



Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District

P.O. Box #301 • Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190

www.whitewaterricelakesdistrict.org



Annual Meeting and Budget Review

We invite all members to join us for our annual meeting of the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District at the Lions Club on Saturday, August 23rd at 9 A.M.

Our weed harvesting operation is off to another great start this summer. We have another excellent crew and are grateful for the continued leadership of Scott Center, who not only manages our crew but also maintains our equipment. The team is highly efficient, and we are grateful for their hard work. While we had hoped not to use herbicides this summer, our surveyor identified significantly more Curly Leaf Pondweed than he anticipated. Since the growth was primarily along the shorelines where we cannot harvest, we decided to spray the weeds after all.

At our August annual meeting, we will present our proposed 2026 budget and a five-year capital plan, which includes replacing our 25-year old, 10' harvester and our 20-year old diesel pickup, both of which require increasing amounts of maintenance. The capital plan also includes a building for storing our equipment and a providing a home base for our operations, as approved at the 2023 and 2024 annual meetings.


Lake volunteers assisted the Department of Agriculture round up of 76 geese on Rice Lake and the south end of Whitewater Lake this summer. We are grateful for the efforts of Ernie Roy and his team for removing these disease-carrying birds from our waters.

Once again, we look forward to hearing from the Walworth County Sheriff's department at the annual meeting about their efforts to keep our lakes safe for all. For many years now, Whitewater Township has contracted this important work to the Sheriff's office under the leadership of Deputy Jake Hintz.

We are pleased that Chuck Chamberlain is running for another term as commissioner. In addition to currently serving as the board's Vice President, for the past 14 years Chuck has been responsible for overseeing all aspects of our equipment program, including purchases and maintenance as well as our long-term capital plan and DNR grant process. Chuck has been an invaluable asset to this board.

We encourage members to fill out the attached form that permits us to notify you by email. This enables us to send you lake management updates and ultimately reduce our printing costs. Please send the forms to the address provided or bring them with you to the meeting.

We look forward to having a great turnout at the annual meeting. Come and learn about our plans and costs, give your input, and vote on items identified in this newsletter. We invite you to arrive early at the Lions Club for coffee and snacks and to catch up with your friends and neighbors. Hope to see you on the 23rd!

Carol Ducommun, Chairman 

Equipment Report

The 2025 harvesting season got off to a good start. All the equipment was removed from storage and prepared for operation under the direction of Scott Center, WRLMD Crew Chief. The equipment was prepped and launched by May 22nd.

The launching involved locating our 7' Harvester on Rice Lake and the 10' and 12' Harvesters on Whitewater Lake. If the need arises for additional equipment to harvest aquatic plants on Whitewater Lake, the 7' harvester will be moved over to Whitewater Lake. Due to the depth of Rice Lake and the width of the public boat launch, the

7' Harvester is the only harvester we can designate for use on Rice Lake. At the time of publishing this report, the equipment is fully operational with both Whitewater and Rice Lakes benefiting from harvesting operations. The WRLMD Board continuously reviews the Capital Equipment Plan for the replacement of older equipment and remains actively engaged in obtaining our own permanent property/storage facility for the lake district equipment.

Chuck Chamberlain, Commissioner 

Financial Results

The district finished 2024 with a net surplus of \$9,078. We recognized this surplus even after paying back the 2023 loan of \$22,500 from our Capital Fund due to the diligence of our weed harvesting and bog crews and the oversight of our team leaders and board members.

As we look to finish 2025, we are likely to stay below budgeted costs and realize a surplus again this year. This spring we wrapped up our barley straw project a year early with \$5,400 remaining in its budget since it did not produce measurable results over the past two summers. This fall, we expect to reduce bog expenses compared to budget due to the operating efficiencies the team has gained over the past two years. Our equipment storage costs will also be reduced from budget this year due to the expected completion of our storage building this fall. Through July, we have generated \$3,500 in interest from our Capital Fund by investing in short term CD's and will continue to invest our Capital and Operating Funds as cash flows allow. This fall we anticipate using \$135,000 from our Capital Fund for the building downpayment and will finance the \$300,000 balance over 20 years.

The new building will eliminate the need to find and rent local storage for our very large equipment, as well as to provide a home base for our operations. It will cause our insurance costs to increase, and, for the first time, we will have utility costs (electric, water and sewer.) The interest portion of the monthly payments for our building loan will be recorded in our operating budget, while the principal portion of the monthly payments will be recorded in the Capital Fund.

