

ANNUAL MEETING
August 21, 1999
WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. in the Lakeview Elementary School gymnasium by Chairman Jim Stevenson. Chairman Stevenson then introduced the members of the Board present at the meeting: Roy Sheahen - Harvesting Committee Chairman, Bernie Tangney - Chemical Treatment Committee Chair and Secretary, and Gary Marvin - Treasurer.

Chairman Stevenson thanked the property owners present for attending the meeting. Jim also noted that there will be a brief organizational meeting of the new Board following the Annual Meeting to elect officers for the following year.

Jim Stevenson gave a brief overview of the Lake Management District, noting that it is a special purpose unit of government and has tax levying authority. He also noted that the Lake Management District was formed specifically to manage the quality of the lakes. The Lake Management District was formed in 1988-89. Jim Stevenson noted that the purpose of the meeting today is to report the activities of the past year, present and approve budget for the year 2000, and the election of one Board member for the next term. Chairman Stevenson also noted that there will be an action item to determine if members would like additional funds to be expended for future activities of the Bogs Project. Chairman Stevenson noted that the Board is comprised of seven members; five elected by the membership and one representative from the Whitewater Township Board and one from the Walworth County Board.

The minutes of the August 22, 1998 Annual Meeting were introduced. Chairman Stevenson asked if there were any objections to dispensing with the oral reading of the minutes and there were none. Jim asked the membership if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. There being none, Chairman Stevenson deemed the minutes approved as presented.

Chairman Stevenson presented a Balance Sheet of the District for year end December 31, 1998 compared to December 31, 1997. This report was in the July newsletter and sent to all members of the Lake Management District. Chairman Stevenson noted that the District had \$69,739.00 in Equipment Replacement Reserve as of 12/31/98. Members present received an Operating Statement as of August 10, 1999 and an Income Statement as of August 10, 1999. There being no comments or corrections, Chairman Stevenson deemed the Treasurer's Report approved as presented.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORTS:

Chairman Stevenson presented a brief overview of the operating committees. He then presented the following reports for each committee:

Aquatic Plant Harvesting Committee - Jim Stevenson presented a harvesting summary comparing 1997, 1998 and 1999. As of July 31, 1999 a total of 1,092 tons of weeds have been removed from the lakes, compared to 813 in 1998 and 1,100 in 1997. Chairman Stevenson presented a brief summary of the harvesting process for 1999.

Chemical Treatment Committee - Chairman Stevenson noted that chemical treatment is not the District's preferred method of weed control and is used near the shorelines and areas where there is no other viable way to treat the weeds. He noted that the District must receive permits from the DNR and then the District hires a firm to apply the chemical treatment. The company applies 2-4-D pellets with a few areas of liquid application. This year's chemical treatment appears to have been effective.

Chairman Stevenson reported that there has been some concern from property owners on the affect the chemicals have on the spawning fish. Scott Troschner and Jennifer Wutty, representatives from the DNR, were present at the meeting to address this issue. Ms. Wutty presented a very informative overview of the lakes and their makeup. She noted that Whitewater Lake is 629 acres and 97% of the lake is 10 feet in depth. Rice Lake is 162 acres with many nutrients coming into the lake, an abundance due to the shorelines. Ms. Wutty explained the function of aquatic plants in lakes and what the Lake Management District and property owners can do to control the weeds. She noted that is it not the Lake Management District's purpose to react to weeds season-to-season, but to have a plan in place to address this matter. Ms. Wutty noted that homeowners can assist this weed control by hand pulling weeds on their shorelines. She noted that there are special rakes that can be purchased that have proved to work well on the shorelines. Ms. Wutty noted that the Lake Management District uses primarily mechanical harvesting, however chemical treatment is used in areas that the mechanical equipment cannot facilitate. She noted that the chemical 2-4-D goes into the roots of the plants and prohibits growth. The chemicals are controlled through the EPA.

Ms. Wutty presented some conflicts with lake management. She noted that it is imperative that the Lake Management Plan be followed. She also encouraged the use of lake raking by property owners. It was noted that property owners be educated on using the lake and following the Lake Management Plan. Ms. Wutty further stated that having a complete plan and, following the plan, will improve the quality of the lakes.

Chairman Stevenson thanked Ms. Wutty for his presentation and then posed the question of the chemical affects on spawning fish. Scott Troschner noted that there are a number of papers written relating to lake habitat/spawning. He noted that the EPA has a lot of information on their website. Scott stated that the chemical application tested will not harm fish spawning.

Chairman Stevenson thanked Scott Troschner and Jennifer Wutty for attending the meeting and presenting their reports.

Fish Stocking and Habitat Committee - Chairman Stevenson reported that the Lake Management District is working with the DNR on stocking fish into the lakes. The DNR has agreed to stock Northern and Walleyes every other year, respectively. The DNR will stock Northern into Rice Lake as they deem feasible. Chairman Stevenson reported that 64,000 fingerling Walleye Pike were stocked into Whitewater Lake in June of this year. 274 large fingerling Northern were also stocked.

Eurasian Watermilfoil Weevil Study - Chairman Stevenson presented a brief overview of this study noting that it was conducted by UW-Stevens Point with ¼ of the cost being paid by the Lake Management District. The end result of the study is that placing weevils into the lake to control the Eurasian Watermilfoil is not a viable tool for the Lake Management District.

