

GWLPOA - MINNEISKA WATER SKI TEAM

Along with the Lake Management district our other two organizations on the lake are:

GWLPOA
P.O. Box 438
Whitewater, WI 53190

Minneiska Water Ski Team
Box 434
Whitewater, WI. 53190

Please support and join their activities if it fits into your summer schedule. 🐦

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Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District

P.O. Box #301 • Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190
www.whitewaterlake.org • www.gwlpoa.org



Welcome

As you receive this newsletter the ice will be off the lakes and the Lake Management District Board will be preparing for another summer (2010) on Whitewater and Rice Lakes.

Mother Nature, luck and continued diligence kept the Eurasian milfoil under control in 2009 under the guidance of the Wisconsin DNR who issue permits to accomplish this goal which covers chemical applications and weed harvesting.

Below you will find each of your elected board members reports and their plans for the upcoming season.

Brian A. Morris morrisbamorris@sbcglobal.net 🐦

FINANCIALS

2009 Financial Wrap-Up

2009 was a year of technical changes and operating adjustments. A number of changes first suggested by past Treasurer Gordon Phillip and detailed by the Audit committee were implemented. What may be a cyclical downturn in weeds left a budget surplus in weed harvesting that was absorbed by increased capabilities in bog harvest. A large prior year surplus created a shortfall in the 2010 budget requiring an increased tax levy to meet minimum operating needs. A \$24,000 carry forward from 2009 will be used for weed harvesting if adverse conditions balloon or will be proposed for the Capital Reserve Fund at the annual meeting to be used for aging equipment needs. A "new" used replacement truck for hauling was proposed at the last annual meeting and will be purchased this winter. The old pickup truck will be initially available to any district member, so make an offer to the board in writing by 5-01-2010 to Whitewater/Rice Lake Management District, P.O. Box 301, Whitewater, WI 53190.

Financial changes first suggested at the annual meeting and approved by the board:

- Elimination of depreciation accounts
- Separation of operating and capital funds into separate bank accounts
- Comprehensive spreadsheet that ties ledgers entries together automatically
- Year to year smoothing strategy to minimize tax changes

3 Year Comparative Budgets: 2010: \$174,500 2009: \$189,200 2008: \$196,400

Equalized Value of Property: 2009: \$267 million
2008: \$269 million 2007: \$238 million

My thanks to Brad Corson who made major contributions to this effort and nameless others who have asked for anonymity.

Rich Charts rich@whitewaterlake.org 🐦

EQUIPMENT

Equipment News

All Lake Management Equipment was winterized and stored last fall with the same procedures and manner as in years past. This Spring we will have a technician from Aquarius Systems come and inspect our weed harvesting equipment for Safety and Preventative Maintenance Recommendations. ** We will be purchasing a new outboard motor for our Weed Transporter leaving the existing 2009 Evinrude etc. 90HP Outboard Motor for sale to anyone, first come first served. This motor only has one season of use on it and we only replace it because the Governmental purchase program makes it cost effective to swap yearly.

Thank you,

Jim Felland jim@varsityimage.com 🐦

CHEMICALS

Chemical Spraying

Lake and Pond Solutions, Inc. in conjunction with the DNR did a plant survey in early May of 2009 to determine the types and location of weeds in the lake. As expected they only found spotty patches of Eurasian milfoil and in the south end, some larger concentrations of curly weed. So, last summer only limited sections of the lake were sprayed for Eurasian milfoil, and for the first time in recent memory, the south end received an application of chemical to control the growth of curly weed. A new plant survey will be conducted this May of 2010 to determine where to spray. It is hoped, that the weed growth will again be very limited. Weed growth has been contained very nicely for the past two summers, and the district is committed to continuing this trend in the future.

By-Law Changes Approved and Taking Ownership of Dam Overwhelmingly Rejected

- Three changes to the management district by-laws were approved.
- Number of candidates needed to stand for election to board was reduced from the number of vacancies plus one to at least equal to the number of vacancies.
- Deadline for mailing required written notice to all homeowners of annual meeting and budget hearing changed to 30 days prior (from 10).
- Established three 3-year and two 2-year terms for board commissioners. Previous by-laws did not define the exact number of each term.

Also, the members present at the annual meeting unanimously rejected the county's offer to transfer ownership of the dam on Whitewater Lake to the management district so the county will retain ownership and responsibility for maintenance of the dam.

Water Quality Testing Results

At the end of last summer, water samples were sent to the University Lab in Madison for testing. Overall, water quality test results on both lakes were found to be well within normal ranges. However, one thing we have to keep an eye on will be the reactive and total phosphorus values which were found to be slightly elevated. Typically, when these values exceed 0.03 ppm, algae blooms can occur. Whitewater Lake is hovering right round this benchmark while Rice Lake is slightly above that. So, it will be important for us to monitor these levels over the next couple of sampling.

