



Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District

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



The Boundary Issue – the Controversy Continues

You are all familiar with the unanimous vote at the last annual meeting to proceed with the request to increase the boundary of the Whitewater/ Rice Lakes Management District. The recommendation comes from research conducted at UW-Whitewater, best practice opinion for The Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the UW-Extension Office and a sub-committee of landowners within the district including the Pine Knolls sub-division. The recommendation was to define the boundary based on the watershed of the lake and clearly discernable boundary lines, mainly surface roads. Thus, the boundary included a few small areas that were not in the watershed, but within the boundary defined by surface roads.

This recommendation was presented to the Land Use and Management sub-committee of Walworth County where it was met with opposition by those landowners that were currently not part of the district. The recommendation was denied by the sub-committee with a recommendation for rejection by the full Walworth County board. In February, the full county board unanimously rejected the boundary extension. The information presented at the hearing is available on the website www.gwlpoa.org.

In March, the Pine Knolls sub-division submitted another request for detachment. After review of the request with our legal counsel, we found the request to be incomplete based on seven criteria for detachment that were outlined in the Wisconsin state supreme court case of Donaldson vs. Rock-Koshkonong Lake District. The criteria are:

- The physical characteristics of the property
- Its use (recreational, commercial, residential, etc.)
- Its relationship to the lake in terms of whether:
 - It is riparian
 - It has private access rights to the lake
 - Its proximity to public access to the lake
 - It is within view of the lake
 - It is within the watershed or groundwater table of the lake

- Whether the value of the property would be enhanced if the lake were to be in reasonably clean, attractive and usable condition; or whether the value of the property would be diminished if the lake were to be in a degraded condition
- Whether detachment of the property will result in any “hole” or “island” in the boundaries of the district
- Whether circumstances surrounding the property’s inclusion in the district have changed
Any other factors relevant to whether the property is benefited by continued inclusion in the district

As of this writing, we have asked the landowners in the Pine Knolls sub-division to re-submit their detachment request by providing specific evidence against each of the above criteria. We will discuss the outcome of this at our next annual meeting in August. ➤

Please plan to attend the 2007 annual meeting Saturday, August 25th 9a.m.

Every landowner in the Whitewater/Rice Lakes Management District should plan to attend this meeting. Here is where we review our annual spending and determine our budget for fiscal 2008. Every vote counts. Looking forward to seeing you there. The meeting is held at Lakeview Elementary School on Townline Road.

Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting Agenda

- Review and approve any prior year budget carry over, if needed.
- Discuss and approve 2008 budget
- Budget discussion by major category: Chemical Treatment, Weed Harvesting, Bog Removal, Fish Stocking, Administrative
- Election of one commissioner: Equipment Chair
- Treasurer’s and Audit Report
- Adjournment

Whitewater/Rice Lake District Management Minutes of Budget Hearing/Annual Meeting

August 26, 2006

The Whitewater/Rice Lake District Management Budget Hearing/Annual meeting was held at Lakeview School and called to order by chairman Jim Bartlett at 9 AM. Approximately 75 residents were in attendance.

Jim Bartlett began the meeting by introducing himself and board members present: Gordon Phillip, Jim Felland, Bill Watts, Don Wickersheimer and Jerry Grant our Walworth County representative. Jeff Widner our Weed Harvesting sub contractor was present and clerk Susie Speerbrecher. Board member absent: Norm Pruesner, Town of Whitewater representative.

A thank you was extended to Mark and Lynne Muschinski owners of Marlin Printing for printing the newsletter at a minimal cost to us. Thank yous were extended to Don Cullen and Bob Sturgis for auditing the books. A thank you was then extended to Mark Skidmore for his past board contribution and continuing to work on the boundary issue.

Administrative

Minutes of the August 27, 2005 annual meeting were approved as presented..

Candidates for election introduced themselves and gave a brief presentation. Candidates are: Don Wickersheimer, Bill Watts, John Dynkowski, and Dick Swanson. Candidates elected for a three year term were: Don Wickersheimer, and Bill Watts. John Dynkowski was elected for a two year term. Dick Swanson was encouraged to be a committee member.

A letter addressed to the board written by Richard Cooney family was read by Jim Bartlett. The letter emphasized their pleasure in the weed harvesting this summer with a thank you to Jeff and his crew and special thanks to Art Speerbrecher and his ability to operate the equipment as a pro.