For 2026, we are budgeting a 3.4% increase in property taxes, largely driven by the need to fund our capital account since we anticipate higher costs to replace our 10' harvester and diesel pickup truck, as well as the higher maintenance expenses for this equipment while we work to secure DNR funding for a portion of the costs. In anticipation of our greater capital needs, we will be asking our membership to approve an increased capital contribution of \$70,000 this year from our projected surplus, compared to the budgeted amount of \$60,000.

Dan Berg, Treasurer 

Bog Report

Last fall we made great progress on our bog removal efforts. Led by Scott Center and supported by his hardworking team and Riese Aquatics, we used several different strategies to tackle the bogs on Whitewater Lake- and the results were a big success!

Looking ahead to 2025, we've issued a new RFP for this year's removal and plan to get started in September. We'll be building on what we learned last year to continue to make the process even more effective.

We always welcome your input- if you have any questions, ideas, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your continued support and patience. We'll see you soon on beautiful Whitewater and Rice Lakes!

Bob Szcinski, Commissioner 

Fish Management

The 2025 season seems to be off to a good start. I personally haven't been able to fish as much as I'd like, but my informal survey tells me folks are catching fish of good size and quantity. It was especially gratifying to see the Facebook posting of the 23" walleye caught off the dock. No special boat, fish finder, etc., just getting a line in the water. We've added 18 logs to fish crib stockpile. We can always use more.

Thank you, Lions Club, for your recent donation to our fish stocking program. Again, this year it will be a Fall event, most likely large fingerling Walleye. I'm especially interested in getting photos of any small walleye and perch caught. It helps track the progress of our stocking program. Thanks.

Tom Potrykus, Fish Manager 

Email Notices from Lake District

Wisconsin State Statute 33.30(2)(a) concerning notification of Lake District meetings was modified in 2023 to allow email notification to those electors and property owners who have agreed to receive such notice.

PERMISSION TO RECEIVE EMAIL NOTICE OF LAKE DISTRICT MAILINGS

I hereby authorize the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District to send emails including our newsletters, which notice the annual meeting in August each year, in lieu of paper copies by mail. All property owners for your address should sign this form if you agree to receive email notice.

You may bring the completed form to our Annual Meeting on August 23, 2025, at the Lions Club or mail it to the Lake Management District:
Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District, P.O. Box 301, Whitewater, WI 53190

Printed Name _____ Signature _____

Email Address _____

Printed Name _____ Signature _____

Email Address _____

2026 WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES TAX ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Projected	2026 Budget	2025 Projected vs 2025 Budget		2026 Budget vs 2025 Budget	
						Increase (Decrease)	% Change	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
OPERATIONS BUDGET TAX	\$ 193,950	\$ 247,443	\$ 253,010	\$ 253,010	\$ 253,651	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 641	0.3%
Cost per tax parcel	\$275.11	\$350.98	\$358.88	\$358.88	\$359.79	-	0.0%	\$ 0.91	0.3%
CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TAX ASSESSMENT	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	10,000	16.7%	\$ 10,000	16.7%
Cost per tax parcel	\$85.11	\$85.11	\$85.11	\$99.29	\$99.29	14	16.7%	\$ 14.18	16.7%
TOTAL TAX ASSESSMENTS	\$253,950	\$307,443	\$313,010	\$323,010	\$323,651	10,000	3.2%	\$ 10,641	3.4%
Cost per tax parcel	\$360.21	\$436.09	\$443.99	\$458.17	\$459.08	14	3.2%	\$15.09	3.4%

WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES PROPOSED 2026 OPERATING BUDGET

Summary Operations Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Projected	2026 Budget	2025 Projected vs 2025 Budget		2026 Budget vs 2025 Budget	
						Increase (Decrease)	% Change	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
Revenue - Tax Assessments	\$253,950	\$307,443	\$313,010	\$313,010	\$323,651	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 10,641	3.4%
Other Income	1,307	1,073	800	2,443	1,000	1,643	205.4%	200	25.0%
DNR Grants	8,437	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Launch Fees	785	730	200	358	400	158	79.0%	200	100.0%
Total District Revenue	\$264,479	\$309,246	\$314,010	\$315,811	\$325,051	\$1,801	0.6%	\$11,041	3.5%
Operating Expenses									
Weed Harvesting	55,371	30,182	40,000	40,000	42,000	(0)	0.0%	2,000	5.0%
Chemical Treatment & Other	84,639	96,339	90,160	86,427	91,000	(3,733)	-4.1%	840	0.9%
Bog Removal	76,522	32,245	45,000	40,356	42,386	(4,644)	-10.3%	(2,614)	-5.8%
Repairs & Maintenance	45,628	31,128	44,000	36,000	51,500	(8,000)	-18.2%	7,500	17.0%
General & Administrative	29,183	30,679	34,850	39,851	40,420	5,001	14.4%	5,570	16.0%
Total Operating Expenses	291,343	220,573	254,010	242,634	267,306	(11,376)	-4.5%	13,296	5.2%
Capital Reserve Fund	120,000	60,000	60,000	70,000	70,000	10,000	16.7%	10,000	16.7%
Prior Year Surplus (Deficit) Carryover	127,270	(19,594)	-	9,078	12,255	9,078		12,255	
Net Surplus (Deficit) Carryover	(19,594)	9,078	-	12,255	(0)	12,255		(0)	