Bill Watts wmrwatts@gmail.com

WEED HARVESTING

Weed Management

As we have learned over the years when aquatic weeds are left to grow uncontrolled, they interfere with fishing, disrupt boat traffic and other recreational activities, and harm fish and other wildlife. Warm weather, light snowfalls, imported weed species and high nutrient levels in lakes only add to the problem.

The Whitewater/Rice Lake Management District has developed with the Wisconsin DNR a program of weed control that attempts to work with the challenges of our environment and other factors. The program includes an approved chemical spraying program in April/May and a weed-harvesting program beginning in June.

We feel we had a successful weed-harvesting program in 2009 and plan to apply our past experiences in 2010. Our weed harvesting equipment will be in the water as soon as the ice is gone from the lakes. We will be harvesting weeds as soon as they appear, hopefully no earlier than mid to late June.

Andy Wojdula andy@whitewaterlake.org

BOGS

In September/October 2009 our contractor JNT again worked on the bogs removing approximately 950 loads; compared to 2008 where we removed over 400 loads. We again will follow the recommendation put forward at our annual 2009 meeting and remove bog as it surfaces in August/September after the weed cutting activities are over.

Brian Morris morrisbamorris@sbcglobal.net

Short Term Rentals

Short term rentals of vacation homes around the lake are currently not allowed but the County Board is considering relaxing those rules. They would like input by May 1 from our district and townships regarding these changes. Because the atmosphere and character of the lake and your neighborhood may be affected, the District would like your input on this controversial change. Details are available at:

http://whitewaterlake.org/documents/short_term_rentals.pdf

GOOSE DEPREDATION

Canadian Goose Report

Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management Board has again passed a motion to control the Canadian Geese population on our lakes in 2010 utilizing our Canadian Goose Nest and Egg Depredation Program and our Round-Up Program. We will never come close to eliminating all the Canadian Geese on our lakes but our goal is to reduce them to a manageable level.

Canadian Geese have a life expectancy of about 20 years. We have about 200 Resident Canadian Geese on our lakes. Each mature Canadian Goose deposits about 2 1/2 pounds of feces each day in our lakes and on our shorelines bringing E-coli bacteria and increased phosphorus loading in our waters. Any reduction in our goose population will improve the quality of our lake waters and shorelines.

Many of the nests are hidden especially well under a deck or in a hidden area. Please notify me in early to late April with the location of any nests that you see in your area of the lake (608-883-2483 or dfcleven@earthlink.net). If you do not want the geese to be gathered on your property, please contact us and we will respect your wishes.

We all look forward to another fun year on Whitewater/Rice Lakes.

Dave Cleven,
Committee Chairman dfcleven@earthlink.net

FISH STOCKING

Doug Welch, Senior Biologist, Wisconsin DNR tells us that we have a healthy population of largemouth bass and Northern Pike and that Walleye Pike will not naturally reproduce in Whitewater and Rice Lake due to a lack of good substrata. With this in mind we will continue to stock Hybrid Bluegill which will breed with our local fish and hopefully produce a larger fish in our lake.

The Lions club annual Fish - A - Ree was held February 2010 with the below listed results:

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Bullhead | 9 oz |
| Bluegill | 4 oz |
| Crappie | 9 inches |
| Bass | 7.2 pounds |
| Northern Pike | 7.4 pounds |

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

We have approved a 10 year Lake Management Plan put together by your board, Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and the Wisconsin DNR which will be in print by late Summer 2010 and available to view at our annual meeting August 28, 2010. This document provides the guideline for our work on the lake and is required by the Wisconsin DNR.

POLICE

(Feb 23) At the Whitewater Town Board meeting the following actions were taken regarding the Whitewater Lake Safety Patrol: - The Board voted to disband the current Whitewater Lake Safety Patrol - and voted to enter into a contract with the Walworth County Sheriff's Department to provide a safety patrol on Whitewater Lake. In attendance were 3 Town residents.

VOLUNTEERS

We as a board are successful because of the support of many lake owners who have expertise/energy and are willing to help. If you have an interest call or email the board to volunteer.

Again have a good summer from your board, attend our monthly meetings if you choose and look forward to Jeff Winder and his JNT family of shops helping us with our lake needs.

ALSO USE OUR WEB SITE www.whitewaterlake.org TO SEE CURRENT MINUTES OF MEETINGS, AND MANY OTHER ITEMS LISTED OF INTEREST TO PEOPLE ON WHITEWATER AND RICE LAKES

Brain A. Morris Chairman