



Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District

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



Message from the Chairperson

Jim Bartlett

This summer was a difficult time for the Lake Management District. The lack of snow cover last winter, the low water levels, and some major operational problems combined to create a major weed problem. Please understand that the board is as unhappy about last year as most of the district members and is dedicated to a better performance for next summer.

One issue we would like to improve is communication. While the newsletter is a useful method of communication, it is expensive, slow, and does not allow any interactive response. To supplement

the newsletter, the board has established an e-mail address for the district. This system will allow the members to direct their comments and questions to one location. The district e-mail address is whitewater_rice@yahoo.com. In addition, we are asking members of the district to send us their e-mail addresses. We will use these addresses to keep the members informed of any district issues. The easiest way to send us your address would be by e-mail to the district address.

Last summer we experienced some significant staffing problems. As of Labor Day, we were down to the

crew chief, who was a late season replacement himself. Fortunately, due to an outstanding effort by Tammy Steinke (Harvest Committee Chair) and some excellent support from Jeff Widner (JNT Marina), we were able to patch together a crew to finish the season. Looking to next year, the board is focused on avoiding a repeat of these problems. We are investigating several options with the intent of creating a solid harvest crew that is well supervised and utilizes some returning, experienced staff. We will keep you informed as this effort progresses. ♦

Treasurer Report

Gordon Philip

2003 Financial Performance

Through October district expenses were \$78,426 as compared to budgeted spending of \$94,000. The principal reason for the year-to-date surplus was due to our inability to hire and train a crew for the bog removal. More on this later.

Our General Fund operating surplus as of October 31st is as follows:

General Tax Proceeds	\$101,500
Donations and Misc. Income	350
Less: Budgeted funding for Equipment Fund	(10,000)
Net Income of General Fund	\$ 91,850
Less: Spending Through October 2003	78,426

Operating Surplus as of October 31, 2003 \$ 13,424

As we will close the year with a surplus in the General Fund, by statute we can not carry a surplus in the General Fund and district residents must vote on the disposition of the surplus. Among the options are the following:

- Transfer the surplus to a Contingency Fund or Equipment Fund
- Apply the funds toward bog removal in 2004 as the surplus was related to deferral of the bog removal
- Apply the surplus to a reduction of the 2005 tax assessment. ♦

Chemical Treatment

Gary Marvin

As of today (Nov. 15th '03), it is still too soon to speculate on the 2004 season. We are hoping for a "winter kill" on the Eurasian Water Milfoil so we can have a better chance to combat it come springtime.

In 2004 we are going to try "chemical only" in the following areas:

- Woodchuck Alley
- Far North bay- past State Park beach
- Parts of Thorne Heights

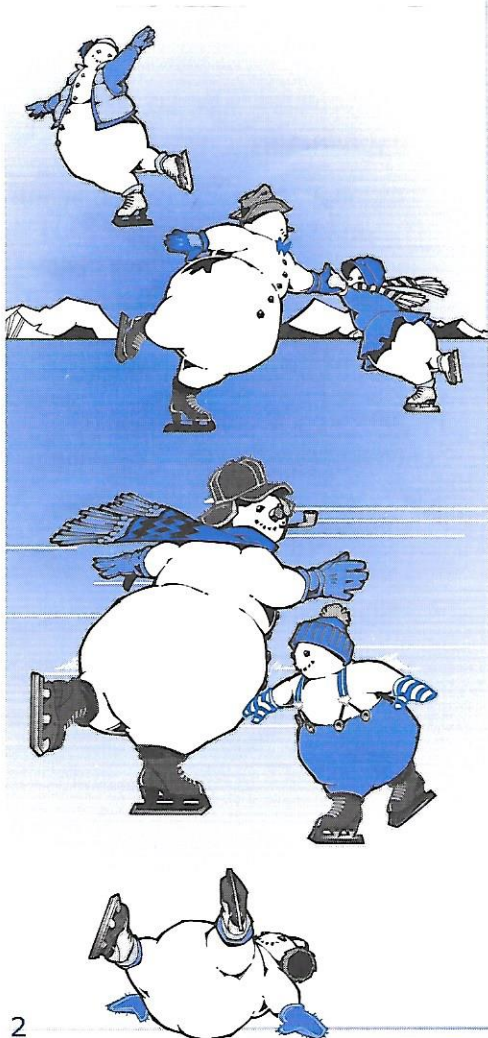
If this works we will try other select areas. ♦

Equipment

Art Schmitz

As many of you know, the 7-ft. weed cutter overturned this August, severely damaging the equipment. With the aid of Parkside Marina, we were able to right the barge and deliver it to Inland for repairs. The repairs are extensive, including the replacement of the engine and all of the electronics with a total bill of over \$21,000. The good news is that insurance covered all but \$500 and the barge will be in close to new condition when it is returned.

Over the winter we will be doing maintenance on the remainder of the equipment. We are also evaluating the replacement of the outboard motor on the weed transporter. The existing engine is three years old and is in need of replacement. ♦



Harvesting

Tammy Steinke

With the accident with our 7-ft. weed cutter, plus the staffing issues we experienced in August, we felt the need to extend the mowing season into September. We continued the harvesting effort on Whitewater Lake using the 10-ft. mower—focusing on many of the worst areas—through September 22nd. The cutter was then moved to Rice Lake for four days of cutting there. Finally, the equipment was moved to our storage area and prepared for the winter.

