



WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

P.O. Box 301
Whitewater, WI 53190



MINUTES OF BUDGET HEARING/ANNUAL MEETING August 22nd, 2020

The Whitewater/Rice Lakes Management Budget Hearing/Annual Meeting was held at Fuzzy Pig –Willis Ray Rd Whitewater WI and called to order by Chairman Rich Charts @ 9:00AM Approximately 25 property owners 2 new residents were present including board members: Terry Anderson, Chuck Chamberlain, Larry Brady, Brad Corson and Donna Sherman (clerk) Dawn Corson and Denise Charts checked in attendees and counted election ballots.

Absent: Jerry Grant-County Representative and Norm Prusener-Whitewater Township Supervisor

Rich opened the meeting by stating role call and saying it was going to be an abbreviated meeting to be held in person to review budget and vote Rich asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the meeting minutes available on entry and posted on the district webpage. All property owners have the right to vote at today's meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE- Rich asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 24th, 2019 (Revised on 9/5/2019) Budget Hearing/Annual Meeting and was made by Bernie Labovitch and seconded by Dan Dern motion carried. Rich asked any discussion on the minutes – none all in favor motion carried

Presentation of Candidates to the Board and Elections: Rich stated the ballots have been provided as it is now required to have a ballot and one will be kept on file with the town office it was stated to vote put an X next to the candidate if a no vote then cross off the name. Rich introduced the candidates:

Mike Lindemuth – Chemical/Rice Lake Representation Mike said Terry Anderson is going to be a hard act to follow – Rice lake in one of the best conditions it has been in a long time the board does a great job and looking to be a part of it.

Brad Corson – Treasurer he has been the treasurer for the last 10 years – he has owned property on the lake since 2000 and lived here full time with his wife Dawn since 2009 on E. Lakeshore Drive and is happy to contribute.

Rich mention that the board will be doing 2 new funding initiatives this year one is the 5 year annual lake management plan and the other is a lake stakeholder survey. Rich stated they have not done a survey in a number of years. He said there are a lot of new residents this will allow the board to find out what they are doing right what they are doing wrong. Rich turned it over to Tom Potrykus as he is leading this effort. Tom mentioned 773 lots in the lake management district 661 residents. Tom stated the lakes have changed as well as the types of usage – which is the reason behind the survey getting input from the residents to ask what can we do better and help communication. A resident asked the approximate cost, to be detailed by the District Treasurer under that subject, and will be done via email. Rich stated a professional consultant will be the one handling the development and execution of the survey.

FINANCE –Brad Corson- said the summary has two sides referring to the 2020 budget

First column 2020 projected \$53,995.00 is the carryover from 2019 the surplus carries over to the subsequent year and that reduces the next year's tax assessment.

The next line projected is the current year's tax assessment that is what was approved a year ago which gives us a total revenue of \$346,000.

Because the surplus this year was \$53K we budgeted last year based on an estimate just like we will do today. So for 2020 only \$38,000.00 we had a \$15,000 surplus going into the year as result of the carry over being higher than we anticipated because of bog harvesting as that is one activity that we don't have numbers on this year and last year was 2 weeks less in harvesting.

Weed harvesting we are expecting to finish at \$44K which is actually over budget by \$4800 based on trends and 3 more weeks to go. We may get some of that back going into the holiday weekend. Fuel costs are down but the total weed cost will be over by \$2900.00

Chemical biggest line items budget with a budget of \$100K spent \$69K with a reserve of \$30K.

Wildlife and fish stocking – there was not a goose round up this year so that money was not spent and there will not be fish stocking this year as it was more important to survey fish sizes to measure spawn success, we reserved a \$1,000 for a fall survey later in the year to get an accurate count to plan for next year.

Bog removal budget ok \$53K project to spend \$44K which we carved out one week of bog harvesting taken off the table. So 4 weeks instead of 5 weeks.

Repairs and Maintenance projecting we will not spend all of our budget based on having new equipment with the exception of the harvesters themselves we are trending about \$23,000.

Storage of \$6,600 3 year contract

So the bottom line of \$63,299 which is what we are projecting our surplus to be at the end of 2020 to carry over into 2021 tax assessment.

2021 proposed budget line

\$63,299 carry over surplus comes in as revenue for next year.

Weed Harvest is set at 3% more than 2020 \$45K.

Permits and Fees – \$11,000.00 that is a large line item and that is the SEWRPC year plan as we are required by the DNR to submit a lake plan we hire a professional organization to produce – it is 300+ pages what we do with it is predicated weed harvesting and bog harvesting in the lake so this is what the \$11,000 is for but we will still apply for the grants so that number should be less –vs- more.

Chemical- projecting a budget of \$100K same as last year. That number will be dependent on the Spring Survey.

