall be interpreted and construed in such a manner as to carry out fully the intention of the parties.

LOANED EQUIPMENT: In the event of a breakdown on the buyer's current harvester, the seller will provide a loaned harvester, free of charge for the duration of the summer, until the new harvester and trailer are delivered. Buyer will be responsible for daily maintenance and operational expenses, and insurance. Seller is responsible for pickup and delivery.

EXPIRATION: This Proposal is valid through December 1, 2025.

OFFERED ON BEHALF OF AQUARIUS SYSTEMS, DIVISION OF D&D PRODUCTS INC.

_____

ACCEPTED ON BEHALF OF the Potters Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

_____ _____

_____

Hiring an Outside Contractor for Harvesting

The following summarizes what Rick Witt learned when he spoke to Northstar Waterway Management, a local company that does weed harvesting contracting. The key take-aways include:

- This company charges $250 per hour, which comes to about $2,000 per day.
- There is an additional charge of $35 per hour for an extra person on-site to keep moving the trailer off of the ramp.
- The big issue with this type of operation is the need to shut down the boat ramp while they are operating on the lake. The reason for this is that once their harvester is launched, they back their trailer down the launch to receive the loads from the harvester.
- The trailer stays on the ramp. They typically place three harvester loads on the trailer before the trailer is hauled away.
- They do haul the weeds to their site.
- It is unclear how much control we would have over the schedule. Right now, our harvest crew does not work on Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays so as to not interfere with homeowners having guests over.

    - For context, last year, which was a very light year, we reported 64 hours of harvesting. At $285 per hour, the cost would be $18,240.
    - In a year with a lot of harvesting, our people generally do six loads a day.
    - For a year like 2012, where they took out over 300 loads, and current fees of $2280 per day, to remove six loads a day that year would have cost the district $114,000!
    - Since 2020, the district has had a year where 108 loads were harvested. This would have cost $41,000.

Weighing the Options: Purchasing vs. Contracting for a Weed Harvester

Deciding between purchasing and contracting for a weed harvester involves evaluating several factors, including cost, control, and availability of each method.

Purchasing a weed harvester

Pros

- Long-term control and autonomy: Owning a harvester provides complete control over weed management, allowing for immediate action as needed without recurring costs or the unpredictability of contractor availability.
- Potential long-term cost-effectiveness: While the initial investment is significant, owning a harvester can be a better investment long-term, especially when compared to the ongoing costs of contracted weed harvesting services over future decades.
- Storage: Owning and operating a harvester requires adequate storage space. The Lake District already owns land on Hwy L with a huge maintenance building housing our current weed harvester, weed harvester trailer, two harvesting conveyors, and a pickup truck.

Cons

- High initial investment: Aquatic weed harvesters, particularly those with advanced features, can be expensive.
- Maintenance and operational costs: Owning a harvester incurs ongoing costs for maintenance, repairs, fuel, and labor, similar to other farm machinery.
- Labor-intensive: Operating and maintaining a harvester requires trained personnel and can be labor-intensive.

Contracting a weed harvester service

Pros

- No initial investment: Contracting eliminates the need for a significant upfront investment in purchasing equipment.
- Flexibility and convenience: Contracted services may offer flexibility without the hassle of equipment ownership, maintenance, and operation.
- Professional expertise: Services employ trained operators and use their specialized harvesting equipment, ensuring efficient and effective weed removal.
- Potential cost savings for *smaller* projects: For limited or infrequent weed control needs, contracting might be more cost-effective than purchasing a harvester and handling the maintenance and operation yourself.

Cons

- Availability challenges: The lake weed harvesting market can be underserved, leading to difficulties finding available services and potentially lengthy waiting periods, especially during peak seasons.
- Weather dependency: Weather conditions can significantly impact contracted service schedules and availability, leading to uncertainty in weed control efforts.
- Loss of control: Reliance on a contractor means less control over the timing and execution of weed removal, potentially delaying action when needed.
- Ongoing costs: Contracting services involves recurring costs that can accumulate over time, potentially exceeding the cost of purchasing a harvester in the long run.
- Limited availability of specialized services: Some areas may have a shortage of companies offering harvesting services, limiting options for property owners.

Making the decision

The choice between purchasing and contracting depends on the specific needs, budget, and priorities of the Lake District. Consider factors such as:

- Size of the waterbody and weed infestation: Larger bodies of water with extensive weed problems might benefit more from owning a harvester for frequent and widespread control.
- Frequency of weed removal: If continuous or multiple harvests are necessary, purchasing may be a more cost-effective long-term solution.
- Budget and resources: Evaluate the upfront cost of purchasing versus the ongoing expenses of contracting to determine what is feasible within the budget.
- Labor availability and skills: Ensure that adequate district personnel are available and trained to operate and maintain the harvester if choosing to purchase a replacement harvester.
- Time and flexibility: Decide whether immediate and consistent control of our district's Maintenance and Operations personnel or relying on contracted professionals is more important.