Boundry Update

Mark Skidmore gave an update of the boundary issue by reviewing the boundaries drawn on the enlarged map. Currently, a legal description of these boundaries is in the process of being prepared by RSV Engineering. Once prepared, we can proceed by publishing notice of our intent to expand the district and notification of the county board. The county board is then responsible for notifying the property owners impacted, holding hearings and deciding on the issue.

Treasurer's Report

Gordon reviewed the financials referring to the handouts.

Total income for 2005 was \$163,567 expenses were \$138,375. The projected budget for 2006 is \$157,450. The proposed 2007 operating budget is \$157,200.

Fish Stocking

Brian Morris gave a brief presentation on the health of the lake being in good shape. The budget for fish stocking is \$1000 - \$1500. Gene Migely motioned to increase the 2007 budget to \$3000 Carl Alburn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Equipment

Jim Felland reported a new engine was purchased for the transporter. A GPS device will be purchased next year and installed on the 12' cutter. The DNR will cover half the cost and the balance will come from the capital fund. No amendment to the equipment budget.

Chemical

Jim Bartlett reported on the activities of the chemical spraying for lake weeds. A motion was made by Dave Cleven and seconded by Tom Porticos to increase the spraying of the core of the south bay from approximately 35 acres to approximately 50 acres. The original budget amount was increased by \$8,000 to cover the additional cost of the spraying. Patricia Koppelman motioned to consider spraying the entire lake in July. Tom Koppelman seconded the motion. After discussion motion failed.

Harvest

Don reviewed the "Strategy for Weed Harvesting - 2007" and map handout. He asked if anyone had additional suggestions to give him a call. A thank you was extended to Jeff and his crew. Don thanked Brian Morris for his help on the committee. No change to the harvest proposed budget of \$85,600.

Bog Removal

Gordon reviewed the continuing problem and the effectiveness of removing the bog. Bog removal and floater pickup will begin September 5th continuing for approximately six weeks.

Don Oker motioned to use money budgeted for bog removal for other purposes to investigate the bog and come up with better options. Rich Gunter seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion did not pass.

Their was discussion to use the \$9000 in the 2007 bog removal budget for further investigation.

Brian Morris motioned to increase the 2007 bog removal

(Continued on page 2)

Board and Committee Members

Board Members

John Dynkowski, Chairman
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Clerk

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Committees and Members

Harvesting

Don Wickersheimer
Brian Morris

Equipment

Jim Felland

Chemical Treatment

Bill Watts

Budget & Finance

Gordon Phillip

Bog Committee

Gordon Philip, Chairman
Tom Ganfield
Rich Gunter
Jim Mulcahy
Rich Schleis

Fish Stocking

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Boundary Committee

Mark Skidmore
Jerry Grant
Greg Marvin
Don Meyer
Tom Ponyicsanyi
Andy Wojdula

Updated 11-21-06

Minutes of August 26, 2006 Budget Hearing/Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 2)

budget to \$14,000 and let it up to the board to investigate a bog removal alternative and address this issue at the August 2007 annual meeting. John Brunner seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Discussion clarified that the actual decision to spend would be made at next years annual meeting and that the committee would have had time to investigate and decide on the best approach or if we would continue the effort. Motion carried.

Don Oker motioned we do not use the 2006 budgeted money for bog removal this fall. No second Motion failed

New Business

Dave Brunner motioned to approve the budget and

amendments for 2007. Shirley Wickersheimer seconded the motion. Motion carried

Becky Morris motioned the next annual meeting will be August 25, 2007. Brian Morris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Don Oker motioned to adjourn this meeting. Doug Goodrich seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted
Susan Speerbrecher, Clerk

Protecting your waterfront investment– 10 simple shoreland stewardship practices

Healthy watersheds make healthy lakes and higher property values. The quality of our lakes and streams is ultimately a reflection of how we take care of our land. A watershed is the land area that drains to a lake or stream. Waterfront property owners, inland residents, recreational users, agricultural producers and other businesses all can play a positive role in maintaining and improving the water quality of our lakes and streams.

