

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING**  
August 26, 2000  
**WHITEWATER/RICE LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. in the Whitewater Lions Club House by Chairman Bernie Tangney. Chairman Tangney explained he had taken the position as Chairman when former Chairman Jim Stevenson moved out of the district and could no longer be a member of the district. Tangney accepted the position as Chairman of the Board. Other members of the Board present at the meeting were Roy Sheahen, Gary Marvin and Dick Cooney.

Tangney recognized two people who were very dedicated to furthering the goals of the Lake Management District. Bill Norris, not present at meeting - who had a very nice dedication at the Swim Beach this summer for his years of dedication to the District and Jim Stevenson who was Chairman of this organization for 4 years and on the Board for 6 years. Both men have helped Tangney as he moved into his position as Chairman. Jim Stevenson is continuing to provide the Harvesting summary for the District and his help is appreciated.

Also recognized was Bob Nowak, who has been crew chief of the harvesting equipment under the direction of the harvesting committee. He did an excellent job in this position. He has sold his house and will be moving to Rhinelander and Texas.

Tangney then went on to introduce the other members of the Board: Gary Marvin, Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee; Dick Cooney, Secretary and Chairman of the Chemical Treatment Committee; Roy Sheahen, Chairman of the Harvesting and Equipment Committee; Norm Prusener, Township representative, and Tony Shroble, County representative. Prusener and Shroble were not present. These are the voting members of the Board. He also introduced Rose Marie Berg as the clerk.

Handouts at the meeting were copies of the agenda for the meeting, Treasurer's report for calendar year 1999 and Treasurer's report for 2000 through August 8<sup>th</sup>, ballot for voting for candidates and copy of Harvesting data.

The minutes of the August 21, 1999 Annual Meeting were introduced. Chairman Tangney dispensed with the reading of the minutes as they were published in the mailing of the July Newsletter to all the members. He then asked if there were additions or corrections to the minutes. There being none, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Gary Marvin, Treasurer presented a Balance Sheet of the District for year end December 31, 1999 compared to year to date August 8, 2000. Murray Accounting has reviewed all reports and all reports are in good accounting order. He noted the Taxes Receivable from Richmond and Whitewater were received on August 25 in the amount of \$28,820. He noted the Budget for 2001 was \$88,300. Members present received copies of the two Balance Sheets and Budget. There being no comments or corrections, motion was made for approval, seconded and approved as presented.

Chairman Tangney reported there are four candidates running for two openings on the Board. They were created by Jim Stevenson's leaving and Dick Cooney's term expiring this year. The four candidates: Dick Cooney-for re-election, Jeff Klopff, Don Oker and Gordon Phillips were presented and each were given an opportunity to say a few words on themselves and how they view the opportunity to be on the Board. The candidate receiving the most votes will be elected for a three year term and the second highest number of votes will be elected for a two year term. Ballots were collected from members present with each member voting for two candidates. The results will be presented at the end of the meeting.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Harvesting Committee:** A Harvesting Summary prepared by Jim Stevenson comparing 1998, 1999 and 2000 was distributed. As of August 22, 2000 a total of 1,204 tons of weeds have been removed from the lakes compared to 1,526 in 1999 and 1,005 in 1998. The high water of the lakes this year has helped to keep the weeds down. Also the chemical treatment plan contributed to the lesser amount harvested.

Tangney stated there was a serious problem with the 7 foot harvester - the motor blew up and has been out for repairs since July 6<sup>th</sup> and will not be in use for the rest of the year.

Question was asked how close the cutter comes in to shore - the response was they come as close as they safely can to the residential properties. Equipment will be brought in for the season next week. This is a little earlier due to the leaving of

Bob Nowak and the college age crew leaving for school. It was also mentioned that if members have weeds collected on their piers and the cutters are in the area, they would remove the weeds from the piers for the homeowners.

**Equipment Committee:** Chairman Tangney stated the Board is recommending replacing the 10 foot, 10 year old harvester, which is still working. They are recommending purchasing a new 10 foot harvester from the same company that provided the previous unit for a cost of \$92,000. There is a competitive bid from another company for a similar unit for \$104,000. A major reason for replacing the unit now is that the DNR will give us a 50% Grant for the purchase of new equipment. This being an election year in government, we want to take advantage of the Grant while available. If we spend \$92,000 for the unit and receive a \$46,000 Grant, the net cost will be \$46,000. D&D – the supplier of this harvester has said they think they can sell the current harvester for an amount between \$15-30,000. We will not trade the present unit in at the present time, due to the Grant being 50% of the purchase price. The old unit will be sold outright with D&D's assistance. The bottom line is the net cost of the new unit will be somewhere between \$16-31,000. Currently we have available \$110,672 in reserve for equipment replacement. There will be no impact on our assessment. The old 10 foot harvester has been fully depreciated.

