

**ANNUAL MEETING  
WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
AUGUST 25, 2001**

Chairman Bernie Tangney called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. at Lakeview Elementary School on August 25th, 2001. He introduced the Board members: Gordon Philips, treasurer and chairman of the Bog Committee; Art Schmitz, chairman of Weed Harvesting and Equipment; Gary Marvin, secretary and Chemical Treatment, chairman; Tom Ganfield, environmental engineer; Toby Shroble, County representative and Rose Marie Berg as clerk. Norm Prusener, Township representative was absent.

Additional persons recognized were Ron Fero, Township chairman; Chubba Keller, Safety Patrol; and Bob McCracken, harvesting crew chief. Volunteer people recognized were: Boris Marohnic who collected the secchi disc data on Whitewater lake. This information is used by the DNR to monitor the long term lake situations; Mark Muschinski, who has taken over the testing for Rice Lake; Jim Stevenson, past chairman; Kathy Aron of Aron Associates, a consultant employed to help with obtaining the bog permit; Audrey Greene, Walworth County Lake Specialist and last but not least, Tangney's wife, Linda, who has been very gracious in allowing Tangney all the time he has spent on Lake District affairs.

The first presentation was by Chubba Keller, Lake Patrol Chief, representing the Township. He went over the boating ordinances, which are posted at the public access boat launches. Slow no-wake is the most often violated ordinance on the lakes. He stated the PFDs (personal flotation devices) must be easily accessible – not in packages or under seats. Failure to have one for each person on board is an instant violation. Cushions are no longer acceptable – they must be wearable devices and the correct size. In addition, boats 16 ft. or longer, must have at least one buoyant cushion or ring buoy on board. Batteries must be secured and the terminals must be covered. If a battery tips over, especially on aluminum boats, and rocks against the side of the boat it could cause an explosion and fire. He mentioned the Patrol moves fishermen if they are in traffic lanes. Buoys have now been placed on both sides of the bogs, as they have recently come up, which means a slow no-wake zone. Personal watercraft (Jet Ski's) must stay 100' away from everything on the lake and should be 200' from shore. Skiers and tubers must proceed in a counter clockwise manner. Ron Fero, Township chairman, will send boat ordinances to anyone who requests them.

Gordon Philip, Bog committee chairman, thanked his committee for all their efforts through the year. He also thanked Kathy Aron for her help in drafting and obtaining the permit to remove the test bog. The permit was finally received last night and is in two phases. The first phase is to remove a section of the bog approximately 50x200 ft. in an attempt to make a waterway for boating. This bog is known as Gilligan's Island and located near where Camp Joy's island is – toward the east side of the lake. They plan to start removal the Tuesday after Labor Day. The original plan was to dredge, but we have found a less controversial plan and that is to harvest the bog. The new 10-ft. harvester, which was received in late spring, is capable of harvesting the material in a safe and clean way. They will be monitoring and photographing the removal as much as possible. The permit requires much diligence in both removal and hauling of the bog from the site which will be from the Cruse Lane launch. The bog material will be transported .9 of a mile to DNR property on County P. The permit allows us to remove up to 1,200 cubic yards of bog, that is assuming the test area is between 3 and 3-1/2 ft. deep. After this is completed, we will submit results and photographs to the DNR for Phase 2 of the project, which will again require their approval and assessment, because then we would be removing in excess of 3,000 cubic yards. We do not have enough information on the results of the test plot. It is difficult to predict when Phase 2 will start and also the cost. We have \$14,000. budgeted for 2001-bog removal, which we feel, will be more than adequate to remove the test plot.

Kathy Aron stated it was necessary to obtain DNR approval for the bog removal because we could not prove the bog was not attached to the lakebed. Phase 1 operated under that assumption. We are hoping that this Phase will show that the bog is not attached. If this proves to be correct we will be able to continue without obtaining any more permits. If it is attached, we will need a Phase 2 permit. When the DNR finally came out to look at the bog on June 7<sup>th</sup> they immediately stated it is a safety hazard to boating and that has been our major concern all along.

Page 2

Art Schmitz stated we are responsible for picking up and removing any pieces of floating bogs that fall off during the process, both on the lake and roadway. The crew has removed approximately 60 tons this fall and the only thing falling off is water, making it a relatively clean operation. They hope to complete the project by the end of September. The committee and board received a nice round of applause from the membership for their accomplishments.

Tangney stated his appreciation of the efforts of Art Schmitz and Don Oker in their persistence in building a stronger, stainless steel harvester to their specifications. This has resulted in our being able to use our own crew and machinery, rather than hiring out for this project which would have been very costly. Even though this harvester cost more than originally planned, it is proving to be well worth it.

The minutes of the August 26, 2000 Annual Meeting were printed in the newsletter that was mailed in July. There being no corrections or additions, the minutes were approved as printed.

