

## **WHITEWATER/RICE LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

### **MINUTES OF BUDGET HEARING / ANNUAL MEETING**

**AUGUST 25th, 2012**

The Whitewater/Rice Lakes Management Budget Hearing / Annual Meeting was held at Lakeview School and called to order by Chairman Brian Morris at 9:00 AM. Approximately 70 property owners were present.

Brian opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and introduced Deputy Shawn Blanton, our lake patrol officer.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2011 Budget Hearing / Annual Meeting was made by Karl Dorn and seconded by Don Oker. Motion Carried

Brian spoke about issues addressed by the board over the last couple years during his term as Chairman. One important issue was Walworth County asking the Lake Management District to purchase the dam. (Spill way). It was discussed and voted **NO** by the property owners. The county presently does own the dam on Whitewater Lake and is responsible for maintenance as recommended by the DNR. The dam on Rice Lake is owned by the DNR. The other issue was the concern of property owners and an ordinance to control bladder boats to prevent shoreline erosion. A survey was taken, the information was given to the town board and at this time we have been unsuccessful in having the Town Board make any changes to the present ordinance.

#### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Ernie Roy – Chemical

Ernie began saying weed growth was worse this year. He then introduced Jeff Stelzer from Lakes and Pond Solutions to give a short presentation on chemical spraying. Jeff spoke about the warm winter months which cause green growth under the ice. Milfoil and Curley Leaf get an early start under these conditions. Seventy Seven acres were sprayed on Whitewater Lake for Milfoil and Curley Leaf and eight acres on Rice Lake with a large focus on Milfoil. It was noted that at this time not many natural weeds are coming back, however the water clarity is much better. Deputy Shawn Blanton reiterated that deputies are taking an aggressive stance to check boats coming in and leaving the lake for invasive weeds and power wash stations are being set up on several lakes.

Chuck Chamberlain – Equipment

Chuck gave an overview of maintenance and operations completed. He reviewed the 10 year plan handout and spoke about the refurbishment of the 10' harvester and repairs to the trailer that was completed in 2012. He pointed out the renovation to the transporter was post-poned to 2014 to refurbish the 7' cutter in 2013. Each year the plan is reviewed and adjustments are made as necessary. The transport motor is replaced every other year and will be replaced in 2013. Indoor and outdoor winter storage of the equipment was then discussed. Chuck entertained a motion that gave the Board the option to engage in a multi-year (2-3 year) contract for inside winter storage. Leo

Worth so moved. Dan Dern seconded the move. Motion Carried. Discussion followed. In 2009 equipment was stored inside at a cost of \$3900 and one piece of equipment still needed to sit outside. In 2010 all equipment was stored outside at a cost of \$2500. A bid was received in the fall of 2011 of, \$7500 a year or \$6000 for a multi- year contract for inside storage of all equipment. The motion that was carried gave the Board the authority to look for inside storage facilities to house our equipment over the winter months. Larry Brady motioned to approve capital project spending. Seconded by Pat Braun. Motion Carried

#### Rich Charts – Weed Harvesting

Rich began by saying the past several years the lake had very few weeds and how this year was totally different especially in some areas. Due to weather conditions causing early and heavy weed growth the board decided to spray sooner and harvest earlier. In June most weeds died off leaving few weeds to harvest and harvesting was reduced to a couple days a week. In July, property owners in the south lobe reported heavy weed growth. Rich said he did a weekly survey and prioritized where harvesters should cut. He contacted the DNR asking for approval to lower the cutting bar to accommodate the water level going down. The DNR did grant us leeway to go closer to shore and deeper then the permit allows in selected areas. The 7' cutter was used. Rich showed an example of propeller damage due to low water levels in the south lobe in comparison to harvesters pushing weeds. Rich asked property owners to be sure to let him know of any weed issues. A comment was made by a property owner this target approach was good. Another concerned property owner still had some issues. Rich was going to address his concerns after the meeting.

#### Brian Morris – Bog

Brian reported the bog is up greatly and removal will begin the day after Labor Day and continue 20 - 25 days weather permitting. The bog removal over the past several years is noticeable. Brad spoke from an experience when seeing kids playing on the bog or anyone else on them, let them know the bog is very dangerous and to leave.