The following explanation was given as to the operation of the harvesting equipment: There are four basic pieces of equipment: two harvesters are run, a transporter goes out on the lake to the harvester, unloads the harvester and brings the weeds back to shore where an elevator dumps the weeds into a truck. One man drives the truck, two men are on the harvesters and one man is on the transporter. It would not be economically feasible to add a third harvester as suggested by one member. Leo Worth presented motion to purchase the harvester; Stan Vesely seconded, unanimously approved by members present.

**Chemical Treatment:** Chairman Tangney stated Dick Cooney has done a great job working with the chemical treatment – he does advance work in going out and reviewing the lake, working with the company and the DNR – who is present on the day of application. Chairman Cooney stated 35 acres were sprayed on Whitewater June 8 and on June 9, Rice Lake had 9 acres sprayed. After pellets are dropped it takes ten days to two weeks for weeds to drop. Weeds then have a tendency to stay down for about six weeks.

This year \$12,900 was spent on spraying, with an additional permit cost of \$1,500. \$15,000 has been budgeted. The same company has been used for spraying for the last few years and Cooney is pleased with their work. A member suggested the Board obtain more bids on the cost. Chairman Tangney agreed and this will be done.

He mentioned it is conceivable to spray again after six weeks. There is a rumor the State of Wisconsin will participate in part of the cost of spraying. This has not been confirmed, but will be looked into further. Approximately 50% of lakes are sprayed once a year. Questions were then raised by members as to the possibility of spraying twice – this is not included in our 2001 budget, however, the Board will entertain discussion on this matter at a future Board meeting.

A member requested information on the purchase of a special rake to be used in removing weeds. The cost is approximately \$90. and is 30" wide with a handle that extends to about 10 feet. Tangney will locate the manufacturer and will supply information in the next Newsletter.

**Fish Stocking Committee:** DNR has agreed to plant Northern Pike one year and Walleye the following year in Whitewater Lake. This year they planted 1,200 – 7" Northern. Next year Walleye will be planted. DNR has stated chemical spraying does not affect the fish in the lakes.

**Bog Study Committee:** Walworth County Dive Team went out and could not find edge of bog. They are waiting till it comes up higher to go out again. It has not come up as ugly as it has in years past. Tangney has been getting bids – to have numbers on potential costs for dredging. He talked with Inland Dredging – they will not even come out until bog is up. Parkside Marina is interested in bidding when we find out more about what we want done. Tangney also brought samples of pieces of the bog for the membership to see the material the bog consists of. The samples were taken from the diggings of a post hole digger when they were testing for the oxygen content.

In review, last January when the study was done, they found clear water under the bog at the point they did their samples. However, the bog stayed stationary – the question is - if on clear water why is it still stationary? First theory – could be old tree stumps holding it. This is reason the Dive Team went out. When no edge was found, another theory is that this may be a large blanket, a carpet that a portion rises up and the rest stays down. The University found some differences in dissolved oxygen, but nothing really significant – at 7 ft. down it was exactly the same under the bog as it was outside the bog, at 13 or 15 ft. down it was significantly different. Non conclusive!

The County Dive Team is doing the investigation at no charge. In hindsight, Tangney stated we probably should have hired a professional team. The Walworth county Dive Team has just bought an underwater camera and Tangney is hoping they will use that to film the bog.

A lengthy discussion then began with the membership asking questions. Tangney clarified when speaking about the bog – he was referring to only one bog and that was the bog 6 houses from the Robbins old house – the bog has a flag on it.

A member stated at last year's meeting it was decided to be aggressive about the bog handling and a year later we have done little about it, but are waiting for volunteers to manage. Tangney stated a team would be hired to find out what the bog really is and then present it to the DNR. He felt we needed permission or permits from DNR. Upon questioning, Tangney also said the DNR has not actually stated we cannot remove the bog – we have not specifically asked the DNR if we can remove it.

Aaron Associates had been hired for \$4,000 and their advice was - until we have this certain information it does not pay to ask for a permit to remove. Aaron furnished a very detailed chemical analysis, which also provided a cross section of their boring information. Their advice was to determine what is holding the bog. If a root mass goes down to the bedrock, the DNR will not allow removal. If it's clear water we can do whatever we want to remove it. Rich Gunter, Bog Committee – stated the Charter was given to find out what the DNR will allow us to do. Next question was we need to supply enough information in the permit – to either approach as a dredging when bog is down or approach as a removal of a hazard when they are up. That is what the DNR will have to rule on to grant a permit. The testing in January revealed the bogs are not continuous mass all the way to the bedrock of the lake. There is a gap between the bog and bottom of lake. Next question is why don't they move? Rich was advised by legal counsel if we mark the bogs by flagging, etc. we are taking responsibility and would be held legally responsible should an accident occur. Right now it is the DNR's responsibility. Members want to apply for the DNR permit now as we do show clear water. Also they disagreed that only one bog should be the concern – all bogs should be included. Motion made to submit plan to DNR for permit to remove the bogs as economically as possible. Permit to be applied for reasons of safety. Motion made, seconded, unanimously approved.