A recent study of 1,000 waterfront properties in Minnesota found that when all factors were equal, properties on lakes with clearer water commanded significantly higher property prices. In other words, people prefer clean water and will pay more to live on lakes with better water quality. What you and your neighbors do to sustain or improve water quality will improve resale potential. On the other hand, if water quality is degraded, lower property values could result.

The following information was developed for people who live on developed waterfront lots. It describes three types of opportunities to protect your property investment:

Curb Pollutants

Curb Pollutants at their source- fertilizers, household toxins, eroding soils, malfunctioning septic systems.

Simple Step 1: Choose zero-phosphorus fertilizer

If you must fertilize, avoid fertilizers that contain phosphorus. Remember, it's phosphorus that accelerates algae growth in our lakes and rivers. Most lawns and gardens already contain adequate-and often excessive-amounts of phosphorus. When too much phosphorus makes it way into our lakes and streams it promotes the rapid growth of weeds and algae and decreases water quality, often turning lakes green. Decaying algae also depletes the oxygen in the water, so that fish can no longer thrive. When purchasing fertilizer, look for ZERO in the middle number. The town of Whitewater has banned the use of fertilizer with phosphorus.

Simple Step 2: Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes

Do not pour old oil or pesticides into the ditch or wash paint brushes at the end of your driveway. Where do these pollutants end up? In our groundwater, lakes and streams! Gasoline, oil, solvents, old paint, thinners, fertilizers, pesticides, cleaners and many other products need to be disposed of properly. To find out options, check out www.wlwca.org. If you wouldn't drink it, don't dump it! Even better, minimize your use of toxic products. See the UW-Extension website for alternatives to toxic household products.

Simple Step 3: Minimize erosion

When you're planning a construction project, follow these steps to protect the lake:

Develop an erosion plan. The following url will help you: clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/sheets/erosio.pdf. It describes how to preserve existing vegetation, build an access drive. Install a sediment fence, protect soil piles, clean up sediment and replant the area.

Fence the construction site to limit construction activity to the necessary area of the site. This approach reduces erosion and soil compaction. It can also reduce the amount of sediment and phosphorus delivered to a lake by 18-fold.

Divert runoff around disturbed areas to minimize erosion.

After construction, establish vegetation right away. The less time bare soil is exposed, the less erosion you will create.

Simple Step 4: Inspect and maintain your septic system regularly

Pump or inspect your septic system once every three years. Just like owing a car, there is maintenance, inspection and service required for septic systems in order to prevent premature failure. Inspection and pumping costs about \$100. Installing a new system will cost thousands. Hire a licensed pumper, plumber or inspector. Walworth County requires a three year certification of your septic system.

Divert surface water away from the drain field.

Avoid driving or parking on the drain field to prevent compaction of the soil.

Keep the roots of trees and shrubs away from the drain field pipes to avoid obstructed drain lines.

When a replacement system is needed, consider aerobic digester, recirculating sand filters, and other effluent filtration systems that may do a better job of treating wastes and may be designed to remove nutrients and other contaminants.

Avoid putting any of the following materials down the drain or toilet because they clog the drain field: Cooking grease, oils, coffee grounds, cigarettes, facial tissues, paper towels, sanitary napkins, tampons, or disposable diapers.

Avoid using a garbage disposal. Compost your vegetable scraps instead.

Conserve water. Use low-flow toilets, faucets and showerheads to reduce the volume of water the system must filter and absorb. Consider purchasing front loading wash machines which use less water per load.

Remember, the more water and material that goes into your septic system, the more that comes out into your drain field. Recent research at UW-Stevens Point on septic systems located in sandy soils has found both phosphorus and nitrates migrated underground over 150 feet from drain fields. If these nutrients seep underground into the lake, aquatic plant growth and algae blooms are likely results.

Cut Run-offs

Runoff is excess water that comes from hard surfaces like rooftops, driveways, parking areas, sidewalks, decks and compacted soils. Runoff water washes fertilizer, eroded soil, car fluids, and other pollutants into our lakes and streams. To reduce runoff, let water soak into the ground.

Simple Step 5: Reduce the hard surfaces like rooftops and driveways on your property

When considering additions, decide whether the extra space is really needed. Perhaps you could build up instead of out. Also, consider runoff from decks, sidewalks and parking areas. Gravel areas quickly become compacted and are nearly as impervious as paved surfaces. Pervious pavers are an option for areas that do not have heavy traffic.

