



Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District

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



Chairman's Introduction

As we go to print, the Whitewater Lions Club will be holding another Fishing for the Blind event. Fishing has been the best in years with youngsters of all ages showing off their catches. Fish are up, weeds down, clarity improved and algae reduced.

Long time marine provider JNT has sold most of their business to The Boat House. Not all services were sold nor transferred, and we have scrambled to keep operations undisrupted. We have been mostly successful but need a reliable storage facility for our equipment. There was no bog season in 2022 due to the JNT sale removing crew and equipment from operation. A new permit has been submitted and a dredge operator identified. Some harvest operators may roll over. As of now a bog section came up the earliest in memory, the 3rd week in June.

We had a successful goose round up this year. Our volunteers helped the Dept. of Agriculture collect 62 geese, 20 from Whitewater Lake and 42 from Rice Lake. Ernie Roy and his team are again gratefully thanked for the mitigation and removal of these disease carrying birds.

Our financial superstar Brad Corson is retiring from the board. Brad did an extraordinary job of budgeting and accounting for us. Long time riparian Dan Berg is running to replace Brad. He has big shoes to fill, but his background seems a perfect fit for us.

Long time Shoreline Team Leader Theresa Stegemann is leaving the team to concentrate on other projects with the Kettle Moraine and Natureland Parks. Thank you, Theresa, for your work.

Come out to the Annual meeting August 26th and learn about our plans and costs. Add your voice to the debates and vote on the plans for action. The Greater Whitewater Lake Property Owners Association (GWLPOA) will present their annual report. They put on some great social events, dinners, picnics, parties, Music on the Lake, and Meet and Greet. Learn what they have in store for the coming year. Come early, have coffee and cakes while you meet and greet neighbors. NOTE: We will again meet at the beautiful Lions Clubhouse on the lake.

Rich Charts, Commissioner 

Fish Management

All signs point to a very good year so far for fishing. My Rice Lake fishing source has so far been unable to get on the water, but Whitewater sources report plenty of Northern Pike being caught, from shore, off piers and boats. Most are slightly bigger than last year... in the 24 inch range, but some bigger, including a 38 inch fish. The stocked Walleyes are being caught more frequently, many at or above the legal keeper size of 18 inches. Largemouth Bass fishing continues to be good. Lots of 3-4 pounders and one eye witness report of youngsters catching one over 5 lbs... a day they will long remember.

The Wisconsin DNR reports the stocked Walleye population is doing well... in size and numbers. No word yet if the spawning habitat we built is producing youngsters, but the State is continuing to stock 7-9 inch walleye fingerlings. Lake Management funds have been

spent on stocking crappies and perch.

The fish cribs installed last Fall have been spotted on fish finders and have survived the winter nicely, with fish congregating in the area. Plans call for more to be placed this year.

A carp netting and removal license has been awarded for Rice Lake, but no word yet as to the start date. Netting of this type is usually done fall through spring.

Our special thanks to the Lions Club for its continued financial support for our fish management efforts. Thanks to everyone who as contacted me with fishing stories / photos. Lastly, we need more logs and volunteers help for this year's fish cribs. Contact Ryan Nottestad (rnott385@gmail.com) to help.

Tom Potrykus, Fish Manager 

2023 Financial Update and 2024 Proposed Budget


This year has seen some new business enterprises with becoming an employer again after 20 years. We now have in-house payroll to replace JNT that sold their business. While presenting a number of operational and management challenges, this gives us real control over our labor expense with the added benefit of being more efficient with our labor costs. Our workers compensation and liability insurance did increase but only slightly. We also had to purchase additional tools to equip our staff including an adequate trailer to securely store them and even a generator because we don't have access to shore power. Going forward though, we expect labor savings in harvesting and maintenance to offset and even produce savings from the previous contractor expense.