Keep in mind, a new replacement harvester has a **240 – 365 day manufacturing schedule** due to supply chain restrictions. Should the district take a proactive approach by deciding at the 2025 Annual meeting, or a reactive one, adapting as time progresses at the 2026 or beyond Annual meeting, regarding this proposed capital equipment investment?

New Harvester Expense Scenarios

PLPRD August 2025

Knowns:

New Harvester Cost: $132,400 Influence of tariffs may increase this cost prior to us signing contract.

Salvage value of existing harvester: ~$10,000

Net cost to replace the harvester to the district will run: $122,400

Payments to the harvester manufacturer are made in three equal installments over the 8-12 month build cycle.

PLPRD has about $55,000 in available cash (after paying the remainder of 2025 operating expenses)

PLPRD holds an LPL Investment account presently worth around $103,000. This account has a cost basis of $116,000, which if not called before its maturity in November of 2028, will be worth its basis of $116,000 at maturity. The investment can be called each year in November for payment in December. If called, we'll receive 5% investment income on the basis. It will not be called in 2025. We can fully or partially devest the investment at the current account value. (i.e. at present time, fully devesting would be a loss of $13,000 on the basis. Devesting ½ of the account would be a loss of $6,500 on the basis.)

PLPRD has tax revenue each year of $51,000. In addition, we've been receiving income in the form of a grant of $4,000/year for CBCW since 2016 and interest income. Average income over the last 13 years has been $57,166.

Over the last 13 years, PLPRD operating costs (less Dam costs) have been

Minimum: $43,406 Maximum: $82,053 Average: $58,928

On average, over the last 13 years, PLPRD operating expenses have exceeded income by $1,762/year.

Loans:

As a Lake District, our financing options follow the Wisconsin Board of Land Commissioners rules for general obligation loans.

Terms: 2-year to 20-year fixed rate loans.

Current Rates: Loan Term 2 years 5.50%

3-5 years 5.50%

6-10 years 6.00%

11-20 years 6.50%

Payments: One payment per year due on March 15. Loans funded between September 1 and March 14 do not have a required payment the following March 15.

Costs: No closing costs. No prepayment penalties.

Loan Security: Loans become a general obligation of the borrower and require the borrower to levy a tax sufficient to make annual principal and interest payments when due.

Sample Payment Scenarios

- Pay for the machine with existing assets, liquidating LPL at a loss:

Goal: No impact on real estate tax bill and no loan.

Purchase the $132,400 machine and scrap the existing harvester for $10,000. PLPRD would pay the first installment of $44,133 from cash reserves. The second installment of $44,133 would likely be due sometime in early 2026 and the last installment of $44,133 in late Spring. Liquidate the LPL investment to pay the final two installments and invest any residual into CD. This should leave us with approximately $35,000 in reserves ($10,000 from the harvester scrap, $14,000 from LPL proceeds and $11,000 cash).

- Make first payment from cash reserves, have a special tax (i.e. the dam project):

Goal: Not to liquidate the LPL at a loss.

Purchase the $132,400 machine and scrap the existing harvester for $10,000. PLPRD would pay the first installment of $44,133 from cash reserves. The second installment of $44,133 would likely be due sometime in early 2026 and the last installment of $44,133 in late Spring. Impose a special one-time tax to cover the 2nd and 3rd installments – probably around $620. This would leave us with less than $21,000 ($11,000 cash and $10,000 from harvester scrap sale) in cash available, so if a very large weed treatment is necessary in 2026, we'd need to liquidate some LPL position to cover operational costs.

- Make first payment from cash reserves, obtain a loan payable over 3-5 years.

Goal: Not to liquidate the LPL at a loss, lower annual impact on tax bills

Purchase the $132,400 machine and scrap the existing harvester for $10,000. PLPRD would pay the first installment of $44,133 from cash reserves. The second installment of $44,133 would likely be due sometime in early 2026 and the last installment of $44,133 in late Spring. Obtain a loan for about $90,000 to cover the second two installments. Estimated loan payments for 5-year and 3-year loan terms respectively would be $140/year** and $220/year**. This would leave us with less than $21,000 ($11,000 cash and $10,000 from harvester scrap sale) cash available, so if a very large weed treatment is necessary in 2026, we'd need to liquidate some LPL position to cover operational costs.

**The first year payment may be a bit higher as it could contain up to 18 months of accrued interest.