



Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District

P.O. Box #301 • Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190
www.whitewaterlake.org • www.gwlpoa.org



View from the Chair

2023 was a transition year for the Board, from decades of subcontracting to bringing our operations “in house.” Beginning last spring we hired staff; received training from Aquarius, our equipment supplier; had an all-hands meeting with the DNR; established operating procedures; began to maintain the equipment; hired an accountant to help with payroll; located indoor storage for the winter; and identified a sub-contractor to help with bog removal.


It was a busy year, for sure, but the Board is proud of our talented and dedicated team that we hired and that we fulfilled our responsibilities to the lakes community. I am grateful that so many people helped us forge our new path and that the whole Board pitched in to make this happen.

Going forward, we will benefit from the experience we gained last summer but we will have to tighten our belts this year. When the 2023 budget was approved, we didn't anticipate that we would be operating on our own for the year but instead ended 2023 with a \$19,000 deficit.

We have already taken steps to improve our finances for 2024. The Board unanimously approved a Financial Plan last November that enables us to breakeven this year and to repay the capital reserve funds we borrowed last fall to pay bills. The Board is fully committed to this outcome. Further details are available in the ‘Financial Results’ article.

At our Annual Meeting in August, we will honor Rich Charts for his 16 years of service, including 12 years as chairman. Rich has been a great leader and a dedicated Board member. He works hard not only building relationships with people around our lakes, but also forging connections with other lake districts in Southeast WI and leaders from around the State. If you are interested in running for Rich's board position overseeing bog removal, please send me your CV by June.

Our lakes provide much enjoyment for our homeowners and visitors, and our board will continue to work diligently to protect and enhance our natural resources. Wishing you a safe and fun summer!

Carol Ducommun, Chairman 

Financial Results

We ended 2023 with a loss of \$19,000, driven by increased bog harvesting costs with a new subcontractor, higher costs for indoor winter storage, a delay in receiving and paying for our Lake Management Plan, as well as higher repair and maintenance and general and administrative costs. These higher expenses were partially offset by reduced chemical costs due to the DNR's recommendation not to spray Rice Lake and lower labor and fuel costs for weed harvesting.

To pay our bills last fall we borrowed money from our capital reserves, which is permitted in our bylaws if we restore the funds within a year. In November, our Board unanimously approved a Financial Plan that reduces 2024 budgeted expenses by \$38,000 (1) to repay \$22,500 that we borrowed from our capital reserve and (2) to cover a 2023 budgeted surplus of \$15,500 that we did not realize and that was not available to carryover to this

year's income. Our 2024 Financial Plan can be found on our website: www.whitwaterricelakesdistrict.com.

The capital reserve had a starting balance of \$136,484 in 2023. During the year we added \$120,000 from our operating fund and earned interest of \$545. Capital expenses included a 50% downpayment for our new 7-foot weed harvester (\$134,950), which was offset by half of the DNR grant (\$67,475); \$5,000 for a new equipment trailer; and \$1,745 for other capitalized expenditures to maintain our equipment last year. We also borrowed \$22,500 from the capital reserve as mentioned above, which we will repay in 2024. Additionally, we sold the old 7-foot weed harvester and the old transport barge for a total of \$7,000, and received a \$2,000 donation from the GWLPOA, resulting in an ending balance of \$169,309.

Dan Berg, Treasurer 

Weed Harvesting

We successfully transitioned to operating on our own last summer, with all credit to our wonderful team. They quickly got up to speed, both in operating and maintaining the equipment, and we were pleased to get feedback from homeowners that our employees were a good reflection on the district.

As in recent years, the weeds were light last summer and consisted primarily of Curley Leaf Pondweed, with no significant Eurasian Milfoil on either lake. Looking forward, we won't know how dense the weeds will be until the summer progresses, but with light snow this winter they might be heavier than in recent years. We will begin mechanical harvesting in early June after spraying the shorelines where the weeds are heaviest and are not accessible to harvesters.

We will continue to operate the harvesters four days a week, Monday to Thursday, with weed pickups on Monday mornings. Our transport barge will make a complete circuit of Whitewater Lake each Monday morning to pick 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 it clogs the conveyor on our transporter.

