



Dear Council Members,

The Board of Directors from GOLD discussed the topic of hiring a seasonal employee to solely operate the weed harvester. This employee will operate the harvester on average 30 hours a week from May through September, in theory. Estimated salary would be approximately \$9,000 based on a pay rate of \$14.00 an hour. The individual would be a City of Mauston employee. GOLD would help sponsor the employee's pay. GOLD proposes a cost share of 50/50, \$4500 for each entity.

The individual would only operate the harvester. This allows the employee to provide a steady means of harvesting weeds, starting sooner in the spring and harvesting more acreage of Lake Decorah. The City of Mauston staff would still move the weeds and maintain the harvester. Once the budgeted salary is used the employee would be done for the season.

Our Volunteer program has been great. We have had a few concerns, in that a few volunteers are not overly comfortable operating the harvester and a few close calls that could have resulted in damage to the harvester and possible injury to our volunteer. GOLD would continue to search for recurring grants offered through many programs and GOLD would continue funding through our fundraising activities.

We know time is short to make a decision and we are open to thoughts and conversation. We have seen improvement in restoring Lake Decorah. This 50/50 program will help tremendously in improving the aesthetics of the City of Mauston, its lake and shoreline. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jordan Wilke, President

8/25/2023

Mike Taake, Vice President