Bogs Committee - Chairman Stevenson introduced Rich Gunter, Committee Chair of the Bogs Committee. Rich noted members of this committee: Mike and Kathy Hoan, Jim Mulcahy, Rich Schies and Remi Robbins. Rich presented the initial committee actions, noting resident interviews, DNR contacts, marking of the bogs and lake analysis by the Advanced Biology students from Lake Geneva Badger High School. Rich also noted that the committee was concerned about navigation safety and the liability of the Lake Management District.

Mr. Gunter then noted that the mission statement of the committee for 1999 was to oversee the management of the seasonal floating organic matter located in Whitewater Lake known as 'the bogs'. A survey was sent to property owners in the winter newsletter. 90% of the surveys returned favored the Lake Management District exploring the possibilities of what can be done with the bogs. Cost estimates for core samplings range from \$1,200 to \$4,500. Permits are required for the core samples, with a minimum of 4 samples being taken. Total cost of core samples and DNR fees is approximately \$6,300; using a quote from Ahrens Associates out of Milwaukee. Chairman Stevenson noted that \$10,000 is proposed in the budget for continued study of the bogs.

Jim Mulcahy reported that he has investigated the possibility of dredging and removing the bogs. He contacted Inland Dredge Company out of Burlington. A permit needs to be obtained and the site needs to be designated prior to removal and prior to the permit being issued. One option is to apply for a grant to dredge and remove. This requires an official Board to oversee and manage the project. This is not a quick turn around project and will require a year or two to complete.

Rich Gunter noted that he does have the report from Lake Geneva Badger students and the report does note that Whitewater Lake is a very typical lake.

Chairman Stevenson noted that the membership will vote on expending further funds for the bogs study during the 2000 Budget Hearing later in the meeting.

Nominating Committee - Chairman Stevenson thanked Walt Hicks and Bernie Tangney for serving on the Nominating Committee. Chairman Stevenson reported that there are two candidates running for one opening on the Board: Roy Sheahen is running for re-election and Don Oker.

Paper ballots were passed out to all members present and the members were asked to vote for one candidate. The Annual Meeting clerks collected the ballots and the results will be presented at the end of the meeting.

BUDGET HEARING:

Treasurer Bernie Tangney presented the Budget Detail and Budget Summary for the year 2000, noting that this was also contained in the July newsletter. Mr. Stevenson noted that there is not a tax levy increase proposed in the budget. He noted that the budget for Aquatic Plant Harvesting is increased due to increased fuel costs and the age of the equipment. Chemical Treatment budget is increased due to chemical costs and increased areas of treatment. Chairman Stevenson noted that equipment replacement costs have been accumulating, with \$96,700 in reserve as of 8/10/99.

Chairman Stevenson informed the membership that the first item to be voted on was the proposed \$10,000 allocation of funds for further study on the bogs. Ballots were given to the members present and members were informed to vote Yes No for the allocation of \$10,000. The Annual Meeting Clerks collected that ballots and a report of the tally will be presented later in the meeting.

Chairman Stevenson then presented the 2000 Budget Summary and Detail. He noted that the membership would now vote on the proposed budget, not including the \$10,000 for the Bogs Study. Ballots were given to members present and the members were informed to vote Yes No on the proposed budget. The Annual Meeting Clerks collected the ballots and a report of the tally will be presented later in the meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT:

X Chairman Stevenson invited public input from property owners present and then introduced Al Schallock. Mr. Schallock lives on one of the three ponds located by Heart Prairie Church on Townline Road. Chairman Stevenson noted that Mr. Schallock had addressed the Board at the August meeting regarding the mass of weeds on the pond that Mr. Schallock resides. Mr. Stevenson gave a brief overview of Mr. Schallock's concerns: the pond is very weed infested; the other 2 ponds have culverts that feed into the lake; the ponds are in the boundary of the Lake Management District; the Lake Management Plan does not address

the three ponds; the grant for harvesting does not cover the ponds; the harvesting crew cannot get their equipment on to the ponds. Chairman Stevenson reported that the Board, at the August 12, 1999 meeting, agreed to: 1) the Harvesting Committee will see if there is a smaller piece of equipment to rent or buy to treat the ponds; 2) the Chemical Treatment Committee will contact Marine Biochemists to look into the chemicals to treat the ponds and the costs associated with chemical treatment, if feasible; and, 3) Chairman Stevenson will contact SEWRPC to look into addendums to the Lake Management Plan to incorporate the ponds in question.

Chairman Stevenson reported that over the winter months, the Board will work on getting a plan/option into place to deal with the ponds during the next harvesting season. There is a question as to the ownership of the ponds - are they public or private. Mr. Stevenson noted that the Board has agreed to address this issue over the next several months.

Additional public input was given regarding safety concerns on the south end of the lake, specifically the no wake zones and the lack of buoys. The question was raised regarding additional safety patrol on the lake on weekends. Chairman Stevenson noted that the safety patrol is controlled by the Townships of Richmond and Whitewater. He noted that he would communicate with the Townships to see what can be done regarding this matter.

Don Oker expressed a concern of the unused boat lifts and equipment on Round Lake by Isabell Bay. Chairman Stevenson noted that this is a DNR matter, not a Lake Management matter.

Property owner Michael Ryan expressed a concern regarding the harvesting equipment being stored in a residential area, particularly on the Townline Road access road. After brief discussion, Mr. Ryan was advised to address the Board at the September 9th meeting.

The next annual meeting of the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District was set for Saturday, August 19, 2000 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Mesmer
Municipal Clerk