Scott Center will again serve as a supervisor this summer and will be responsible for all aspects of harvesting operations and equipment maintenance. Scott is working to solidify our summer employment needs; we are hopeful that many of our crew will return this summer. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or Scott if you have any questions or concerns.

Carol Ducommun, Commissioner 

Equipment Report


We had a challenging season last year with the transition to hiring and operating our own crew. We were able to move forward, however, and accomplish what needed to be done.

Last summer our 31-year-old, 7-foot harvester on Rice Lake took on water and was beyond repair. We ordered a new harvester from Aquarius Systems and received a grant from the Wisconsin DNR that covers half of its cost. The new harvester is expected to arrive for the start of the season.

This past winter we rented indoor storage space for our equipment. We continue to look to buy property near the lake to build a pole barn which would provide indoor storage space and serve as a base for maintenance and operations throughout the summer and fall. We are searching for two to three acres near the lake on relatively flat land, if you know of anyone looking to sell.

We are fortunate that Scott Center is returning as our crew supervisor this year. He brings a wealth of mechanical knowledge and last year got quickly up to speed operating and maintaining our equipment. Scott and the crew had to spend extra effort on maintenance after the equipment was stored outside in harsh conditions the previous winter and had received less than optimal maintenance prior to that.

We are making plans to launch the equipment by early June. **Please note that for areas treated with chemical spray, weed harvesting will not begin until two weeks after application, which typically occurs in mid to late May.**

Chuck Chamberlain, Commissioner 

Bog Harvesting

We did not pick up bogs in 2022 as JNT left the business. Bogs floated in the Northeast lobe that summer, but thankfully most boaters were understanding. In 2023 we had a new crew and tried a different dredge machine that operated with a bucket instead of a claw. We picked up many truckloads of floating debris from the navigation lanes, as well as floaters that had been along the shoreline since July. With our 2024 Financial Plan we have a reduced bog budget this year so we will focus primarily on navigation lanes and shoreline pickups. Be careful of

hidden bogs below water level.

I am leaving the District Board after 16 years, justifiably proud of the successes of your Board members during that time. If you are interested in taking this role, please reach out to Carol Ducommun at cfducommun@gmail.com.

Rich Charts, Commissioner 

Weed Spraying

Whitewater and Rice Lakes' weed management is strictly regulated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. There are two strategies that may be used on our lakes to control weeds, namely treatment with herbicides and mechanical harvesting. This year Lake and Pond Solutions, LLC will be providing our herbicide treatment for Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly-leaf Pondweed.

After the spring survey is completed in April or May, we will post our DNR permit and the Lake Maps identifying the extent of weed distribution and the timing of herbicide spraying on our website. We will use Facebook and our website for continued updates. Prior to lake treatment, a notice will be posted on properties in the vicinity of treatment detailing any precautions. **Please note, turf irrigation immediately following application is fine.**

Algae blooms, which can be a problem on lakes, are triggered by rainfall and temperature, as well as disturbances of the significant volumes of phosphorus contained in our lake bottoms. The WRLMD continues to explore available options to minimize the impact of

phosphorus-laden sediment on the water quality of our lakes. We are working with the WI DNR to study the potential use of floating islands and emergent vegetation as a long-term approach to reducing algae.

In the short term, we are conducting an experiment using bags of barley straw on piers around Rice Lake. Studies have shown that barley straw has a unique property, unlike other forms of straw, that helps control the quantity of algae in the water. As the bagged straw decomposes in the lake, it releases a natural chemical which inhibits algal growth, providing a cost-effective and environmentally acceptable way to control algae in ponds and lakes (www.extension.psu.edu.)

This summer we will conduct the second year of our expected three-year barley straw experiment on Rice Lake. While the first year's results did not show a benefit, as we anticipated, we are expecting that year two may show some improvement in water quality. Study results will be posted on our website.