The six candidates for election to the board were presented by Tom Ponyicsanyi of the Nomination Committee with there being four openings. The new candidates running for election were Kevin O'Connell, Dave Paul and Mike Plier, running for re-election were Gary Marvin, Art Schmitz and Bernie Tangney. Each nominee was given the opportunity to say a few words about themselves and how they view the opportunity to be on the Board. Dave Paul removed himself as a candidate, stating he felt there were very qualified people running without him. The two individuals with the highest number of votes will be elected to a three-year term and the next two highest numbers of votes will be elected for a two-year term. Results of voting will be announced later in the meeting, after tallying.

A member stated the Board should give the voters a profile of each candidate before the Annual Meeting. Tangney so noted.

**Treasurer's and Audit Report:**

The books were reviewed by Dave Byrne and Susan Zawislak and were found to be in conformity with general accepted accounting principles.

Philips presented the treasurer's report of income and balance sheet for year-end December 31, 2000 comparative to year ended December 31, 1999. An accumulated surplus of \$14,550. was reflected. Total liabilities and net worth for year-end 1999 were \$211,022 and compared to \$293,173 for year-end 2000. The increase was mainly due to the purchase of the 10' harvester and trailer.

The next presentation was by Audrey Greene, Walworth County Lake Specialist. She is employed on a 5-year program through a DNR grant. She furnished handouts on fertilizer information, shoreline buffers, native plants and the geese problem. Question was asked if the DNR will be doing anything about the erosion on the State shoreline on Rice Lake. Greene said there is a meeting scheduled for discussion on this and she agreed that if the State wants homeowners to create shoreline buffers, the State must set an example.

Greene stated Walworth County has shoreline regulations, which involve projects above the ordinary high water mark. DNR is concerned with projects below the ordinary high water mark. These include aquatic planting, riprap – anything that would disturb elements below the ordinary high water mark. Quite often the local township also has regulations – for example tree removal. Trees cannot be removed within 75 ft. of the shoreline without a permit. Greene said if members are concerned about whether a permit is required, they should call her and she would try to help. Her business cards were left on the table for this purpose.

**Election Results:** Art Schmitz and Gary Marvin were elected for 3-year terms; Bernie Tangney and Mike Plier were elected to two-year terms.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Harvesting and Equipment:** Schmitz said the biggest thing he has to report were the many changes to the operation this year. One of the complaints last year was about leaving equipment at the shoreline and various landings. This has been eliminated with the trade up of the existing pick up truck for another pick up that is capable of pulling the trailer away from the landings with a load of weeds. They no longer have to leave the elevator sitting at the landings on weekends, etc., as they are not using the elevator at all. The new trailer also allows simultaneous operations on Whitewater and Rice Lake. Previously we were restricted to working the lake where the elevator was located. This results in no loss of time in moving the elevator.

Another big change is the new harvester – it is very effective in removing weeds, but also has an extra cutting bar attached which goes into the bog like a fish – biting in all four directions. Once the piece is bitten off, it falls onto the conveyor and goes after the next piece. They have removed over 60 tons of floating bog in an area near Woodchuck Alley. The crew worked with the Township and landowners to remove a tree that had fallen on the bog. Approximately 43 tons were removed in that area and the remaining 17 tons were removed from the point off the island near Camp Joy – all bog material was floaters, which do not require DNR permits. They can now respond to homeowners needs. When homeowners see a bog floating in their direction they should call the Board. Cards were left for members with the respective phone numbers.

Schmitz has also instigated Saturday morning pick up for any weeds that members put on the end of their piers. This service is being offered as a solution to get rid of weeds that homeowners have removed from their shore area. He stressed the crew cannot come in close to shore due to the danger of damaging the blades on the harvester. There are too many obstacles hidden in the water such as pillars, tree stumps, etc. and the crew is unable to see them. A lot of money has been spent this year to repair blades, etc. from past damage due to coming in too close to shore. He thanked Bob McCracken, crew chief for his expertise in maintaining the equipment and encouraging the crew to be efficient and helpful. We had a whole new crew this year, with the exception of one returning employee. Members gave a round of applause to Bob McCracken saying he has done a very good job.

Tangney went on to say the Board is looking at the possibility of purchasing additional equipment. The trailer we now have to go with the new harvester is a dual-purpose machine. When the harvester is removed from the trailer the sides are then removed and it changes to a transporter. Thus the dual purpose; it works as a trailer to move weeds and also as a transporter to move the harvester. Lauderdale Lake has purchased a trailer similar to ours after seeing how efficient our trailer works. It does not handle quite the volume the 2-ton truck did and if we get very heavy weeds we are in a position to need a second trailer. He asked the members if they would approve the purchase of another trailer and pick up truck. Grant money has been checked into and there is a possibility DNR Grant money would pay for part of the trailer, but not the truck, and will be investigated more thoroughly by the Board. The cost the Board is looking at is around \$18,500 for the trailer and \$21,000 for the used truck. Schmitz said there is about one month in the year where the weeds are very heavy and with an operation as important as weed cutting we need some redundancy in this operation. He explained we have a 10' and a 7' harvester to keep working, but with only one trailer and truck, should something go wrong with this equipment, we would be playing catch up. Tangney asked for a show of hands to allow the Board to proceed with the purchase of another truck and trailer. There was an overwhelming majority in favor of the purchase. The Board will proceed accordingly. The funds will come from equipment reserve.