Due to the changes in becoming an employer, there are a number of expenses that were budgeted differently than are occurring and others of a one-time nature. Further, because JNT terminated operations prior to any bog harvesting last year, the entire 2022 bog budget increased our carry over surplus by \$44,000. And as we mentioned in the Spring, the 5-Year Lake Plan was not delivered until this year creating a \$5,000 surplus in 2022 and an unbudgeted expense of \$5,000 in 2023. So a lot of moving parts this year but we still are projecting to end with a total surplus of \$76,000 due to the bog carry over and the Chemical expense coming in under budget by another \$27,000. At the annual meeting, we are going to

propose to move \$60,000 of that surplus into our capital reserve to bank those funds against expected future capital commitments without having to increase any tax assessments. If agreed to, the total surplus in 2023 would end up at approximately \$16,000.

The 2023 Projected year end is being presented with the additional \$60,000 being rolled over into the Capital Fund so you can see the impact and the effect on the 2024 Budget. This of course will be adjusted if that proposal is not approved. Total 2024 operating expenses are budgeted with only a 2.8% increase over the 2023 budget. Bog harvesting expenses are budgeted to increase due the use of a new barge operator we are negotiating with but will be offset with savings in maintenance due to our ability to perform that in-house. The total 2024 tax assessment will increase 21% or \$53,500 due to the lower prior year carry over we benefited from in 2023.

The only Capital Expenditures in 2023 will be the new tool trailer at \$5,000. In 2024 we have the planned replacement of the 7 ft harvester used in Rice Lake that is over 26 years old in the amount of \$136,600. That amount is net of a 50% DNR grant we will apply for. With the annual contribution of \$60,000 and the additional proposed \$60,000, it will leave a balance of \$173,000 in the fund at the end of 2024.

Brad Corson - Treasurer 

Weed Harvesting

This summer we embarked on a new weed harvesting program, hiring and managing the operation after subcontracting it for the last dozen or so years. While it's been a lot of work for our whole Lake Management Board, we have gained important insights and improved control of the operation.

Chuck Chamberlain and I are very proud of our team, all of whom reside in the Whitewater and Rice Lakes area. Our crew is led by supervisors Scott Center and Todd Griffith, with Todd largely responsible for crew scheduling, while Scott's primary focus is maintaining our equipment. Our operators include Aiden Allamian, Scott Cashion, Larry Jacob, Aiden Pahl, and, returning from last summer, Jaden Condon. After a day of training in early June and working in pairs to gain familiarity with the equipment, our team has developed great skills with this bulky and top-heavy equipment. We are very fortunate to have such a hard-working and courteous crew!

Earlier this spring we applied for and were granted a five-year permit from the DNR for our harvesting operation. The permit process begins with the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (aka SEWRPC) composing an Aquatic Management Plan for our lakes, which is available on the Documents page of our website under Operations. We work with the DNR through the permitting process, as well as on an ongoing basis. The DNR and its staff members are a fountain of knowledge and we are grateful for their guidance in maintaining the quality of our two lakes for years to come.

Carol Ducommun, Commissioner 

2024 WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES TAX ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Projected	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2023 Projected vs 2023 Budget		2024 Budget vs 2023 Budget	
						Increase (Decrease)	% Change	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
OPERATIONS BUDGET TAX	\$ 223,432	\$ 214,276	\$ 133,950	\$ 193,950	\$ 247,443	\$ (60,000)	-30.9%	\$ 53,493	27.6%
Cost per tax parcel	\$317.38	\$304.37	\$190.27	\$275.50	\$351.48	\$ (85)	-30.9%	\$ 75.98	27.6%
CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TAX ASSESSMENT	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$120,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$ 60,000	100.0%	\$ -	0.0%
Cost per tax parcel	\$85.23	\$85.23	\$170.45	\$85.23	\$85.23	\$ 85	100.0%	\$ -	0.0%
TOTAL TAX ASSESSMENTS	\$283,432	\$274,276	\$253,950	\$253,950	\$307,443	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 53,493	21.1%
Cost per tax parcel	\$402.60	\$389.60	\$360.72	\$360.72	\$436.71	\$ -	0.0%	\$75.98	21.1%

WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES PROPOSED 2024 OPERATING BUDGET

Summary Operations Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Projected	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2023 Projected vs 2023 Budget		2024 Budget vs 2023 Budget	
						Increase (Decrease)	% Change	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
Revenue - Tax Assessments	\$283,432	\$274,276	\$253,950	\$253,950	\$307,443	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 53,493	21.1%
Other Income	1,013	2,072	1,241	-	-	\$ 1,241		\$ -	
DNR Grants	-	358	8,437	-	-	\$ 8,437		\$ -	
Launch Fees	1,297	686	747	1,300	1,000	\$ (553)	-42.5%	\$ (300)	-23.1%
Total District Revenue	\$285,742	\$277,392	\$264,374	\$255,250	\$308,443	\$ 9,124	3.6%	\$53,193	20.8%
Operating Expenses									
Weed Harvesting	30,836	19,268	53,913	41,165	42,101	\$ 12,748	31.0%	\$ 936	2.3%
Chemical Treatment & Other	127,330	86,739	86,102	113,200	110,500	\$ (27,098)	-23.9%	\$ (2,700)	-2.4%
Bog Removal	28,078	-	45,780	40,530	48,527	\$ 5,250	13.0%	\$ 7,997	19.7%
Repairs & Maintenance	34,064	31,876	43,276	35,983	35,873	\$ 7,293	20.3%	\$ (110)	-0.3%
General & Administrative	20,587	25,675	26,910	25,988	27,106	\$ 922	3.5%	\$ 1,118	4.3%
Total Operating Expenses	240,895	163,559	255,981	256,866	264,107	(885)	-0.3%	7,241	2.8%
Capital Reserve Fund	60,000	60,000	120,000	60,000	60,000	\$ 60,000	100.0%	\$ -	0.0%
Prior Year Surplus (Deficit) Carryover	88,589	73,436	127,270	61,616	15,663	\$ 65,654	106.6%	\$ (45,953)	-74.6%
Net Surplus (Deficit) Carryover	73,436	127,270	15,663	-	(0)	15,663		-	

Assessed Valuation (000 omitted)	(actual) \$295,835	(actual) \$330,886	(est) \$347,430	(est) \$364,801
Change from Prior Yr	4.9%	11.8%	5.0%	5.0%
Mil Rate	0.96	0.83	0.73	0.84
Average Assmt (705 Parcels)	\$402	\$389	\$360	\$436

WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES CAPITAL RESERVE FUND ACTIVITY

Capital Reserve Fund	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Projected	2024 Budget
Beginning Fund Balance	\$78,540	\$107,367	\$136,484	\$254,584
Additions:				
Transfer from Operations				
Budgeted capital assessments	60,000	60,000	120,000	60,000
Interest income	92	102	100	10
DNR Grants & Other	12,850	13,800	-	-
Total Additions	72,942	73,903	120,100	60,010
Expenditures				
Equipment Purchases	(44,115)	(44,785)	(2,000)	(138,600)
Ending Fund Balance	\$107,367	\$136,484	\$254,584	\$175,994

Safety Team Report

A Boaters' Safety Course was held by the District in May & July. Students from 10 years to any age are eligible to take the course. Operation of a Motor Boat in Wisconsin (& Illinois) requires the operator or supervising adult to have a Boater's Safety Certificate if they were born after January 1, 1989. (a Boaters Safety Certificate is also required to rent a boat in Wisconsin regardless of age) The course is also available at dnr.wi.gov (cost is \$25). Information on the course is available from Larry Brady at 847-975-6334 / larry@whitewaterlake.org or Deputy Sean Blanton at sblatz03@sbcglobal.com. Seventeen students took the course in May & eleven in July.

Please practice safe boating & show courtesy to your fellow boaters/PWCs & skiers. "Safety is NO accident."