Mike Lindenmuth, Commissioner 

Lakes Management District NOTICE

Proposed Aquatic Herbicide Application for Eurasian watermilfoil and Curlyleaf pondweed control on Whitewater and Rice Lakes

The Whitewater and Rice Lakes Management District (the District) with support from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and Lake and Pond Solutions, LLC proposes to manage up to 175 acres on Whitewater Lake and up to 65 acres on Rice Lake with aquatic herbicides to control the excessive growth of the aquatic invasive species, Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), its hybrid (HWM) and Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP). The District proposes to first assess populations of the invasive plants and then if warranted, conduct applications of ProcellaCOR EC (liquid florasulam-benzyl) and Aquathol K (liquid endothal) to infestations sometime in spring, 2024 to be performed by Lake and Pond Solutions. The project will proceed only after the District obtains a permit from the WDNR.

Notification of the exact date of application and water use restrictions (should there be any) associated with the use of ProcellaCOR EC and Aquathol K will be provided by the posting on the shoreline in and adjacent to management areas, and public access points.

The water uses restrictions associated with the products mentioned above are noted below:

There are no swimming, fishing, or other recreational restrictions. Do not use water from application area for non-turf irrigation purposes for 3 days, turf irrigation is fine immediately following applications.

Additional information on the proposed management including a completed copy of the permit applications, site map and WDNR Chemical Fact Sheets on florasulam-benzyl and endothal can be found at whitewaterlake.org.

Safety Team

Anyone born on or after January 1, 1989, must have a permit to operate a motorboat in Wisconsin (& Illinois.) Additionally, anyone who rents a boat in Wisconsin must have a permit, regardless of their age.

As a service to the lake area, we will once again offer a Boaters' Safety course on April 27 and 28. The class will be held at the Whitewater Lions Clubhouse, at 7462 Kettle Moraine Dr., from 8 A.M. until noon each day. Anyone 10 years and older may take the course; those who are 12 years or older who complete the course will receive a boating safety certificate. Students who are 10 and 11 years old when they complete the course will receive their certificate once they turn 12; until they receive their certificate, their supervising parent/guardian must have a boating safety certificate.

The cost of our class is \$10 per student. The course is also available online at www.dnr.wi.gov at a cost of \$25. Please contact Larry Brady at (847)975-6334 or larry@whitewaterlake.org, or Deputy Sean Blanton at [\[sbcglobal.com\]\(http://sbcglobal.com\) for more information.](mailto:sblatt03@</p></div><div data-bbox=)

As the weather warms, let's think "Safety." Please practice safe boating & show courtesy to your fellow boaters/PWCs & skiers. "Safety is **NO** accident."

Important reminder: The WI DNR no longer requires a "competent observer" to be present in the boat or PWC when towing a person on water skis, board, tube or other device unless the boat or PWC is equipped with a wide-angle rearview mirror. However, we strongly urge you to have a "competent observer" present for increased safety during all towing activities.

Larry Brady, Safety Team Leader 

Fish Management

Warmer days mean its time to think about "going fishing." Fishing regulations can be found at www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/fishing Some basics are...

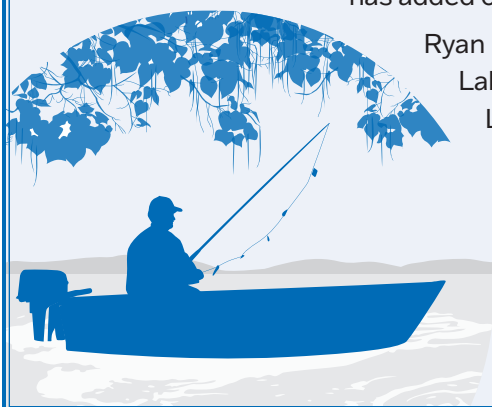
- Opening day is historically the first Saturday in May for all species.
- It is legal to catch and keep Northern Pike, Walleye and Bass beginning opening day.
- It is open season for panfish (bluegills, crappie, perch) year round.
- 16 years and older need a fishing license ... whether you fish off your lawn, pier or boat.
- The cost of a license pays for DNR services, including fish stocking.
- Free Fishing Weekend this year is June 1-2. No license is required. Get the kids fishing.

Last fall the DNR stocked 6,272 small walleyes with an average size of 7.2 inches in Whitewater Lake. These fish should be legal to keep (18") in three years. Since the DNR began its walleye program in 2010, it has stocked over 29,000 similar-sized walleyes in Whitewater Lake, while the Lake Management District has added over 6,000 during that time.

