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Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District

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



Lakeshore Management

The Whitewater-Rice Lake Management District submitted its first Healthy Lakes Grant application on behalf of one lakefront property owner. If the grant is approved, the homeowner will install two practices, a rain garden and a 350 sq ft shoreline native planting, to be reimbursed by the DNR up to \$1000 per practice. In addition to native plantings and rain gardens, Healthy Lakes offers three other practices: diversion, rock infiltration and fishsticks. Our Lake Management District (sponsor) can apply for up to 25 practices each year on behalf of multiple property owners. The 350 sq ft native planting practice must span at least ten linear feet along the shoreline and there are six templates from which to choose: lakeshore edge, bird/butterfly garden, woodland, low growing, deer resistant, and bare soil. Native planting templates, a rain garden manual, and other technical guidance about each of the practices can be found on the Healthy Lakes website, healthylakeswi.com.



Contact the Lakeshore Management team (volunteer lake residents) to discuss the grant program or to sort through any other questions regarding your lakefront-landscaping projects. Site visits to your property can also be arranged and are required for the grant program. Lakeshore Management: Theresa and Gerhard Stegemann, 262-473-2835, theresa.stegemann@gmail.com.

Volunteer Workday Opportunities: Earth Day workday event at the Whitewater Lake Beach Path and Rice Lake State Natural Area, Saturday April 22, 8am to noon. Work on removing invasive plants from both locations. Bring work gloves and safety glasses. Work for an hour or the entire morning, whatever works for you. Meet at Whitewater Lake Beach. Contact theresa.stegemann@gmail.com.

Natureland County Park, Friday June 9, 8am to noon. Continue work on shoreline and trail improvement. Contact Colleen Lesniak, Walworth County Volunteer Coordinator, clesniak@co.walworth.wi.us.

Theresa Stegemann, Team Leader 

Message from the Chair

2017 is here and what a start! The earliest ice out on record, but not before a successful and record breaking Fish-a-Ree. Expect an early season for piers, boats and weeds. Your board and many volunteers are preparing the infrastructure to provide as carefree enjoyment as possible on our wonderful lakes. We have some new and ongoing initiatives.

Commissioner Jerry Grant's efforts to create a volunteer boat launch monitoring program is expanding to more community volunteers. If your children, nephews, nieces or friends need service hours for school or other organization, have them stop by JNT's Parkside Marina for available time slots.

Tom Potrykus and team will be building a Walleye spawning area to build a self populating game fish lake. That requires a larger size Walleye fish limit, and for Rice Lake a larger Northern Pike. The larger Pike will eat Carp that we want to minimize. He needs your help to come out and show the DNR that this is something we want.

Ernie Roy will be ending his term as Commissioner and not running again. He has been responsible for a number of new improvements, initiatives and yeoman efforts. We all thank Ernie for his service on the Board and know his volunteer efforts will be ever present. Anyone wishing to be a candidate for the Board is encouraged to send me a short resume for publishing in the next newsletter to be eligible. Please send to me by June 15 at rich@whitewaterlake.org.

Finally, the Safety Committee and Safety Patrol are again offering a boat/PWC safety class that will certify your household members providing training in state regulations AND local ordinances that the Sheriff's department enforces.

So go out there, enjoy the lake, have fun and be courteous to those around you.

Rich Charts, Team Leader 

Annual Equipment Report

- All weed harvesting equipment will be removed from winter storage and prepared for launching during the month of May.
- Two new paddle wheels are being built and will be installed on the 10 foot harvester. The harvester will be ready for the beginning of the 2017 harvesting season.
- 2017 envelopes will be available in the Self-Pay Boat Launch Fee Collection Boxes before the start of the boating season. The **payment procedures and fees will remain the same** for all three Town of Whitewater public launch sites on Whitewater Lake; namely, **Cruse Lane, RW Townline Road/Chapel Drive, and RW Townline Road/Krahn Drive.**

Chuck Chamberlain, Team Leader 

Safety Project

The District will offer a Boater's Operators Licensing Course on May 20 & 21 from 8 AM till Noon each day. The course will be held at the Whitewater Township Office & will cost \$10 / student. The course is hands on and is required to operate a power boat in Wisconsin unless you are over the age of 28. If you are interested, please call Larry Brady at 847-975-6334 or email lbrady22w@gmail.com no later than May 1st. You may also take the course on line. Contact www.dnr.wi.gov for further information.

If you have safety concerns about anything Lake related, please contact Larry at the above phone number or email.

Larry Brady, Team Leader 

Summary of 2016 Financial Results:

2016 finished the year with a net surplus of \$54,131. At the 2016 annual meeting, we projected the surplus to be \$43,850 largely due to the chemical treatment controlled by the DNR. This planned surplus allowed us to reduce the 2017 tax assessment by 4.2%. The additional surplus of \$10,281 will further benefit 2017's results, though \$5,000 of the surplus, being due once again to the SEWRPC delay of our 5 year plan, will be paid in 2017 offsetting that portion of the surplus next year. The balance of the surplus was due to lower harvesting costs with continually favorable weed conditions through the end the season offset by 3 additional days of bog harvesting we were able to take advantage of.