Important reminder: Know your local lake requirements & Wisconsin Boating Laws. Rules can change from time to time (ie. Number of persons that can be towed by a single water craft, spotter requirements, hours of operation, etc.) Any concerns, feel free to contact me or Sean at the above email addresses.

Larry Brady, Team Leader 


Equipment Report

The 2023 Weed Harvesting Season has been a challenge for the entire Board. While we were confronted with many obstacles, the Board collectively put together a plan to operate and maintain our own equipment.

A special shout out to Scott Center who we hired to provide the oversight and maintenance of our equipment. Scott has accepted the challenge and has been working diligently to keep things in proper working condition.

The Board is in the process of looking for a piece of property to purchase that will allow us to store our own equipment. If anyone is aware of any open property, please let us know. We need approximately two acres, relatively flat with good road access and ideally close to the lakes.

We have applied for a grant to help fund the replacement of the 7-foot harvester that we predominately use on Rice Lake. This will replace the existing harvester which is 27 years old and has surpassed its useful life. We are awaiting approval from the Wisconsin Waterways Commission. If approved, we likely would take possession of the replacement during the 2025 harvesting season.

Chuck Chamberlain, Commissioner 

Navigator Survey Update

In the summer of 2021, we recruited over 30 lake-area homeowners to study issues raised in the April, 2021 Lake Management District survey. The volunteers served on one of five Navigator teams: Wakes & Shoreline Erosion; Boater Safety; Pier and Boat Density; Good Neighbors; and Governmental Issues. Two years after we embarked on this effort, we thought we'd see how well we communicated our findings. Find the answers to these questions on the next page.

1. What is the direction to drive when towing skiers, tubers and others around the lake?
2. What is the recommended distance from shore for boats producing large wakes?
3. What is the definition of "slow-no-wake" speed?
4. How many people can be pulled simultaneously behind a boat? How about a PWC/jet ski?
5. Are life vests required on vessels under self-power - canoes, kayaks, paddleboards?
6. How close can a skier/tuber/boarder get to an anchored boat or a PWC?
7. How far from shore must a PWC be to go faster than slow-no-wake speeds?
8. Can a homeowner move a buoy that is blocking their boat's approach to their pier?
9. The black and white channel buoys are just there to remind you to slow down. (T/F?)
10. How many boat slips can a riparian(lakeshore) owner place on their property with a 75' shoreline? 100' shoreline?
11. Can a boat driver be held responsible for the safety of others impacted by their wakes?
12. Is it illegal to set off fireworks without a permit?
13. Unreasonably loud noise and violent, abusive, indecent or profane language is prohibited in our communities and on the lake. (T/F?)
14. Who should you call to report unsafe behavior on the lake or on Township roads?

Carol Ducommun, Vice Chair & Navigator Team leader
Amy Rodgers, Safety Team Leader

Navigator Team Answers

1. Counterclockwise
2. 300'
3. The slowest speed to maintain steering of your boat or PWC/jet ski.
4. Maximum of two people behind boats; for jet skis, maximum of one person towed AND only if the PWC/jet ski is rated for three or more people (one driver, one watcher and one seat for the person being towed.)
5. Yes
6. 100'
7. 200' (and islands are considered shore!)
8. No; it is illegal to move a buoy; call the Whitewater Township office (262-473-4639) for assistance.
9. False; the buoys remind people to drive slow-no-wake AND to pass on the right. They are like a center line in a road and help people drive more safely and orderly in the channel.
10. Maximum of two boats and two jet skis for the first 50' and up to 99'; at 100', maximum of three boats and three jet skis.
11. Yes. WI law states that a driver is responsible for your own safety, the safety of your passengers, and all other users on that lake that your wakes impact.
12. It is illegal to possess or use fireworks without a permit; contact your Township.
13. True
14. Contact the Walworth County Sheriff: 911 (emergencies) or 262-741-4400 (non-emergencies); for non-emergency lake concerns, you can also call DNR's Eagle office for a lake warden. (262-594-6200)

