

WHITEWATER/RICE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF BUDGET HEARING / ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 28, 2010

The Whitewater / Rice Lake Management District Budget Hearing / Annual Meeting was held at Lakeview School and called to order by Chairman Brian Morris at 9:03 A.M. Approximately 91 property owners were present.

Brian opened the meeting by thanking residents and guests for attending this meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2009 Budget Hearing / Annual Meeting was made by Arlene Meyers and seconded by Phil James. Motion Carried

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Bill Watts – Chemical

Bill began by introducing Jeff Stelzer from Lake and Pond Solutions who gave a short presentation on the chemical spraying that was done in spring. His focus was on spraying for curly leaf pond weed and milfoil so that native plants can reproduce which in time will help the water clarity. Rain, water temperature and algae blooms also affect the water clarity. Brian thanked both Bill and Jeff for their continuous outstanding efforts.

Jim Felland - Equipment

Jim reported chemical spraying has lessened weed growth therefore causing less stress on the harvesting equipment. A 4 stroke outboard motor was purchased under the government plan for the transport. This motor will be for sale in the spring. Anyone interested in purchasing this “used one season motor” should contact Jeff at J N T’s Marina. The 1993 Dodge Truck was replaced in spring with a 2004 Ford Truck.

Andy Wojdula - Weed Harvest

Andy began “we are the cleanup crew” and it has been an in creditable year with minimal harvesting. We have a good relation with the DNR. They were impressed with our 10 year Aquatic Plant Survey done by SEWRPC and gave us a 5 year harvesting permit. Another key element is our sub contractor as they were also impressed by the depth of the weed harvesting being done. A future challenge that needs to be addressed at some point is the disposal of seaweed and bog. Presently we are using the DNR property off of HWY P. We need to be looking for new places where “good fertilizer” can be useful for someone.

Andy expressed his position on the board to be enjoyable and encouraged property owners to become involved next year when two board positions become available.

Brian Morris – Bog Removal

Brian reported bog removal will start Sept. 7, 2010 and continue for approximately 30 days. We doubled the volume removed last year and are striving for more volume this year. The 10 year permit entitles us to remove a total of 19 thousand cubic feet of bog. The permit expires in 2013 at which time we will reapply. Silt fencing will be placed on the water to keep as much bog debris from floating to

property owner's shorelines and the crew will be counseled to work in a circle to capture loose floating bog before it gets to shorelines and sea walls. If anyone sees floating bogs they need to call J N T's Marina. Jeff Widner of JNT'S Marina wanted to use part of Cruise Lane to stage harvested bog allowing more volume to be moved. Ron Fero, Town of Whitewater Chairman said by state statute public access to the water cannot be closed. Brian asked people be patient we are slowly getting rid of the "stuff"! He also reported the DNR has found Zebra Mussels in the lake but it is not a concern at this time.

Rich Charts – Treasurer

Rich opened by thanking Don Wickerscheimer and Brad Corson for auditing the books. Brad gave a short summary of the audit report saying the books and records were well organized and maintained. In 2008 a recommendation was made to separate the Capital Fund from the Operating Fund, in 2009 an account was opened for the Capitol Fund. A recommendation from the audit committee was to have specific information on the vendor invoices and validated by the commissioner prior to cutting a check. This will improve monitoring of labor and equipment repair expenses.

Rich continued by saying his goal is to flatten financials that come across trying to prohibit the roller coaster effect from previous years. We are close to a flat line now. The 2011 proposed budget tax assessment is \$157,150.00 proposed operating expenses are \$165,745. An increase of \$13 to tax payers is projected for 2011. The budget is prudent and felt to be a balanced compromise by the Board.. The Capitol Reserve Fund 2011 proposed ending balance is \$62,024. The goal is to keep this healthy for unexpected expenses. Surpluses are put in this account. A life cycle forecast is being put together on aging equipment and will help us determine when replacement is necessary. A motion was made by Leo Worth to approve the proposed budget and seconded by Stan Vesley. Motion Carried.

A suggestion came from the floor asking the board to come next year with recommendations how to increase the Capitol Reserve Fund. Grants have been issued in the past for equipment but the future could be questionable.

Guests

Brain introduced the Town of Richmond Chairman Wayne Redenius who thanked the board for the invitation and extended a thank you to Ron Fero for handling the boat patrol on Whitewater Lake. Wayne said he has not been notified of any boating issues this year. The Town of Richmond is a debt free township. Equipment is purchased when money is saved and available. He mentioned to the Town of Richmond residents that as of Sept. 14, 2010 the State of Wisconsin has banned electronic items from landfill disposal. If you have electronics items such as computers or televisions call the Town of Richmond to arrange a special pickup. He spoke of right of way issues and the importance of keeping vehicles and boats off the road way.

Ron Fero, Town of Whitewater Chairman began his presentation by stating the cooperation and involvement of the Lake Management District with the town has greatly increased over the past years. The boat patrol was contracted out for labor only and there was no extra cost to the Town of Whitewater. The town receives matching funds from the DNR. Grant money is getting slim for road repairs. The town has been patching or using chip/seal method rather than asphalt to keep the cost down. The Town of Whitewater is also a debt free township. When the level of the dam reaches 1.6 feet a NO WAKE sign is posted at boat landings and on the website.

Deputy Sean Blanton spoke of boat safety on the lake. Tickets were issued because of safety issues, such as the number of life jackets aboard, fire extinguishers, battery covers, or operating without a motor safety certificate if born after 1989. The boat patrol operates Friday, Saturday, Sundays and on a weekday “surprise”.

GOOSE DEPREDATION

Dave Cleven spoke on Goose Depredation Control. It has been another successful year of managing the goose problem on the lake. The US Department of Agriculture and the DNR did the goose roundup and goose patties were delivered to Whitewater, Delavan, and Elkhorn Food Pantries. Dave thanked the following volunteers for their help this year: George Wood, Tom Potrykus, Don Wickerscheimer, Brian Morris, Dan Dern, Pat & Tom Koppelman, Fran Cleven, Bernie Tangney, Andy Wojdula, Gene Migley, Terry Florczak, and Rich Charts.

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Lillian Roy read the following petition that circulated around the lake: We the following Whitewater Lake Users petition the Town of Whitewater to change the wording of the Lake Ordinance to allow two tow ropes each pulling a towable tube with the number of riders consistent with the designated number of riders the tube was designed for and with the total of the tube riders and boat occupants not to exceed the capacity of the towing vehicle. A discussion followed. Ron Fero stated he is concerned about the importance of safety and does not think the present ordinance should be changed. A split show of hands 29 to 29 revealed that half the property owners wanted the ordinance changed and half did not. Ron also stated when an ordinance changes procedure requires publishing and, in Whitewater’s case, DNR involvement.

Wake Board Boats

Discussion followed regarding these boats and seawall damage occurring. Permits are getting harder to receive from the DNR for seawall repairs needing to be done. Brian asked if there was an interest in the Board looking more into this issue and to publish a survey in a newsletter sent to the property owners this fall. Tom Potrykus spoke how well the meeting ran, motioned for the board to put a survey together and adjourn. Don Oaker seconded the motion. Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned 11:59 am.

Next Budget Hearing / Annual Meeting August 27, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Speerbrecher,

Clerk