Simple Step 6: Plant trees and shrubs or protect wooded areas

Wooded areas develop a thick understory of small shrubs and plants and a duff layer. This duff protects soil from rain impact and absorbs water. Root systems keep the duff in place, not in the lake. Lawn absorbs little rainfall. A recent Wisconsin study found that lawns created much more runoff than wooded areas. As a consequence, the runoff from lawns carried eight times more phosphorus to the lake than the runoff from similar sized wooded areas.

Lawns create more runoff because:

Grading a lot removes the natural divots where water naturally ponds and has time to soak in.

Heavy equipment, vehicles, lawn mowers and foot traffic compact the soils during and after construction.

Removal of trees and shrubs causes more rain to hit the ground and run off rather than landing on leaves and branches.

Allowing water to soak in rather than run off your property filters out pollutants and replenishes our groundwater.

Capture & Cleanse

Capture and cleanse pollutant-carrying runoff before it reaches the waterway— with shoreland buffers, rain barrels or rain gardens

Simple Step 7: Direct downspouts onto your lawn or landscaping, not onto hard surfaces

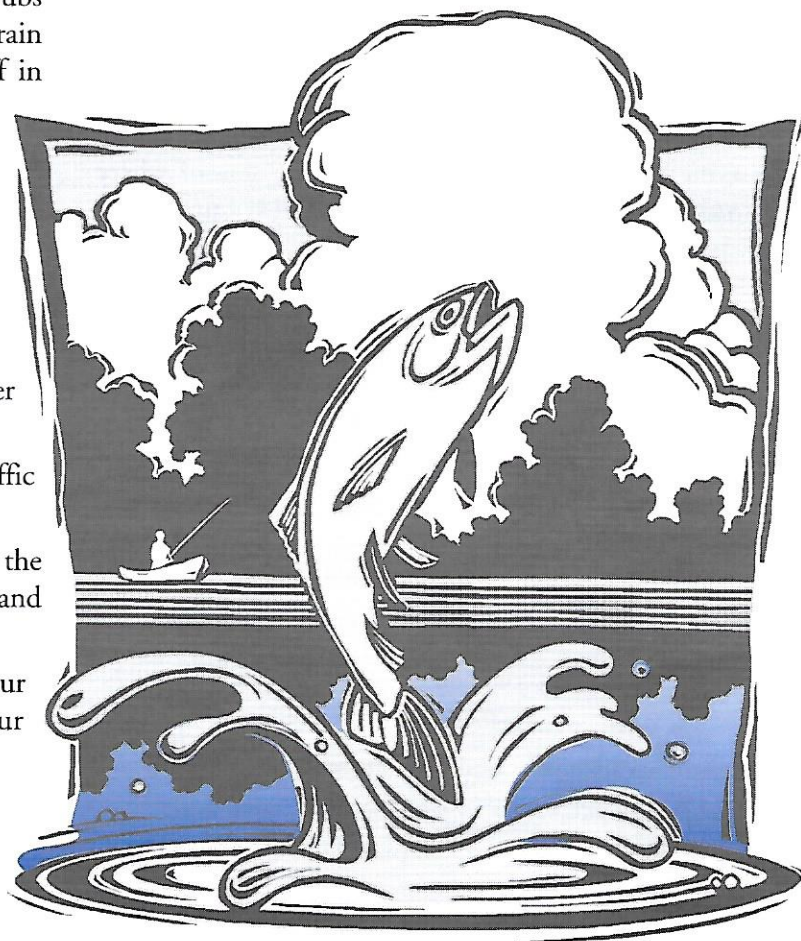
Simple Step 8: Install rain barrel. Collect water from your rooftop to water your yard during dry periods. The barrel should be covered to keep out silt, leaves and insects.

Simple Step 9: Build a rain garden

Rain gardens are just what they sound like— areas that soak up rain water during wet times and serve as a beautiful garden all the time. They are landscaped areas planted to wildflowers and other native vegetation to replace areas of lawn. The gardens fill with a few inches of water and allow the water to slowly filter into the ground. The plants in the rain garden act as filters for the rain water, helping to slow the runoff and allowing it to soak into the ground rather than flowing out into storm sewers, ditches, or drainage ways on the way to lakes and streams. Keeping rain on your property, where it naturally belongs, will help solve some of our water pollution problems.