Carol Ducommun, Vice Chair
and Navigator Team leader

Amy Rogers, Safety Team Leader

Dan Berg, Candidate for Board

My parents built their retirement home on Rice Lake 26 year ago and I bought the house 11 years ago. We have been spending as much time as possible on Rice with my parents while we could and now with our kids' families and our friends and relatives. We are still working this year, but plan to retire at year's end. I have spent my 41 year career in public accounting and have specialized in state and local governmental auditing, consulting and accounting. Since 2001, I am a CPA, have been a partner with Sikich LLP (in both the Naperville, IL and Brookfield, WI offices) and have lead over 1,200 audits. I also teach both in Illinois and Wisconsin on topics from basic governmental accounting to implementing the newest pronouncements. If elected, I look forward to working with the other board members as treasurer and doing what I can to assist each committee to reaching their goals.

Chemical Treatments

Our service provider, Solitude Lake Management, surveyed both lakes in April identifying and mapping weed growth. The results of the survey and recommendations for 2023 treatment were submitted to the WiDNR for approval. The WiDNR authorized 93.7 acres for treatment of Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) on Whitewater Lake. Herbicide application was completed before the first of June. It was determined that no treatment was warranted on Rice Lake as there were very few weeds detected.

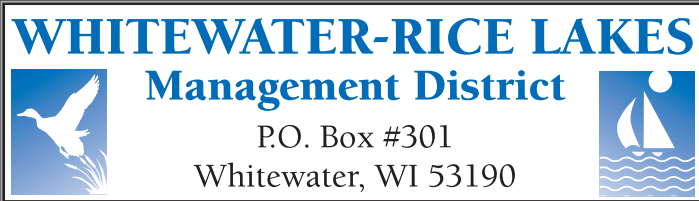
A map of the areas treated is available for review on the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District's website (<https://www.whitewaterricelakesdistrict.org/operations>).

The barley straw project on Rice Lake is progressing with the guidance and oversight of the WiDNR. Over the summer, multiple water samples will be collected and analyzed for cyanobacteria by the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene in Madison. The results will be provided as they become available.

Mike Lindemuth, Commissioner 

GWLPOA Annual Meeting

The GWLPOA Annual meeting will be in conjunction with the Lake Management District annual meeting on August 26th. Our brief presentation will be a synopsis of our "year in review" and our organization's financial, technology and business reports. 2023 By Law revisions, and the new 2023-2024 GWLPOA board members will be approved at this meeting. We hope to see you there.



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Annual Meeting and Budget Review

Where: Lions Club *****Please note venue*****
N7470 Kettle Moraine Drive

When: Saturday, August 26, 2023

Agenda:

- 9:00a Opening remarks – Rich Charts, Chair
- Call to Order
- Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes
- 9:15 Review by commissioners:
 - Chemical & Barley Initiative – Mike Lindemuth
 - Bog Removal - Rich Charts
 - Weed Harvesting – Carol Ducommun
 - Equipment - Chuck Chamberlain
 - Financials – 2023 Actuals - Brad Corson
 - Capital Plan – Chuck Chamberlain
 - 2024 Proposed Budget – Brad Corson
 - Audit Report – Don Olinger Report
- 10:25 Presentations on Lake Initiatives
 - Wildlife Management – Ernie Roy
 - Fish Management - Tom Potrykus
 - Navigator Survey Update – Carol Ducommun/AmyRodgers
 - Safety Patrol/Ordinances – Jake Hintz/Sean Blanton/Larry Brady
- 10:45 GWLPOA Annual Meeting – Nancy Lindemuth
- 11:00 Input from Towns of Richmond and Whitewater
- 11:10 Introduction of candidates followed by voting:
 - Dan Berg
- 11:15 Election results
- 11:15 Open Discussion/Resident Input/Debate Continuations
- 11:30 Adjournment – Next Meeting August 24, 2024
- 11:30 Brief Lake District Board Meeting