

WHITewater/RICE LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 11, 2005

The regular board meeting of the Whitewater/Rice Lakes Chairman called Management District to order by Jim Bartlett at 7:05 p.m. at Whitewater Town Hall.

Board members present: Jim Bartlett, Gordon Phillip, Jim Felland, Mark Skidmore and Jerry Grant. Absent: Tammy Steinke, Norm Prusener

Clerk present: Rose Marie Berg, Incoming clerk present: Susie Speerbrecher

Guests: Brian Morris, Art Speerbrecher, Tom Ponyicsanyi, Andy Wojdula

ADMINISTRATION ISSUES

Minutes of the July 14, 2005 were approved as presented.

Tammy Steinke submitted her letter of resignation. Jim Felland moved to accept her letter of resignation from the board with regrets. Gordon; Phillips seconded the motion.

The board voted to accept her resignation and Jim Bartlett was asked to send her a letter of thanks for her service on the board.

Jim Bartlett proposed Brian Morris head the Chair of the

Harvest Committee. The board voted to confirm Brian for that position. Brian is only confirmed for the committee role; Tammy's board position will be filled via the annual meeting election. Jim Bartlett was asked to find an additional candidate for the election.

The Nominating committee identified two candidates for the open board positions: Gordon Phillip will run again and Donald Wickersheimer will run for his first term.

The newsletter announcing the annual meeting was mailed to residents August 11, 2005. A concern was brought up that bulk mail going to Illinois might get there "after the fact". Rose Marie

was asked to investigate the problem. No action was taken.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Boundary:

Mark Skidmore moved:

The Whitewater Rice Lakes Management District request the Walworth County Board to expand the district boundaries as follows: Expand the boundaries of the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District be expanded as illustrated with the blue line on the area map (copy attached).

Related to the expanded boundaries, the Whitewater Rice Lakes Management District will adopt a two tier tax rate system such that:

The full mill rate will only be applied to riparian properties and properties with deeded lake access. The remaining properties within the district will be taxed at a mill rate that is 65 percent of the full rate. In addition, all agricultural properties will be granted an exclusion from the tax.

The motion was seconded by Jerry Grant and after discussion, approved by the board.

Jerry said the next step would be to submit our proposal with proper documentation to the Walworth County Board. Jerry felt the request would initially be sent to the Walworth County Land Conservation Committee for review.

Harvesting:

Brian Morris said he has been on the cutter to gain knowledge of procedures and where there is need for improvement. Brian has gathered a great deal of material from other districts and the manufacturer. This information is being put into a best practices manual that will be used to train and manage the cutting crew.

Equipment:

Jim Felland reported he has received the title for the new harvester; the balance due is \$30,975.

It was agreed by the board to seek approval at the annual meeting for the approval fro the purchase of a trailer for the new cutter, cost projected at \$14,000. Jim Felland will present this proposal.

It was reported that the storage barn might not be available this year. Jim said he would investigate and report at the next meeting.

Chemical:

Mark Skidmore informed the board that the DNR would like us to provide better notification to the homeowners about are spraying activities. The current plan is to utilize post cards for notification.

Mark is investigating a fall treatment. The budget has adequate funds.

Budget and Finance

Gordon presented July bills for payment amounting to \$23,883.26. Jim Bartlett moved to accept these bills be paid. Jerry Grant seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Gordon reported we presently have \$16,306 in the checking account. Our taxes receivable of \$51,684 will be received with the next couple weeks and our grant receivable from the DNR of \$30,975 will also be received soon.

Audit Committee:

Gordon announced the audit committee will meet Sunday

August 14, 2005.

Jerry Grant moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim Felland seconded the motion. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned 9:15 pm

Respectfully submitted

Susie Speerbrecher

Clerk

Minutes of Budget Hearing/ Annual Meeting, August 27, 2005

(from 2006 newsletter)

The 2005 Whitewater/Rice Lakes Management District Budget Hearing/Annual Meeting was called to order by

chairman, Jim Bartlett, at 9:05 at the Lakeview School on Saturday, August 27th, 2005.