Assessed Valuation (000 omitted)	(actual) \$330,886	(actual) \$399,173	(actual) \$427,545	(est) \$448,922
Change from Prior Yr	11.8%	20.6%	7.1%	5.0%
Mil Rate	0.77	0.77	0.73	0.72
Average Assmt (705 Parcels)	\$360	\$436	\$444	\$459

WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES CAPITAL RESERVE FUND ACTIVITY

Capital Reserve Fund	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Budget
Beginning Fund Balance	\$136,484	\$169,309	\$172,052	\$102,537
Additions:				
Transfer from Operations				
Budgeted capital assessments	120,000	60,000	70,000	70,000
Interest income	545	391	3,500	3,000
DNR Grants & Other	76,475	68,475	-	-
Total Additions	197,020	128,866	73,500	73,000
Expenditures				
Loan to Operating Fund	(22,500)	22,500	-	-
Furniture and Fixtures			(6,000)	-
Principal on Loan			(2,015)	(8,355)
Equipment Purchases	(141,695)	(148,623)	(135,000)	-
Ending Fund Balance	\$169,309	\$172,052	\$102,537	\$167,182

Aquatic Plant Management

As in the past, we are including both Weed Harvesting and Weed Spraying in the Newsletter under “Aquatic Plant Management” since our weed control efforts require input and coordination from both commissioners.

To obtain permits for both weed harvesting and chemical spraying, the Wisconsin DNR requires lake management districts to submit an Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APMP) every five years. In the past we have hired the Southeast Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), a quasi-governmental agency affiliated with the Wisconsin DNR, to complete our APMPs. While SEWRPC completed our Point Intercept Survey, a critical element of the plan, on time in 2021, our APMP was not delivered until 2023. The 2023 APMP and past plans can be found on our website under “Documents”->“Operations”->Lake Plans.

In anticipation of our next plan, we have initiated an RFP (request for proposal) process for writing it by reaching out to consulting firms with expertise in limnology, the study of inland lakes and rivers. This past fall, we signed an agreement to work with Onterra, LLC, a leading, Wisconsin-based firm, for writing our next Aquatic Plant Management Plan. They will lead us through a detailed, board and community-based process that should give us more specific guidance for controlling aquatic invasive species on our lakes. While our next APMP is not due to be completed until 2028 per the DNR, we will begin working with Onterra on a fall weed survey in a few months to help guide our decisions for 2026.

We were hoping not to spray this year based on our usage last year of ProcellaCOR, a three-year formulation to

fight Eurasian Water Milfoil. While Milfoil was far less present this summer than our weed surveyor anticipated, the Curly Leaf Pondweed growth significantly exceeded what we have seen in past years when our weed survey was completed on May 28. Since the Curly Leaf Pondweed was primarily found along the shore, we decided to spray after all with the approval of the DNR, including permits we had proactively applied for, and using budgeted funds to cover the expense.

This year we trained new operators to add to our strong harvesting crew and to ensure staffing flexibility both on our equipment and in assisting our crew chief Scott Center with maintenance. We also added two operator assistants who ride on the harvesters and return any live critters or fish that make their way onto our conveyors back into the water, fulfilling our DNR requirements. We are grateful to have such a hardworking and well-trained crew, most of whom are our lake neighbors.

We operate our harvesters four days a week, Monday to Thursday. Each Monday morning, weather permitting, our transport barge makes a circuit of Whitewater Lake picking up weeds from piers. As a reminder, our crew will not be able to pick up weed piles that have sticks, sand, or other debris since those materials harm the equipment, and we cannot operate our large equipment (and approach members’ piers!) in heavy winds.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Carol Ducommun, Harvesting Commissioner
Mike Lindenmuth, Spraying Commissioner

Chuck Chamberlain, Candidate for Board

My wife Kathy and I reside in McHenry, Illinois and have been proud Whitewater Lake property owners on Krahn Drive for 53 years. In 1986, we supported and helped create the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District and continue to be members of the Greater Whitewater Lakes Property Owners Association.