Wildlife and Fish stocking – Brought back to normal levels

Bog Removal set at 100% of projected expenses this year, this is the first time we have done that as he looked at the history within the last 5 years we have not spent more than \$44,000.00 as we have spent less year after year.

Repairs and Maintenance set at a 3% increase of what we are expected to spend this year and the same for our storage contract.

Administrative is the overhead to run the District operations such as the line item under legal and profession of \$12,500 which is the surveys that will be put out to bid the survey process. This will give us the ability to pick the right process.

Total expenses of \$288,231 and we also want to maintain our capital reserve budget \$60,000 which is what we have been doing for the past 3 years at that level based on future equipment needs that gives us a total operating expense and capital of \$348,000 and change.

\$348,000 minus the surplus of \$63,299 give us a tax assessment of \$283,000 that is where that number comes from.

Any questions and comments:

A resident mentioned next year's budget has dollars for 2 surveys the SEWRPC project and the one Tom is going to be working on. Brad clarified that one is the SEWRPC lake plan. This will occur in the budget every 5 years and includes ecological surveys. and the surveys. Tom asked what part of the SEWRPC Lake Plan is new-Brad said in the past it was 50 pages and now it is up to 390 pages this plan give a lot of detail –and items that we can benefit from – Various maps of what the lake district includes the weeds/water shed etc. Next year when it is done again they will not have to repeat a lot, we only chose to buy the updates to it. Larry added the primary change will be the survey of all the lakes and weeds which is the biggest part of it. Rich stated the plan is available on the district website along with all districts meeting minutes. Chuck mentioned a copy is housed at the public library –As of 8/25/2020 Donna Sherman confirmed with Irving Young Library that the SWERPC Report is available in the resource room as a non-circulating document. Due to Covid-19 you are not able to go into the library in person at this time however you will have to check with the library director about the possibility of checking out this item.

No additional comments or questions Brad made a motion to approve a 2021 operating budget of \$288,231.00 and a capital funding of \$60,000 for a total operating budget capital of \$348,231.00 which will require a tax assessment of \$283,432.00 as outlined in the handout provided Bernie Labovitch seconded, there was no discussion, the motioned carried and budget was approved.

Capital Plan – Chuck Chamberlain referenced the 5 year capital planning sheet. First of all we changed this from a 10 year to a 5 year plan especially with equipment pricing by the time it gets to that point you are not even in the ball park thus the reason for the change to a 5 year capital plan. To refresh our memory from last year's annual meeting it was motioned and approved an amount of \$72,000 to be used for 2 projects. Of which we were only able to accomplish one. The \$72,000 was to be used for the refurbishment of the 12 Ft harvester and the acquisition of a replacement hydraulic weed trailer. Because of our dollars we did not want to overspend the dollars that was approved. Our primary concern was to get the harvester repaired and up to speed and that ran us more than what was anticipated. The second part no financial aid was given from the WI waterways commission for that part of the project so basically it made the decision easy to postpone the weed trailer purchase for a year. So we did not spend all of the \$72,000 that was approved at last year's meeting.

As a result we will want to reinstitute a motion to replace our weed trailer so it can be used for weed harvesting as well as bog removal. There were some additions to the trailer to make it multifunctional. We are proposing \$77K for the trailer that is full price receiving no financial aid and Misc. of \$3K to cover additional cost belting etc. Chuck said he will apply for a grant, historically 35% had been given but no guarantee what will be received.

There has been concerns about weed cutting and both cutters have been working the shoreline which can damage blades – our contractor states they do check blades and have extra blades on hand.

A resident mentioned to keep the trailer to haul the harvester but we already have trailers to haul equipment. Chucks thought was to try and sell it like we did with the old truck. Any proceeds would go to offset the cost of the new one. A resident mentioned to get a new one with a hydraulic tailgate. Chuck confirmed our project cost includes that and also looked into the axels which are able to handle the extra weight for bog removal.

Rich mentioned the seasonal strategy at the beginning of the year is chemical treatment, and until 2 weeks after, no harvesting can be done in the treated areas. Then we concentrate on the navigation lanes, following by the middles of the lakes. Shoreline and areas-between the piers are only done later in the season after all other areas are clean. .

Rich stated we need a motion to approve the new large capital expenses, then a second motion to approve the long term capital plan.

Brad motioned to approve the capital projects in 2021 for \$80K total to include the hydraulic weed trailer and \$3,000 for miscellaneous Dan Dern seconded all in favor motion passed.

Rich made a motion what Chuck has laid out here for the next few years' commitments. It was questioned saying we have made no commitments. Rich said we have not recommended but this was a great change to the 10 year plan. Val Vesely seconded - Motion carried.