In addition to the benefits they provide to our water supply, rain gardens also provide wildlife habitats for birds, butterflies and dragonflies and are an aesthetically pleasing addition to any property.

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Financials

Total revenue for 2006 was \$158,710 which includes an incremental DNR grant of \$701 (Equipment Fund) and miscellaneous income of \$9. Total operating expenses were \$143,270 and a capital addition to our Equipment Fund of \$15,000 was made.

For the year we incurred a small operating deficit of \$261 which was offset against our 2005 surplus of \$409. A small surplus of \$148 was carried over to 2007.

At December 31, 2006 we had \$27,541 in the Equipment Fund. Financial statements will be available at our annual meeting.

Bog Removal Project

In the Fall of 2006 we removed an approximate total of 1,682 cu.yds. of bog material at a total cost of \$14,630. This resulted in a average cost of \$8.70 per cu.yds. Our permit was amended to use a claw on Parkside's barge and then haul the material to the Kruse Access via our transport. Productivity can be improved by using our harvester as a second transport for transporting only. Aquarius Systems said this would not adversely impact the equipment.

Immediately prior to the bog removal we obtained 30 GPS points around the perimeter of the bog and determined the surface area to approximate 14,270 sq.yds. We are now working with a bog that is approximately 4 feet deep, which is significantly more than the 1' to 2' thickness taken from the initial core samples. Based upon a four foot depth, there would be 19,027 cu.yds. of bog to remove.

The GPS readings above were outside the area of where the initial core samples were taken and also outside the area that was removed in Phase I. I believe it's fair to conclude that the bog is diminishing and not returning within the work area.

Based upon the above data, at the conclusion of the 2006

removal there remains a rather staggering 17,345 cu.yds. to remove. As a very preliminary estimation, we should be able to remove 7,600 cu.yds. annually based upon 25 available working days and a daily cost of \$1,400 per day or \$4.60 per cu.yd. (annual cost \$35,000). The estimated cost to remove the entire 17,345 cu.yds would approximate \$80,000 and could be accomplished in two to three years.

Alternatives

I am currently pursuing two possible alternatives with Liesch Environmental Consulting

One option would be to use hydraulic dredging equipment and transfer the bog into "Geo-tubes" at the Kruse Landing. They estimated the project could be completed in eight to ten weeks (August 15th through October 31st).

Infuse hydrogen peroxide into the bog material which would possibly prevent it from surfacing and also be very beneficial to the fish population (increased level of oxygen in the water).

No cost available at this time. They did mention that Waterways Grant monies may be available.

In early June I'll be meeting with RSV Engineering from Jefferson to explore other options.

Secondly, at the WALs convention I met with the president of American Peat Technology and he was quite interested given the large volume of bog material we have. I'm sending them a sample of the material.

The people from Liesch Environmental also believe there is a market for the material.

A complete review of the project and various options and alternative will be available in advance of our annual meeting.

Gordon Philip

Equipment Chair Term Expires

The two year term for the Equipment Chair expires this year. The position has been served faithfully by Jim Felland. Jim has done an excellent job of purchasing and maintaining equipment we use throughout the season for weed harvesting, transport and bog removal. Jim's background with industrial and aeronautical equipment and hydraulics make him a perfect fit for the job. He is planning to seek another term as Equipment Chair. If anyone is interested in running for this position, please contact John Dynkowski to be slotted on the ballot at the annual meeting. 🐦

Protecting your waterfront investment

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To go clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/raingarden for a how-to manual to create a rain garden. This publication is also available at the Walworth county UW-Extension office.

Simple Step 10: Protect or restore your shoreland buffer

If you have vegetation along your shoreline, consider yourself and the local wildlife fortunate. A mature buffer represents many years of nature at work and discourages undesirable, exotic plants and animals while attracting songbirds, butterflies, turtles and frogs.

If you have lawn to the water's edge, a simple, no-cost way to get started in restoring your shoreland is to stop mowing next to the water. Seeds in the soil will germinate and valuable native plants will begin to reappear.