#### **Financials**

Brad began his report by reviewing the handout - 2012 summary comparative income statement. In 2011 a surplus of \$27,150 was moved to the capital fund. In 2012 there is a deficit of \$24,048 and he recommended funds be taken from the capital fund and put back into the operating budget. Tom Potrykus so moved and Don Dern seconded the motion. Motion Carried. In review of the 2013 Whitewater/Rice Lakes Tax Assessment Summary a proposed operating expense totaled \$190,850 showing an average increase of \$45.00 per household. An ending balance of \$66,473 is projected for the 2013 proposed capital reserve fund. Leo Worth motioned to accept the 2013 budget as presented. Dan Dern seconded the motion. Motion Carried

#### **Candidates**

Larry Brady introduced himself as a resident on the lake relocating from Lauderdale Lake. He is active on the lake safety committee and is looking forward to being an active member of the board.

Rich Charts introduced himself as being on the board for four years and treasurer for three of those years. He stated he is on the Walworth County Lakes Association and would like another term to keep improving the Whitewater/Rice Lakes Management District.

## **Committee Presentations**

Dave Cleven gave a short presentation of Goose Depredation involving egg oiling and goose round up. Geese are rounded up by the US Dept. of Agriculture Fish and Wildlife Division and Wisconsin DNR are then sent to a meat processor and packages of ground up goose meat are delivered to Food Pantries. He stated 99% of the lake residents approve and appreciate action being taken to manage the geese population. He thanked the following for their help with this project: Don Wickersheimer, Tom and Pat Koppelman, Jim and Nancy Vondrake, Gene Migley, Rich Charts, Fran Cleven, Tom Potrykus, Gordon & Jerry Philip, Don & Linda Meyer, Dan Dern, Brian Morris, Diane Carlson, Steve Durkin, Elaine & Terry Florczak, George Liska, Arlene & Bruce Meyer, Cathy & Chuck Chamberlain, Bill Heidenreich, Andy Wojdula, Ernie Roy and Bernie Tangney. The goal of Goose Depredation is to reduce and not eliminate Canadian Geese. The reduction of geese improves the quality of our lake waters. Dave was thanked for the great work he has been doing over the years.

Tom Ganfield is involved with the DNR and Citizens Monitoring Network and monitors Whitewater and Rice Lakes for water clarity, phosphorous, and chloroform. There is a state wide ban on using phosphorous for lawn fertilizer. Goose round up has reduced phosphorous in the lakes. Tom was thanked for the great work he does.

Tom Potrykus gave a short presentation saying we have a healthy population of fish in our lakes due to the development and maintenance of a good fish balance. The DNR stocks approximately 3000 small fish and we stock the 6 -9" category. Northern and Walleye are stocked yearly on Whitewater Lake and Northern will be stocked this year on Rice Lake. Our deep lake helped the fish survive during the hot summer. Tom then spoke about the carp issue and has been working with the DNR and commercial fisherman to reduce the population. A bidding process is necessary to harvest the carp and there is a winning bidder from the Mississippi River area. In November carp on Whitewater and Rice Lakes should be harvested. Tom ended his presentation with a thank you to Brian for the great job he has done serving on the board and bog chairman along with some comical antidotes. He presented Brian a T-Shirt saying "I'm a Keeper". Tom was thanked for his work with fish stocking.

Town of Richmond Chairman Wayne Redenius commented on the number of people taking part in the annual meetings. The town is doing trimming along the road sides and removing dead trees. He mentioned to make sure boats are off the roadway when storing over the winter so snow plows can plow the road. He also said complaints from residents are addressed and sometimes the process can take awhile to resolve.

## **Election Results**

Rich Charts was elected for a 3 year term, 2012 – 2015 and Larry Brady a 2 year term, 2012 to 2014.

## **Other Concerns**

Dan Oker thanked Brian Morris for all his years of service. Residents applauded.

Buoys and enforcement is a concern of Steve Hacker. Boating inside buoys, accelerating near a buoy and the number of buoys is a special concern. Brian asked Shawn to look into his concerns after the meeting and address this with his deputies.

With no other concerns from the floor Brian asked for a motion to adjourn.

Larry Brady motioned to adjourn

Phil James seconded the motion.

Motion Carried Meeting Adjourned 11:30 AM

Next Meeting - August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted

Susie Speerbrecher