During the course of the season, we removed approximately 880 tons of weeds from the lakes. This number is consistent with last year and doubles 2001, but is less than some earlier years. While tonnage removed is not the only measure of success, we hope to improve the performance next year. A summary of prior years is included below. ♦

Weed Harvest Summary															
State Bay		North Bay/N		North Bay/S		South Bay/E		South Bay/W		Central		Rice Lake		Total Tonnage	
Tons	Hours	Tons	Hours	Tons	Hours	Tons	Hours	Tons	Hours	Tons	Hours	Tons	Hours	Tons	Hours
5		74		89		248		545				44		1005	
50		387		255		430		318				87		1527	
9		166		177		552		300		30		34		1268	
12	24	101	72	138	112	116	100	72	50	0	17	2	6	441	381
82	61.5	242	214	241	159	100	78.5	129	107	93	75	2	4	889	699
96.3	64.5	216.9	171	273.2	221	103.8	84	93.2	70	68.9	69	27.3	27	880	707

Bog Committee

Gordon Philip

As stated above, we were unable to address the bog removal project this fall due to equipment and crew issues.

On a positive note:

- The bog situation was not as severe this season as it has been in past years.
- We received a 10-year permit to complete Phase II for removal of 90,000 sq. ft. of surface bog and the permit was written as a “dredging” permit.
- As a “dredging” project we will be able to file DNR grant monies which would most likely be a 50/50 cost sharing. You can’t apply for grant monies to recover costs incurred prior to the awarding of the grant.
- A grant application must be filed by February 2004.

To avoid a recurrence of staffing issues, we will explore contracting with a dredging firm to use our equipment or their equipment starting in late summer and continuing into October while not jeopardizing the harvesting operations. ♦

Other Issues

By-Laws Review

A committee is being set up to review the current By-Laws. They were last amended 8-19-95. Some changes being suggested:

- Every property owner gets to vote – regardless whether they attend the annual meeting or not– possibly proxy votes?
- Only one vote per property
- Some means to control budget changes at the annual meeting

Please e-mail Gary Marvin, chairman of the committee at garymarvin@sbcglobal.net with any changes you think would benefit the district. Or call Tom Ponyicsanyi (Pine Knolls subdivision) (262) 473-7848 or Tom Potrykus (608) 883-6664 (Chapel Drive). If you would like to participate on the committee, please contact Gary.

Boundary Changes

A group from the Pine Knolls subdivision is evaluating asking to be removed from the Lake Management District. Under the current case precedent, this action would be difficult unless they demonstrate some significant change in circumstance from the original formation of the district. However, a similar issue is currently under review by the Wisconsin Supreme Court and their decision could modify the interpretation.

Regulation of Fertilizers

At this summer's general meeting, we passed a resolution asking the township to pass an ordinance limiting the use of fertilizer that contains phosphorous. Phosphorous is one of the elements essential for weed growth and restricting the amount placed in the water will improve the quality of our lake. At this time, the Towns of Richmond and Whitewater are considering an ordinance limiting the use of phosphorous. We expect such an ordinance to be in place this spring.

Following are the retailers we are aware of in the area that sell phosphate free fertilizers:

Consumers Co-op
12743 E Hwy 59
Whitewater
(262) 473-2410

Ace Hardware
840 E. Geneva St.
Delavan
(262) 738-8228

We hope you support our lakes by utilizing these products rather than the alternative brands. ♦

Fish Stocking

Brian Morris

In general, the DNR stocks our lakes based upon their assessment of the lakes needs. Most recently, the DNR stocked Whitewater Lake with 32,000 Walleye fingerlings in 2001 and expects to introduce the same number in 2003. Bass are generally not stocked because our lakes have a healthy population of that species, but the DNR will introduce Northerns from time to time based upon their surveys. If either lake experienced a major winterkill, they would immediately restock the lake.

On October 10th, the Lake Management District supplemented the DNR's efforts by stocking 500 hybrid bluegills and 500 3-5" black crappies. The hybrid bluegills were bred to grow very large and should provide some excitement when they are caught. The females will not reproduce, but the males will breed with the native bluegills. The black crappies are a very popular game fish that are typically not stocked by the DNR. Over time, we would like to be able to restore the crappies to their historical levels. ♦

Shoreland Zoning Rule NR115

The DNR is in the process of reviewing and expanding the regulations related to the maintenance and development of our shorelines. The changes under review are substantial. The proposed regulations include limiting the types of shoreline plantings and restricting seawalls. To learn more about this issue, you

can refer to the DNR website – www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/title.htm

The DNR has scheduled "listening" sessions throughout the state from November 11 through December 11. In the Walworth County area there is a meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 11.

Waukesha County Court House
Waukesha County Board Room 350
515 W. Moreland Blvd.
Waukesha WI

There will be two identical meetings at 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and another at 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. See the above web site for more information. ♦