If you have lawn to the water's edge and would like to play a more active role in restoring your shoreland, you can replant native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers to attract songbirds and butterflies. The main area where water runs off your property is the best location to start planting to improve water quality. You can create a natural, appealing waterfront landscape while eliminating

expensive and time-consuming lawn care. Go to clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/shore/protectrestore.pdf for help designing and planting a natural shoreland.

Natural shorelands contain a lush mixture of native grasses, flowers, shrubs, and trees that help filter polluted runoff and provide important habitat for animals in the water and on land. The trees, shrubs and plants not only help shelter and create privacy for both the homeowner and the lake user, but may also act as a noise buffer. Larger areas of natural shoreline provide more benefits. However, any amount of natural shoreline is better than none.

Flourishing shorelands provide some of the most effective protection for lakes and streams in Wisconsin.

When trees and branches fall in the water, they form critical habitat for tiny aquatic animals that feed bluegills, turtles, crayfish and other critters. Additionally, a fallen tree is like a dock for ducks and turtles, as well as a perch for kingfishers, osprey and songbirds.

The above information was excerpted from information provided by the UW-Extension Center for Land Use Education and the Department of Natural Resources. 🐦

Chemical Treatment/Weed Spraying

On Tuesday, 5/1/07, John Dynkowski and Bill Watts traveled around all of Whitewater Lake's shoreline in a small boat with Jeff Seltzer of Lake and Pond Solutions, LLC to take weed samples and view weed growth with a video camera. Eurasian milfoil was found virtually everywhere and another non-native, invasive species called curly leaf was found in many places particularly in the south end.

As a result of the above findings, a decision was made to spray virtually the entire shoreline of Whitewater Lake, which is far more than has been done in recent years. Details are provided in the Seltzer Report below and on the attached map of the shoreline areas that were sprayed.

Preliminary Report from Lake and Pond Solutions, LLC

Rice Lake

Treated 16.69 acres of shoreline (150' out). This is the same as was done in 2006.

Whitewater Lake

Treated a total of 163.13 acres. The SW portion of the lake was treated 100' out from shore while the NE was treated 150' out from shore. We ended up treating 36 acres of granular in the south end and 127.13 acres of shoreline compared in 88 acres in 2006.

Totals

Total acreage treated = 179.82 acres

Weedar 64 used = 790.5 gallons

Navigate used = 3600 pounds

Polyan (weighting agent) used = 4 gallons

This presents a new challenge for the district because the chemicals used to eradicate Eurasian milfoil DO NOT kill curly leaf. If this year's spraying is as successful as expected, the curly leaf plants will most likely spread and grow virtually unchallenged. Harvesting, however, should minimize their nuisance value.

So, Lake and Pond Solutions, LLC urged the district to consider spraying for curly leaf next year particularly in the south end where it was plentiful. Doing this will add an additional burden to the district budget. However, there is some good news about curly leaf, which is that it is harvestable and that any floaters that escape DO NOT cause more curly weed growth like the Eurasian milfoil floaters do.

Special thanks to Bill Watts, Don Wickersheimer and John Dynkowski for posting the chemical spraying notices and saving the district \$500. 🐦

Weed Harvesting

Lake ice formation on both lakes was later than usual with a mild start of winter. Very cold weather did set in producing a thicker layer of ice than we have experienced in several years followed by several heavy snowfalls. Hopefully, the ice and snow combination followed by early heavy spring rains, that raised lake levels will slow the growth of the pesty milfoil weed.

Weed harvesting usually starts around Memorial Day, however weed growth and lake levels dictate the start as well. We will be cutting on Rice Lake following a similar schedule to last summer. A notice will be posted on the GWLPOA (gwlpoa.org) website with those projected dates.

Here's a projected schedule, as you know weather and lake levels have a bearing on weed growth.

Start harvesting..... week of June 4th
 End harvesting week of August 27th
 Saturday pickups start May 26th
 end Saturday Sept. 1st

**Good News For
Out-of-Town Landowners!**

The next monthly meeting of the Whitewater/Rice Lakes Management District will be held on Saturday, June 9th, 2007 at 9:00 am in the Town of Whitewater town hall at W8590 Willis Ray Road. This is a great opportunity for those out-of-town landowners to attend a monthly meeting, find out specific information about the district and provide any input they have. Please plan on joining us on this Saturday morning. See you there! 🐦



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