I am a graduate of Northern Illinois University earning BS and MS degrees in Industrial Technology. I was a classroom instructor, Dean of Students and Department Chairperson of the Applied Technology Department at William Fremd High School in Palatine, Illinois for 34 years. This included extensive training and experience in teaching electronics, power mechanics and the vocational/building trades. In June of 2014, I retired having served my final 8 years as the Director of Summer School, Evening Programs and Continuing Education in Township High School District 211 for a total of 42 years in education.

I was elected as a school board member for 12 years serving as both Vice-President and President of Community Unit School District 300 in Carpentersville, IL. During this time, I was a member of the Construction Oversight Committee for all district building projects.

I have served 14 years on the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District Board as the Commissioner for Capital Equipment, being first elected in 2011. During my tenure, we have replaced 6 major pieces of capital equipment receiving financial assistance from the Wisconsin Waterways Commission with the writing/submission of several financial assistance grants. I have worked with many dedicated individuals and continue to be committed to serve this Board. I believe my background and experience will continue to be an asset to the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District.

Annual Meeting and Budget Review

Where: Lions Club at N7470 Kettle Moraine Drive

When: 9 A.M. on Saturday, August 23, 2025

- Agenda:**
- 9:00 Call to Order and Opening Remarks – Carol Ducommun, Chair
Introduction of Board members and District employees
Approve 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes
 - 9:05 Review by Commissioners
Chemical & Barley Initiative update – Mike Lindenmuth
Weed Harvesting – Carol Ducommun
Bog Removal – Bob Szcinski
Equipment – Chuck Chamberlain
Building update – Carol Ducommun
Financials: Operational Overview – Carol Ducommun
2025 Actuals – Dan Berg
2026 Capital Plan – Chuck Chamberlain
2026 Proposed Budget – Dan Berg
Report of Outside Financial Review – Don Olinger
 - 10:25 Introduction of candidate & voting: Chuck Chamberlain
 - 10:30 Comments by Sheriff Dave Gerber
 - 10:40 Presentation on Lake Initiatives
Safety – Larry Brady/Amy Rodgers
Wildlife Management – Ernie Roy
Fish Management – Tom Potrykus
 - 10:50 Five Minute Break
 - 10:55 GWLPOA Overview – Nancy Lindenmuth
 - 11:00 Election Results
 - 11:05 Input from Town of Whitewater – Jon Tanis
Town of Richmond – Donna Jones
 - 11:15 Ongoing discussion/member input
 - 11:30 Adjournment – Next Meeting August 22, 2026
 - 11:30 Brief Lake District Board Meeting

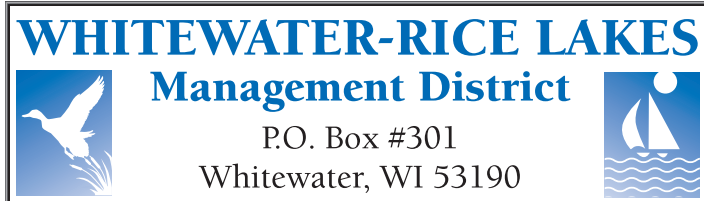
Votes will be taken on the following matters:

- Election for one board commissioner
- 2026 budget and capital spending plan

GWLPOA Annual Meeting

The GWLPOA (Greater Whitewater Lakes Property Owners Association) will conduct a brief informational presentation at the Lake Management District annual meeting on August 23, and will hold their 2025 Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 13th during our “End of Summer Bash” at Rushing Waters. Watch for more details in our July newsletter that we will email to our 2025 members.

Nancy Lindenmuth, President GWLPOA



Safety Team Report

The Lake Management District offered a Boaters' Safety course in June at the Lions' Club, for which we had a turnout of thirteen students. The course is open to anyone 10 years or older and is also available online at www.dnr.wi.gov – Go Wild page - at a cost of \$25. Anyone born on or after January 1, 1989, must have a permit to operate a motorboat in Wisconsin (& Illinois.)

We continue to encourage everyone, even if you are not required to do so, to take our in-person class and get a lake safety refresher. Our students who have completed both tell us that our in-person class is far more informative and way more fun.

Regarding Patrol & Enforcement, Deputy Jake informs me that the two largest issues this year are Slow No Wake violations after seven p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and holidays, and violations for PFD's (Personal Floatation Devices) including insufficient numbers, unavailable, wrong type, too big, and too small.

If you have any questions on these issues, refer to any of the websites (GWLPOA, Whitewater Rice Lakes Management District, or the Wisconsin DNR). If still in doubt, feel free to call or text Larry at 847-975-6334 or contact the Patrol on the lake.

Important: If you or anyone you know who may be interested in helping with the course next year, please contact me at lbrady22w@gmail.com. Any experience level (or none) would be welcome.

Larry Brady, Team Leader 