Our capital fund started 2016 with a balance of \$32,963, to which we added the 2016 contribution of \$30,000 and the 2016 contribution to the fish hatchery reserve of \$3,000. We now have \$6,000 in the hatchery reserve with the final planned contribution of \$3,000 to be made in 2017. Capital expenses in 2016 were approximately \$20,800 consisting of upgraded spud anchors and guide sheeting for the new transport, stainless steel belting for the harvesters and the new launch fee boxes (net of DNR grants). Our ending balance in the capital fund was \$45,195.

Brad Corson , Team Leader 

Fish Management

As published in the GWLPOA newsletter, the Feb. Fish-A-Ree resulted in some nice fish being recorded, most notably 7 walleye, the largest being 3.4 lbs and 20.25 inches long.

The young walleye we and the State have put in these recent years are growing nicely. To encourage successful spawning from those 9700 plus fish, we encourage you to show up at the Walworth County Conservation Congress Hearings held April 10 at 7pm at the Delavan-Darien high School. On the agenda will be a proposal to extend the minimum keeper walleye length limit from 15 to 18 inches and to reduce the daily bag limit to 3. Approving this proposal yields nice size eating fish, while still giving the fish one or two seasons to spawn and reproduce "free of charge". It's in our best interests. The vote is open to anyone who attends, so we need a good turnout. You do not need to attend the entire proceedings...you can fill out the ballot and leave! Contact me (tandspotrykus@gmail.com) if you want more info, a ride etc.

Again this winter, there was no commercial carp netting done on our two lakes, and the permit used by our netter expired. In January, there was a new drawing ("name out of the hat") among those interested in getting a new permit to net Whitewater and Rice lakes for carp for the next five years.

Our thanks to local resident Ray Baker who took the time and trouble to apply for our lakes. The name drawn however, was that of an experienced, commercial netter working nearby Lake Koskonong. We are waiting to get more info from the DNR as to his plans for our lakes.

At the Annual Meeting, we asked for volunteers to join the Fish Committee, and we welcome on board Don McComb, Moe Hincapie and Jerry Burke.

Tasks ahead in 2017 include working with the new carp netter and completing the walleye habitat program.

As for 2017 fish stocking, the DNR has not made any announcements as of yet.

Tom Potrykus , Team Leader 

Weed Spraying

Whitewater and Rice Lakes' weed management is strictly regulated by Wisconsin DNR. We have two strategies that can be used on our lakes, one is weed treatment, and the other is weed harvesting. Clean Lakes Inc. will be doing our weed treatment (Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly-leaf Pondweed.) Based on previous years, we are anticipating these invasive weeds and we will do our best to control them, using our budget dollars, and harvesting equipment. We will not be doing any chemical treatment on Rice Lake this year per the DNR trying to get the water clarification started by establishing more aquatic plant base.

Our web site will post the DNR permit, and the Lake Maps identifying the extent of weed distribution after the Spring weed survey with timing for chemical spraying. We will use Facebook and our web site for continued updates. Prior to lake treatment, a notice will be attached to all docks in the vicinity of treatment with precautions. Those of you who use irrigation systems from the lake would you please email me at ernie@whitewaterlake.org so that I can notify you when the chemical treatment is scheduled so that you don't turn on your irrigation system. In addition, the following notice is prescribed by the DNR:

Ernie Roy- Team Leader 

Whitewater-Rice Lake Management District Notice

The Whitewater-Rice Lake Management District intends to chemically treat specific areas of shoreline on Whitewater Lake with aquatic herbicides to control exotic weed species (Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly-leaf Pondweed).

Up to 175 acres on Whitewater Lake , the DNR wouldn't let us do Rice Lake last year and at this time we don't know if the DNR will let us this year. Treatment will take place between April 22nd and October 15th, 2017.

Within 5 days of this notice following procedures set forth in the Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 107.04, five or more individuals, organizations or units of government may request a public informational meeting. The request must specify the topics to be discussed at the meeting, including problems and alternatives, and must be sent in writing to Whitewater-Rice Lake Management District, P.O. Box 301, Whitewater, WI 53190 and copied to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, c/o Heidi Bunk, 141 NW Barstow St. Rm 180, Waukesha, WI 53185.

Weed Committee

The Lake District Board is encouraged with the progress we have made over the last couple of years but cautious about what we will see this Spring & Summer. The District has a very aggressive spraying program this spring as well as the weed harvesting program.

As the spring & summer sort out, we on the committee would like your help in keeping the Lakes free from invasive weeds & the swimming/boating areas accessible for the Lake Residents & guests. While boating or just enjoying the view from your dock - deck - shoreline, please report heavy areas of weed growth, floaters or Algae blooms to any member of the District Committee or call me at 847-975-6334 or email lbrady22w@gmail.com.

As you may or may not be aware, our harvesting efforts are mainly concentrated from the dock to "NO WAKE" markers. We will make every effort to clear areas near

docks & shorelines. In many cases, we are limited in what we can do because of equipment capability, DNR regulations & other concerns. If you are experiencing difficulty in such an area, please contact me & I may be able to offer an alternate solution. Thanks for your help. REMEMBER: Weed pickup from docks occurs on Saturday Morning in the summer. Please place all your harvested weeds or floaters on the end of your dock early Saturday. We go around the Lake only once that day.

Larry Brady, Team Leader 