Next question: How quickly can the divers act? Unable to answer – will contact companies from a list of professionals as this is a very dangerous feat. Tangney will contact Inland Dredging and Parkside Marine. Tangney will contact both (or more) to find out cost of moving floating bogs – this to be done within a week. Inland would come in with a Marsh Monster – an overgrown tree stump cutter – drive through and want \$15,000 just to bring in the machine. Tangney stated a special meeting would have to be called to spend over \$10,000. Cooney mentioned Aaron & Assoc. estimated we had 10,000 cubic yds. on one bog – this would be a very high cost to the district.

Art Schmitz, member, noted he watched the bog go past his lot – bog was 160 ft. in diameter, but all he saw was 10 ft. on top – float by his pier. It was headed for his neighbor's pier. Neighbor called DNR, Frank's Marina and others – no one would tell him he had authority to do anything about it. Schmitz stated this was the first time he had heard you could move a floating bog!

Cynthia Gruenwald motioned we get two immediate bids to remove the current free-floating bogs. Seconded by Vesely. Unanimous approval. It was noted should the cost be under \$10,000, the Board may spend up to that amount without members' approval. A second motion was presented to call a special meeting on a Saturday to further discuss the bog issue once we collect the data and information. Motion seconded and approved.

After the permit is approved it was suggested we then approach the DNR to see if any Grant would be available to help with funding bog removal.

**Finance Committee:** Marvin presented the Budget for 2001. Motion was made to change the reserve for equipment \$10,000 and move to reserve for bog expense for this year only. Motion made, seconded and approved.

Members expressed an interest in having the weeds sprayed twice per year. One member stated she was an environmentalist but if spraying doesn't harm the lake and will curtail the weeds, she expressed a strong interest. There was agreement that the weeds are up again – growing anew after the first spraying. Motion was made to get bids for a second spraying, approved and passed. It was also noted spraying is done at the direction of the DNR – they control the chemical treatment.

Motion was then made to approve the Budget as amended. Seconded, and approved.

**Old Business**

Member Don Oker brought up the problem with Isabel Bay and the old pipes, piers and boat lifts that appear to be abandoned. Tangney stated the Board would send a letter to the Town Board expressing our displeasure and requesting them to do something to eradicate this eyesore.

Another member brought up the fact that this was the third year in a row that the Town and County Board members were not present at the Annual Meeting. It was felt they should be present when problems like these arise. They then could be settled immediately. A motion was made to send a letter to the Town and County Boards expressing displeasure that our representatives do not participate in the meeting. Motion seconded and approved. Motion seconded and approved. Letters will be sent to both Board supervisors.

**New Business:**

Election results: Three year term, Don Oker and two year term – Gordon Phillips.

**Public Input:**

A member raised the question again regarding the 3 ponds. Tangney stated the Board voted at the May meeting it was not in the public's best interest to spend money on the 3 ponds by either spraying or cutting weeds at this time.

Another member brought up the issue of the Township police. He stated that in the last year or two their Charter changed from patrolling for safety vs. patrolling to giving out tickets. All they seem to do is hide and try to catch people. He had spoken to approximately 20 people in the past year and every time they are stopped, the patrol is rude, belligerent, not helpful and he would like a letter sent reminding them they are hired to patrol for safety and not to get out there and set records for issuing speeding, and no wake zone tickets. They are very unyielding, unfriendly. It was noted when Jim Lukas patrolled, his philosophy was that he was out there being observed by the boaters and just being seen helped curtail illegal activities. He did a great job! It was also brought up the patrol does not follow the law concerning the correct flow of traffic and parking where they are causing problems. Motion was then made for the Board to send a letter to the Township expressing displeasure with the current law enforcement. Motion seconded and approved.

Another motion was then made to send the Township a letter to update the signs at the lake shore landings concerning the rules and safety. Motion seconded and approved.

Another member brought up the issue of the geese overpopulation at the lake. Motion was made to send a letter to the DNR requesting clarification of their plan for this problem. Seconded and approved.

Recognition was also given to Leo Worth, president of the Property Association.

The next annual meeting of the Whitewater/Rice Lakes Management District will be Saturday, August 25, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Marie Berg  
Municipal Clerk