Board Members Present: Jim Bartlett Jim Felland, Gordon Philip, Mark Skidmore and county representative, Jerry Grant

Board member absent: Norm Prusener, Town of Whitewater representative

Clerk present: Rose Marie Berg

Bartlett began by reviewing the agenda then recognized and thanked several members for their efforts and achievements:

Bob Sturgis and Don Cullen as the Audit Committee. They reviewed the 2004 year-end financial statements and reported the records appeared to be in good condition. The Boundary Committee, consisting of Andy Wojdula, Tom Ponyicsanyi, Greg Marvin and Don Meyer put in a lot of time. Tom Ganfield and Mark Muschinski for taking regular secchi disk readings, which record water clarity on Whitewater and Rice Lakes. Mark and Lynne Muschinski for printing the newsletters. There is no charge to the District and this is a large cost saver. If anyone needs printing done, we recommend their Waukesha company. Also, a thanks to Tammy Steinke, Harvesting Chair for the past two years. She spent a lot of time, particularly in the first year, hiring a new crew and organizing the operations. A big thanks to Gordon Philip, Treasurer and Bog Chair, who has been on the board for five years and does all of the bookkeeping, accounting, payroll. These efforts have probably saved the District approximately \$5,000 annually. Philip is also running for re-election this year. Rose Marie Berg has been the District Clerk for 5-years and is resigning. Bartlett said she has been the rock holding the Board together and the Board appreciated all her efforts.

Administrative: The minutes of the 2005 Annual Meeting were approved as earlier presented.

Members were requested to sign up for e-mail from the District by sending their addresses to IMAILSVR@GWLPOA.ORG. This will be a way of keeping up on news from the District.

Treasurer's Report: Philip referred to the handout which showed total income was \$171,912 that included the DNR grant for equipment of \$61,950. Total operating costs for last year were \$106,017. We held budget with a surplus of \$291 last year. The \$291 will go into the contingency fund. Philip stated we are looking at an approximate surplus of \$14,100 for 2005. The Board is recommending \$10,000 go into the Equipment Fund and any residual go into a contingency fund. A motion was made by member Daniel Dern to follow the recommendation and seconded by John Currie. Motion carried.

We have two positions open for commissioners. The by-laws state we have one more candidate than we have openings. In the beginning of August this was fine. However, on August 11th we had a resignation and we were unable to get another candidate. We have two candidates for two positions. Members can choose to vote for two, one or none. The person with the most votes will assume a 3-yr. term and the other a 1-yr. term. The two nominees, Gordon Philip and Donald Wickersheimer were introduced and each gave a brief presentation. Gordon Philip presented the proposed budget for 2006 and each committee member spoke on his respective category. No amendments were made by the membership. David Byrne made a motion to accept the 2006 budget as proposed. Stan Vesely seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Highlights of discussion in the different categories:

Weed Cutting: Brian has instituted a Best Practices manual for the weed cutting crew to follow. The cutters also will cut in tandem to remove floaters and they will no longer cut weeds from the shore to end of piers. it is too dangerous for the equipment.

Chemical Treatment: Members will be notified by postcards of treatment dates. Susan Heidenreich, W8085 Townline Rd. asked for assistance reducing the weeds in the shallow pond connected to her property. Mark Skidmore indicated that he could not comment on the pond at that time, but would look into it.

Bog Removal: Work will begin on bog the Tuesday after Labor Day and projected to continue through October 21st. They hope to remove 3,800 cubic yards. A silt curtain will be used to minimize cuttings from floating ashore. Bartlett said they would follow up with GPS readings to ascertain the area removed. The Board will check that Cruz Lane is cleaned up at the end of the season, before equipment is removed from the water.

Old Business: Mark Skidmore, Boundary District committee chair, presented a brief summary of the committee's

extensive work on possibly expanding/detaching the district boundaries. The Board has voted to request the County's approval to extend the boundary according to the blue lines shown on the map. This will increase the tax base substantially and bring a lot of residential property into the district that is truly lake property benefiting from the lakes. The increased valuation would reduce the tax rate of the off-lake property just enough so that the riparian owners do not pay any more than they currently are. It will be a two-tier rate with a full mill rate applied to riparian properties and properties with deeded lake access; and a mill rate 65 percent of the full rate would be applied to all remaining properties in the district. The agricultural property will be exempted until it becomes residential. Jerry Grant, County representative, speaking for himself- not the county, recommended when the County hearing is held that members of the District be there in numbers to show support.

New Business: Felland stated the need for a trailer for the new harvester. He said the DNR would not give a grant for the purchase. They only give grants for equipment on the water. The cost of the trailer would be about \$14,000 and it takes 75 days to produce. The money is in the capital fund. Bernie Tangney said they did get a grant for the trailer for the 10-ft. harvester. Felland will investigate further. Motion made by Bernie Tangney to buy a 14-ft. trailer with transport features.

Motion seconded by Don Oker, majority carried.

Election Results: Gordon Philip was elected for the 3-year term and Donald Wickersheimer for the 1-year term.

Motion made to have the 2006 Budget Hearing/Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 26th, 2006 at the Lakeview

School. Motion seconded and carried.

Motion made by Stan Vesely to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Don Oker. Motion carried at 11 :30 p.m.