



Eagle Spring Lake  
Management District  
P.O. Box 196  
Eagle, WI 53119

## **Eagle Springs Lake Management District**

### **Job Posting**

## **Job Title: Plant Harvesting Operator**

Eagle Spring Lake Management District manages the resources for Eagle Spring Lake. We are seeking to hire a part-time Plant Harvesting Operator to assist with the maintenance duties of the lake for the local lake residence. Read on to see if this is a fit for you.

### **Job Summary:**

The Eagle Spring Lake Management District (ESLMD) manages two dams, aquatic plant harvesting activities, equipment maintenance, lake buoys, and general upkeep of Lake Association assets. To enhance the enjoyment of the lake activities, it is necessary to cut excessive aquatic plant growth and manage invasive plant species. This position would provide most of the labor for these activities. The primary task would be aquatic plant harvesting in the spring and summer months along with the proper maintenance of the equipment involved with plant harvesting.

Harvesting activities are limited to clear non-windy days between the hours of 7:00am and 7:00pm. Cutting can happen any day of the week, however, avoid harvesting on holidays, and stay out of the main lake water-skiing route during weekends. The number of hours per week varies depending acceptable weather conditions and plant growth intensity. Our primary goal is to prevent invasive plant growth from obstructing normal navigation of the lake. We expect in the spring when plant growth accelerates, 20-25 hours per week. Once plant growth slows, it may be 15-20 hours per week.

The position reports to Tom Day, Secretary of the board initially for training. Tom provides directions on where to harvest plants, what plants specifically, and how often areas need to be harvested. The Technician is responsible for documenting the amount of plant material harvested each day on forms provided by the Secretary. This information is required to be reported to the Wisconsin Department of Resources.

The position is also responsible for plant disposal which involves trucking the plants harvested to local disposal sites. In addition, the plant harvesting equipment which involves an aquatic plant harvesting machine, and dump truck, requires periodic and sometimes daily maintenance like fuel, oil, cutter blades, and mechanism inspection to maintain proper function. The operator is responsible for these activities.

The operator may also need to plan and schedule harvesting activities utilizing back up operators which could be several lake residents who are willing to substitute in their absence.

## Some Specific Responsibilities and Duties:

- Check engine oil level.
- Check water surface for hydraulic oil leaks & level in hydraulic tank.
- Check fuel filter for moisture/sediment (directly behind driver's seat).
- Fill both fuel tanks before going out.
- Grease most fittings (2-3 shots - cutter head & 1-2 shots for less active #2 conveyors, etc.) periodically i.e. shore conveyor.
- Check for shore conveyor hydraulic hoses disconnected before leaving dock.
- Must have life vest on.
- Check water cutter head operation (with cutter head in water) for smooth operation i.e., no unusual rattles etc.
- If necessary, refuel on board by switching fuel tanks, go through priming process to restart. If you have used 2-2½ hours of fuel, you can idle motor & switch hoses without turning engine off.
- Periodically check temperature, etc. on panel board.
- Learn contour of the lake bottom so you don't cut too deep or too shallow. If you're relatively new to harvesting gain experience by cutting in open areas, i.e., away from piers, boats, shorelines, etc.
- Keep dam inlets clear of aquatic plants and other debris.
- Schedule other operators as to areas that need cutting. Don't cut into areas, i.e., bays when wind will take floaters back into the back portion. Under ideal conditions harvester will collect approximately 80-85% of what you're cutting.
- Load harvested plants utilizing powered conveyors into dump truck.
- Refuel truck as needed.
- Drive harvested plants to designated dump sites. Coordinate unloading of truck & try to keep area clean around truck. Be familiar with various dump sites.
- Keep truck windshield & side mirrors clean.
- At the end of each day, fill out time sheet and separately log as to where you cut, type of plants and volume of load. This is important for year-end harvesting report (due to DNR approximately 30 days after last cutting).
- Plan and execute cutting hours so Lake Management Board and residents are satisfied with plant conditions on the lake. Past practices are basically during weekdays - NOT on weekends when there are more traffic and a potential for an accident unless excessive plant growth requires it.
- Do not harvest on windy or very hot days. Also do not harvest during storms or in dangerous conditions.
- Cut grass around both water control structures at Wambold and Kroll's.



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## **Qualifications:**

- Must have a valid driver's license.
- Must be eighteen years old.
- The position requires the ability to speak English.
- The role requires knowledge of basic tools for maintaining engine driven equipment.
- Must be comfortable being outside in the sun while operating the harvester on the lake.
- Physically able to fork aquatic plants as needed.
- Be conscientious and take responsibility for safe operation of equipment
- Be able to operate the harvester without damaging it or private property such as boats and piers you would be required to navigate near and around.

## **Skills and Competencies:**

- You must learn and master the operation of the plant harvester.
- The harvester is propelled by two large paddle wheels and requires you to master steering control to avoid running into obstacles like docks, rocks, or boats causing damage to the machine and lake residents' private property. Wind can make navigation and control difficult.
- Must be able to drive and operate the dump truck and harvester after proper training without damaging the equipment.
- It is desirable for this person to be mechanically inclined and able to keep equipment operational during optimal harvesting hours.
- You must be able to learn the different plant types
- You must be familiar with Conditional Use permit (Town & County) operations - no earlier than 7am & no later than 7pm.
- Get familiar with Aquarius Systems personnel and site at North Prairie in case parts are needed or consultation is needed for possible repair that you can handle, i.e., replace blades, filters, etc.

## **Salary and Benefits:**

We reward handsomely for this crucial role. Besides a competitive hourly rate. We believe in promoting work-life balance thus we commit to flexible working hours.

If this role is of interest to you, send your resume to David Voves at [chair@eaglespringlake.us] or contact him by phone [262-989-0442] for any inquiries or further information.