A resident asked if that would increase our taxable amount. Brad said no the initial motion was for the \$60,000 funding aspect into the capital fund and then second motion for \$80,000 was to spend some of that. Which is why we show you the long term planning of where that funding exist so at the end of 2021 if we spend all of \$80,000 and we fund the \$60,000 at the end of the year we will have a balance of \$56,000.

A resident asked if our funding account is an actual bank balance account. Brad confirmed that is was an interest baring account.

Audit Report – Dominick Fashoda

Brad stated every year we are required to have our books audited. This is Dominick's 9th year he is a lake homeowner so the tax assessment is important to him. Each year we approve the tax assessment first thing that is approve is the assessment given as income and then audit for 2019 is a review of what is coming in and what is going out. He reviewed every check and back up invoices – he does not have impact on the approvals he is just confirming where the money is going. He gives Brad a thumbs up. He is open to his procedures and practices. He is happy as a landowner and as an auditor.

Rich announced 25 ballots went out, 24 ballots came back of those 24 it was unanimous for both candidates. Brad Corson and Mike Lindemuth were congratulated.

Weed Harvesting Larry Brady said there were late weeds in June this year. Weeds have been light during the remaining season. The 5 year plan permit expires this year but DNR granted a year extension. We are planning on a grant of 66% maximum. Last year we received 0 but we will apply again. Rules have changed but there is a 100 page form and we have to apply by mid-November. Reminder last pick up on piers will be Labor Day weekend. Resident mentioned 4 people pick up Larry said at least 2 but could be people training – Chuck added he has seen 2 people. A resident mentioned 3 at least 4 at a time but has not picked up a thing. Larry mentioned that hiring has been high school and college youth vs adults causing high turnover. Invoices for help have not shown a charge for 4 on Saturdays. A resident mentioned weed harvest is now light and harvesters are being kept on the waters to pick up a high upsurge of free floating bogs in the lanes, on the shorelines and under lifts, many from table size and a few larger than boats. The harvester equipment is not designed for fixed bogs above the waterline and will only be used for these if they can affect navigation safety.

Terry Anderson mentioned with weed harvesting there has been a younger crew which limits there working hours, we also need to have better communication with Jeff Widner of JNT. Rich mentioned when the DNR did a shutdown he asked Ann Korman for equipment access to the Rice Lake Launch but was told that only the DNR director could provide exceptions at the time.

The auditor said as a tax payer he sees the bills from JNT and that Jeff is the only one in town so not a lot of competition. Larry said we go out for bid but usually get one response.

Terry stated update chemical treatment on both lakes went smoothly. Rice Lake was treated May 29th with great results. Whitewater Lake was treated on both the north and south bay's residential shoreline on June 10th. All notification signs were posted- kudos to Matt Kolwalski and the ski team for distributing signs before application.

For those that are new our goal is to improve the quality of good plant and chemically eradicating the bad plants by doing this we are rewarded with cleaner and healthier water. The way we do this is through SEWRPC the 391 page plan and our chemical application partner currently Clark Aquatic Services. Their efforts focus on spring and fall surveys. We do winter planning for next year's applications, obtaining agreement with the DNR for our plans to obtain permits. Actual spring deployments on both lakes are subject to change based on weather. We will keep you updated via our newsletter and online postings.

A resident said the lake weeds have improved from when you used to be able to walk across them to being well under control with the new 3 year spray. What is the DNR and/or spraying company saying about the new product? Will it work for 3 Years? Terry said they don't know as of yet. The DNR often tells us they don't know why weeds surge. He added the 3 year product was a test last year with great results, which permitted us to use it in Rice Lake this year.

A resident asked about the back water ponds. According to the DNR Public Trust Doctrine there is no public access to the ponds, the private owners are responsible. We also do harvest beyond Bird Island and other sensitive areas. Brad reminded the residents to use fertilizer with no phosphorous Larry said to look for a middle zero on the package indicating no phosphorous.

Safety update by Larry – The sheriff will allow a ride along so no liability for us - other update for safety 400 hours to date up by 50% over last year. 159 warnings-safety inspections 127 main violations were no boater safety certificate, anyone born after 1/1/1989 must possess a safety certification they cannot operate a boat unless you're standing right next to them. Violations no PFD or incorrect PFD or types of PFD's also one injury a prop strike injured a skier leg, one fatality heart attack, and one injury on the road bike vs car.

A resident asked about shoreline distance for no wake 100FT from shoreline. Rich thought the Township might be able to put in tighter ordinances in spots but that would be costly. 15 citations issued no PFD boater safety equipment – fire extinguisher or battery cover for example. Larry said it is more about the education then the citation.

Larry mentioned that there is nothing we can do there is no law stopping them unless there are inside the buoys

Adjournment- Rich made a motion to adjourn @ 10:24AM with seconded by Chuck/Dan/Larry all in favor motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Sherman - Clerk