Ryan Nottestad's team sank two fish cribs in what is referred to as Round Lake, the deep water beyond the narrows on the east side of Whitewater Lake. We now have four cribs in about 20 feet of water, creating a low-cost habitat for juvenile fish. Many thanks to the Boat House barge crew for placing the cribs.

Please send your fish stories and photos to me at tompotrykus@icloud.com.

Tom Potrykus, Team Leader 



Boater Safety Tips

1. Anyone born on or after January 1, 1989 - may operate a motorboat only if they have completed a boating safety course accepted by the WI DNR. For more info: <https://dnr.wi.gov>
2. You need a life jacket on board for each person. Plus, a throwable if your vessel is larger than 16 feet. This includes canoes/kayaks/paddleboards.
3. When pulling a skier/tuber/boarder you need to go counterclockwise. There must also be another competent person to act as an observer (recommended) or the vessel must be equipped with a wide-angle review mirror.
4. No boat towing persons engaged in water skiing, tubing, boarding, aquaplaning or similar activity on any lake shall engage in such activity within 100 feet of any occupied anchored boat, any PWC or marked swimming area or public boat landing.
5. When skiing/tubing/boarding only 2 people may be pulled behind the boat. 2 people on one tube or 2 tubes with 1 person each tube.
6. PWCs are not to exceed slow no wake speeds within 200' of shorelines or within 100' of any other watercraft.
7. Never allow passengers to ride on gunwales or seatbacks or outside of protective railings, including the front of a pontoon boat. A sudden turn, stop or start could cause a fall overboard.
8. Swimming from boats is prohibited unless the boat is anchored, and the swimmers stay within 25 feet of the boat.
9. It is illegal to move, displace, tamper with, damage or destroy any navigational aid (buoys). Most of the buoys are placed at 100 feet from shore.
10. Slow no wake speed means a speed at which a vessel moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steering control.
11. All channels shall be deemed a slow-no wake area and no boat shall anchor in any channel and no boat shall anchor for a distance of 100 feet in either direction from the tip of the Ridge and the point opposite. NOTE: In 2022 - 4 new Black & White striped channel marker buoys were added in this channel.
12. On Fridays, Saturdays, Holidays, and the day before a holiday – slow no wake starts at 7:00 PM or sunset, whichever is earlier. On all other days – slow no wake starts at sunset. Every day of the week – slow no wake goes until 9:00 AM.
13. For more information on boating on Whitewater and Rice Lakes, visit <https://www.whitewaterlake.org/boating>

This is not a complete set of boating laws! Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this pamphlet at the time of its printing. We cannot guarantee the correctness of all information and assume no liability arising from errors and omissions. If you have any questions, contact DNR personnel or your local law enforcement authorities. ALL STATE OF WI BOATING LAWS APPLY. THE TOWNS OF WHITEWATER AND RICHMOND HAVE ADDITIONAL ORDINANCES SPECIFIC TO THE LAKES.

Town of Whitewater/Richmond Ordinances specific to Whitewater and Rice Lakes. <https://ecode360.com/32933978>

Wisconsin DNR Boating Laws Handbook – read the entire handbook online: <https://widnr.widen.net/s/0vw8hwrae3>

You can review Wisconsin boating regulations, register your boat, or sign up for a safety class at the Wisconsin DNR website at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/boat/>

From The Combined Boater Safety Team 

Navigator Teams: Wakes and Shoreline Erosion

In the last decade, the popularity of wake surfing and the capability of watercraft to create “enhanced wakes” has increased exponentially. Wake sport boats can cause adverse impacts to aquatic environments, private property, and public safety and enjoyment. Numerous studies have documented the travel distance of enhanced wakes; wave energy and dissipation; and potential impacts including lake-bottom sediment, shorelines, piers, boats, swimmer safety, and other recreational watercraft.

Around the State, lake communities, lake preservation groups and regulators have taken notice of potential impacts from these boats. On November 9, 2023, WI Assembly Bill 656 was introduced to regulate wake surfing and wake boarding. Interestingly, this bill was supported by the boating industry (see: National Marine

Manufacturers Association; Water Sports Industry Association; and Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce) to safeguard a market for these boats. An alternative and competing Bill WI 23-5069_1, is more severe and would preclude wake sports on lakes smaller than 1,500 acres and less than 700 feet from the shoreline or from any boat, swimmer, or other water user.

