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N E W S L E T T E R

WHITEWATER-RICE  
Lakes Management District

Vol. 7 No. 2

July, 1994

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF DISTRICT PROPERTY OWNERS:

The eighth Annual Meeting of the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District will be held on Saturday, August 20, 1994 at 2:00 p.m. in the gymnasium of Lakeview School, located on Townline Road just west of Whitewater Lake.

These Annual Meetings are most important in defining the future direction of our Lake District programs. Please mark your calendars, and plan to be present.

Please remember, also, that this is the last direct communication from your Lake District that you will receive prior to the Annual Meeting on August 20. Notices of the meeting will, however, be published in the Whitewater Register during the two weeks prior to the meeting.

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AGENDA OF THE ANNUAL MEETING, AUGUST 20, 1994:

- 1) Minutes of the Annual Meeting of August 21, 1993.  
Copies of these minutes will be distributed at the meeting.
- 2) Treasurer's financial report for calendar year 1993, together with an interim financial report for 1994. Copies of the Treasurer's report will also be distributed at the meeting.
  - a) Report of the Financial Audit Committee.
- 3) Election of Lake District Commissioner.

There is only one candidate for election:

Jim Stevenson  
N7019 Oakwood Drive

Our Nominating Committee was unable to identify additional property owners willing to run for office.

Please note that our By-Laws provide that any three electors may nominate additional candidates submitting written nomination papers to the Secretary of the Board at least 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

4)	Proposed Lake District Budget for 1995:	
	Payment on debt plus interest	\$ 31,000
	Miscellaneous Operating Expenses	1,200
	Newsletters	2,000
	Legal Expenses	1,000
	Insurance	5,000
	Dues and Memberships	150
	U.S. Geological Survey (lake stage gauge)	1,200
	Fish Stocking	3,000
	Weed Spraying:	
	DNR Permits	1,040
	Herbicide Application	7,500
	Weed Harvesting:	
	Operation, Maintenance, Storage	29,500
	Depreciation of Equipment	10,000
	DNR Aquatic Plant Management Plan	<u>3,500</u>
	TOTAL	\$96,090

Please review a more detailed discussion of this budget proposal which follows.

- 5) Public input from District Property Owners
- 6) Establish date for 1995 Annual Meeting of our Lake District
- 7) Thank you to retiring Treasurer, John Wildi and introduction of newly elected Commissioner.
- 8) Adjournment.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1995:

This is the second consecutive year in which our Treasurer's financial report has covered a fiscal year extending from January 1st through December 31st. Your Lake District Board is pleased with this change, and expects to continue this practice. We believe that it makes comparisons of yearly budget proposals more meaningful and easier to comprehend. We hope that you agree.

At our Annual Meeting in 1993, our District's property owners supported our Board's proposal to build a pole barn on the Town of Whitewater's property on Willis Ray Road. The purpose of this facility was to provide storage space for our newly-acquired weed harvesting equipment. Unfortunately, the Whitewater Town Board later reneged on its earlier favorable view of this proposal. Consideration of acquiring a pole barn has been tabled for the present, and we have been able to lease appropriate space nearby. The funds set aside for the pole barn were, instead, used to diminish our debt for purchase of harvesting equipment. Our original loan from the Commercial Bank has now been reduced from \$160,000 to \$71,948. We expect to make further payments on this loan in October, 1994.

1994 is the third year of operation of our harvesting equipment. It is apparent that it is less expensive to own such equipment than it is to lease it, and, besides, we can expect a better job. However, in anticipation of increased maintenance costs, and eventual replacement, we believe it is time to depreciate the equipment and accumulate funds for these eventualities.