Schmitz also stated his long-term goal is to get rid of the transport unit eventually, but to do that we need to find two more areas to take weeds out of the lake. One of those being in Richmond Township and the other is on the property Randy Cruse has on the north end of the lake. Rather than spending approximately \$85,000 on transport unit a few years down the road. He would rather spend less than half of that money on putting a couple more useful landings for the harvester operation. To do that we would need permits from the DNR but he felt members should know what our long-term goals are.

Schmitz said last year we lost the foreman and the crew resulting in the equipment being put away without being maintained properly as had been the pattern in the past. Everything would have been repaired and then put away ready to go in the spring. This resulted in approximately \$15,000 not spent on repairs last year and the money became an operating reserve. We spent most of that on repairs this year. This year 28% in labor dollars alone was spent on repair of the old equipment to get it up and running and to get it saleable. The old 10' harvester was not saleable. It did not cut weeds and if put on the lake it went around in circles. The other 28% was spent on training and the other 42% was spent on actual harvesting.

### **Operating Surplus**

Tangney stated if we have money in an account and do not spend it, that the Board does not have the authority to use it for other purposes. The membership is to direct the Board how to handle it. We have accumulated \$14,550 in the past two years of funds budgeted, but not used. There are several options: Use for operating funds and reduce the taxes we collect. The Board is hoping this is not their choice. The Board is asking members to transfer this money into a contingency fund allowing the Board to be prepared for unexpected situations. This would allow us to keep the \$80,000 budget, which has stayed at this figure for several years. Ron Fero says the Township follows this procedure and it is the recommended procedure. Motion was made and seconded to put the \$14,550 in the Contingency Fund. An overwhelming majority of hands agreed. Motion passed.

**Chemical Treatment:** Marvin, chairman – No presentation.

**Fish Stocking:** Tom Ponyicsanyi corrected the newsletter to state: In 2000 1,280 Northern were planted and 2002 2,000 Northern (shouldn't this be walleye?) will be added. They will alternate the two species every other year. The new DNR secretary has reported he will direct all his efforts to the hunting and fishing in this State and the tourism that follows. Ponyicsanyi feels we will not have a problem with the fish stocking area. He is also trying to get them to perform a yearly survey on both lakes. Marvin stated he watched the DNR stocking Whitewater Lake this year. Tom was not aware of this.

**Approval of 2002 Budget:** Philips stated in the 2002 budget we are showing tax revenue of \$80,000. Total operating costs are expected to be \$82,100. Sale of equipment will go back into the equipment fund. Motion made and seconded to approve the budget as presented. Overwhelming majority carried.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** A member asked if we could have a fundraiser. Tangney said as a municipal government body we cannot by law. However, we can accept donations. The District cannot be the founder of a fundraiser, but if another party has a fundraiser, that party can then donate the funds to the District.

**Buoy Placement:** Schmitz said the Township has problems with the contractor getting the buoys in and out on a timely basis and the District is willing to take on this responsibility as a service. Ron Fero of the Township said they have no problem cooperating with putting in the buoys. The Township is responsible for the buoys; they buy them and replace approximately 25 each year. One of the problems in putting in and removing them is that they are completely dependent on Parkside Marina to do this. Parkside does not charge anything for this service and they also provide the barge. The Township provides the personnel to put them in the water. The Township will not relinquish control; however, they will cooperate with the District. They will work with the District in the placement of the buoys if placement is a problem. Tangney asked the membership for a motion from the floor that membership agrees to work with the Township to get the buoys out in a more timely, accurate manner. So moved. If members have any problems with the buoy placement, etc. they are to contact the Township. Keller stated extra buoys have been placed around the bog since it came up and is slow no wake.

**Dockominium Issue:** Tangney reported the District made a \$500. donation towards legal fees to help Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) fight this issue. WAL has won the Lake Geneva battle, but it is expected to continue in the Supreme Court. He asked if the membership, as a group, has any interest in

Page 5

Donating any more dollars. Tangney cited an example that he heard of an ad for a lot in the Grandview Subdivision that guaranteed a boat slip right. There are 50 lots back there and if each lot should get a slip, 50 more boats would be put on the lake. He feels this is an issue we should be pro-active on and look ahead to control the number of boat slips on the lake. An issue that Lake Management should get involved in. Motion made to proceed with learning more and communicate with the membership upon learning more. Seconded, overwhelming majority to proceed.

**Public Comments:** A member stated she had sat through the meeting for 2-1/2 hrs. and she couldn't believe how much work the Board and committee members have done through the year to bring us to this point and she certainly thought members owe them a big pat on the back. A nice round of applause was received with this announcement!

The 2002 Annual Meeting will be held on the Saturday before Labor Day. Motion was made and seconded to begin the meeting at 9:00 a.m. instead of 10:00 a.m. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Marie Berg  
Municipal Clerk