Our Wakes and Shoreline Erosion Team is continuing our efforts to educate and inform wake sport boat owners of your rights, responsibilities, and recommended wake surfing practices. If we **own our wake**, as detailed in a flyer our team produced, and remain mindful of measures to reduce damaging wakes, we can all enjoy our lakes.

Jeff Panek, Team Leader 

Wildlife Control

We do an annual goose roundup to protect the lake and shoreline property from the goose droppings. If you are new or have not filled out the permission slip previously, please do so and send it to me.

Ernie Roy, Wildlife Manager 

Permission for Entry to Property for Goose Management

I authorize representatives from United States Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services and Whitewater/Rice Lakes Management District to access the property listed below for the purposes of goose management (egg oiling and/or a round up). ***This permission form has no expiration date and remains in effect until you request to be removed from the approved site list.*** You will have an annual opportunity via newsletter or direct mailing to remove your property from the approved site list. Thank you for your assistance. Ernie Roy, Wildlife Manager

Printed Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Lake Address: _____

Signature (Mandatory)

Mail to: Whitewater/Rice Lakes Mgt Dist, P.O. Box 301, Whitewater, WI 53190

GWLPOA

The Greater Whitewater Lake Property Owners Association (GWLPOA) connects property owners around Whitewater and Rice Lakes to their community. Our commitment to you is to provide timely communication, opportunities to meet and socialize with your lake neighbors and keep you “in the loop” with pivotal happenings around the lake.

Your \$40 annual dues help fund the lake resident directory published in even numbered years, 6-8 newsletters per year with important local lake info and happenings around the lake, discounted tickets to events with a fee, and an invite to non-fee events including the annual picnic, CPR & First Aid classes, pontoon parties and lake neighbor happy hours. These dues also help fund the popular Music on the Lake concerts.

If you are new or have been a longtime resident GWLPOA is a great way to meet your neighbors and be a part of the lake community. Please visit our website: www.WhitewaterLake.org for more information and to join now. We have a great lineup of events this summer!

Nancy Lindenmuth, President 


Lakeshore Management

Surface water runoff is the largest contributor of phosphorus to Whitewater and Rice Lakes, leading to cloudy water and harmful algal blooms. Through its Healthy Lakes Program, Wisconsin’s Department of Natural Resources identifies best practices centered around runoff prevention, wildlife habitats, and erosion control. The DNR will provide up to \$1,000 per project to homeowners implementing any of the following:

1. Fish Sticks– creating wildlife habitats and preventing shoreline erosion
2. Native Plantings– improving wildlife habitats and slowing/filtering runoff
3. Diversion– moving runoff toward areas for ground absorption
4. Rock Infiltration– providing space for runoff filtration and erosion control
5. Rain Gardens- improving wildlife habitats and filtering runoff

Homeowners can undertake other low or no cost efforts to improve water quality and wildlife habitats, including using phosphorus-free fertilizer, bagging yard and pet waste, and turning off non-essential exterior lights.

If you’re interested in learning more about beautifying your shoreline and improving the water quality of our lakes, check out www.healthylakeswi.com or contact me at Brian.rahmandar@gmail.com.

Brian Rahmandar, Team Leader 

2024 Boat Launch Fees

As a reminder, all Town of Whitewater Boat Launches require a launch fee as suggested by the guidelines of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Envelopes will be available at the Self-Pay Boxes located at each launch site beginning with the Spring/Summer Boating Season.

Launch Fees for Calendar Year 2024 will remain the same as last year and are as follows:

Daily Fee: Lake District Resident (\$4.00)
Non-Lake District Resident (\$6.00)

Annual Fee: Lake District Resident (\$20.00)
Non-Lake District Resident (\$30.00)

The fees listed above apply **ONLY** to the **Town of Whitewater Boat Launches** on Whitewater Lake.

These are located at:

- Cruse Lane
- R-W Townline Road and Krahn Drive
- R-W Townline Road and Chapel Drive

Fees at the **State Park Boat Launches** located on Whitewater and Rice Lakes are set by and are under the jurisdiction of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES

Management District



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