During the past year, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has encouraged our Lake District to prepare an Aquatic Plant Management Plan and is considering expanding this to become a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan, for Whitewater and Rice Lakes. Such a plan would seek to expand the information gathered by the U.S. Geological Survey during its study of the hydrology and water quality of Whitewater and Rice Lakes in 1990-91, and to produce definitive recommendations for the future management of these lakes. The DNR has offered financial assistance to several other Wisconsin Lake Districts for the development of such Management Plans, and we must presume that they have been found useful. In our case, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) has indicated its willingness to assist us. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$13,500, with the State share projected at \$10,000. The \$3,500 local share will be entirely paid by the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District. From a strictly selfish standpoint, it is well to note that the DNR administers a considerable amount of money that can be used to assist Lake Districts purchase various types of equipment, and even land. However, it is necessary for these Management Plans to be in place before such assistance can be provided.

#### COMMENTS ON THE STATE OF OUR LAKES:

After good snows in January and February, the spring months were quite dry, and the levels of both Whitewater and Rice Lakes varied between 3 to 6 inches below their dams during May and June. In anticipation of herbicidal treatments, we made two surveys of the shorelines of Whitewater Lake - the first on May 17th and the second on June 13th. The survey of Rice Lake was done on June 14th. In each case we used a boat, and with a rake, explored the lake shorelines to assess the amount of weed growth on the bottoms of the lakes. The survey crews included members of our Lake District, Wisconsin's DNR, and Marine Biochemists, Inc., the herbicide applicator.

In each case, we found substantial weed growth in the South Bay of Whitewater Lake, and also in Isabelle's Bay (where Isabelle Stoll used to live) on the East Shore of Whitewater Lake. The remainder of Whitewater Lake showed only light weed growth that appeared to be insufficient to interfere with recreational enjoyment of the lake. The same was true of Rice Lake. In both lakes, the character of the aquatic plants were quite different from what we have seen in previous years. With the exception of Isabelle's Bay, which showed a heavy growth of Aquatic Milfoil, the quantities of Milfoil were greatly reduced. Instead we found Elodea, Coontail, light growth of Curly-leaf Pondweed, Sago Pondweed and Chara. The latter group of plants, excluding Curly-leaf Pondweed, are native Wisconsin aquatic plants, and we were reluctant to kill them with herbicides. The shoreline along Woodchuck Alley, which is usually choked with weeds, was in the best condition ever.

In short, there was a unanimous decision not to spray either Whitewater or Rice Lake at all this year, unless weed growth becomes so heavy that the harvester cannot control it. Permits to spray were obtained from the DNR early this year, and these are still in place. Weed spraying can still be done on short notice, if necessary.

The harvester was launched on Whitewater Lake about June 10th. After nearly two weeks work in the South Bay, it moved to the East Shore on June 24th. We appreciate the phone calls from property owners who have helped us identify areas where weed growth is sufficient to require harvesting.

NEW LAWS GOVERNING WISCONSIN LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS:

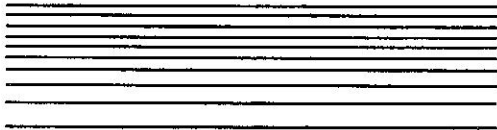
On March 26, 1994, Governor Tommy Thompson signed Assembly Bill 980 during the Wisconsin Association of Lakes Convention in Oshkosh. The provisions of this bill make possible a number of changes in the operations of Wisconsin's Lake Management Districts. Your Lake District Board will study these changes and make recommendations as soon as the details can be obtained and evaluated.

One of these changes allows the membership of a District Board of Commissioners to be permanently increased from five to seven by action of the Annual Meeting. The two added members of the Board are elected at an Annual Meeting. Is it possible that such a change could be useful to our Whitewater-Rice Lake Management District? It would allow two more property owners to serve on our Board without immediately being assigned a position of major responsibility, such as Chairman, Secretary, or Treasurer. In other words, they could "grow up" to the job. Considering the problems we have had during the past 3 years in finding candidates willing to run for office, any solution at all might be attractive. Or would it make the problem still worse? Think about it!

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PLEASE REMEMBER THE ANNUAL MEETING ON AUGUST 20, AND TRY TO ATTEND.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT AND SUPPORT!!!



**WHITEWATER-RICE**

Lakes Management District

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