



# WHITEWATER-RICE

Lakes

Management

District

N E W S L E T T E R

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July, 1996

Now that our spring rains are finally a memory, boaters, fishermen, and swimmers are out in full force.....summer is really here! But with that, the weeds that were hardly in evidence when the survey boat went out in May and early June are in full bloom keeping the weed harvesting crew busy working long days. This year they find that Milfoil is covering the North end of Whitewater Lake as well as the South. The HARVESTING COMMITTEE has compiled a schedule that they hope will do the best job possible for everybody.

The SPRAYING COMMITTEE ARRANGED FOR our lakes to be sprayed on June 25th and reports we've had from owners around the lakes indicate noticeable results.

A reminder to our boaters taken from the WISCONSIN BOATING REGULATIONS:

**Boats:** It is unlawful to operate any boat (including inflatables and innertubes) unless at least one life jacket of the proper size is available for each person on board.

**Personal Watercraft:** All PWC must be registered and display valid registration decals and registration on the forward half of both sides of the craft and abide by all boating regulations, plus the following specific regulations:

- All persons riding a PWC must wear life jacket of the proper size and type.
- No person may operate a PWC equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard without the lanyard attached to the operator.

- No one under 12 may operate a PWC (rental age limit is 16).
- Persons at least 12 but under 16 must be in possession of a valid boating safety student certificate to operate a PWC. Parental supervision is not a substitute for a boating safety certificate as with other motorboats. PWC operators must have a certificate.)
- There is no towing of persons engaged in water skiing, aquaplaning or similar activities unless the PWC is designed to seat 3 people.
- Operation of a PWC within 100' of another boat, PWC or skier is illegal.

For further regulations, please refer to your WISCONSIN BOATING REGULATIONS. The Town Representative to our Board reminds us that there is "no wake" in the State Park area lobe of WW Lake at any time!

FISH STOCKING - The DNR is considering stocking our lakes with Northern Pike and fingerling Walleyes in alternate years at their expense. Good news for the future for all of our avid fishermen!

MILFOIL WEEVIL - Those of you who have been following the weevil story will be glad to know that our grant application to the DNR has been approved, and that divers from Stevens Point have already come out to investigate. They find that the weevil does indeed exist in our waters, so they are eager to proceed with the project. However, we must understand that it may take a number of years before we can expect a really positive affect.

The NOMINATING COMMITTEE chaired by Walter Hicks has presented the name of Roy Sheahen to fill the coming vacancy on your Lake Management District Board. The election will take place at the Annual Meeting on August 17th at 2:00 p.m in the Lakeview School gymnasium.

# *Annual Meeting Agenda, August 17, 1996*

Call to order

Review and approval of minutes of last Annual Meeting and of the January Special Meeting

Treasurer's Financial Report for calendar year 1995 and '96 to-date

Report of Auditing Committee

Presentation of Budget for 1997

Approval of Budget

Report of Nominating Committee

Election of new Board member

Reports on other Standing Committees

Harvesting

Equipment

Spraying

Fish Stocking

Newsletter

Reports on Special Committees

Eurasian Water Milfoil Weevil Project

Committee to study the "bogs"

Presentation of Comprehensive Lake Management Plan

Public Comment

Establish date of next meeting

Adjournment

(A short organizational meeting of the Board will immediately follow for the purpose of electing Officers and reappointing Committee assignments.)

## Proposed Budget for 1997

### BUDGET SUMMARY

	1996 Budget	1997 Budget	%change
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Taxes	\$80,000.	\$80,000.	0%
Misc. Revenues	<u>\$3,500.</u>	<u>\$2,300.</u>	-34%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b><u>\$83,500.</u></b>	<b><u>\$82,300.</u></b>	-1%
 <b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
General Government	\$5,500.	\$5,700.	4%
<i>Public Works</i>			
Harvesting	\$44,600.	\$61,750.	38%
Weed Spraying	\$5,000.	\$10,000.	100%
Fish Stocking	\$3,000.	\$3,000.	0%
Studies	\$1,300.	\$3,000.	130%
Contingencies	\$5,000.	\$5,000.	0%
Total Public Works	<b><u>\$58,900..</u></b>	<b><u>\$82,750.</u></b>	35%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>\$64,400.</u></b>	<b><u>\$88,450.</u></b>	35%

### RECONCILIATION OF FUND BALANCES

	<u>EST 12/31/96</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EST 12/31/97</u>
Equip cost	\$219,667			\$219,667
Accum Deprec	(\$83,726)			(\$106,476)
Res-Equip repl	<u>\$45,000</u>			<u>\$56,000</u>
<b>Total Equip</b>	<b>\$180,941</b>			<b>\$169,191</b>
General Oper Funds	\$6,819			\$14,119
Res-Pole barn	<u>\$10,455</u>			<u>\$10,455</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$198,215</b>	<b>\$82,300</b>	<b>\$86,750</b>	<b>\$193,765</b>



## COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In response to concerns raised at the last Annual Meeting and on other occasions, the Board has authorized the formation of a committee to look at alternatives for dealing with the “bogs” or “floating islands” in Whitewater Lake. I have had some informal discussions about the bogs with my contacts at the DNR. These discussions have not been entirely negative. While the DNR generally would be opposed to artificially removing “natural habitat or wetlands”, they are also concerned with navigational safety and with the esthetic quality of the lake. An exception to their normal policy would have to be approved by several other State agencies as well as the DNR, but they are willing to listen to reasonable proposals. I suspect that a semantic problem has confounded previous discussions of this topic. For instance, the preliminary draft of our comprehensive Lake Management Plan indicates that the “floating islands” on the western shore of the North lobe are considered sensitive area and should not be disturbed. Elsewhere in the draft is a recommendation that the “floating sedge mats” that rise to the surface should be removed if they present a hazard to navigation and are not rooted to the bottom. This suggests that there is a distinction between floating islands and bogs/sedge mats that has not been entirely clear in the past.

The draft plan recommends that the District initiate a study with UW-Whitewater to investigate the composition, source and ecological significance of the sedge mats, as not much information is currently available. It would seem to me that this would be a necessary step in trying to convince the DNR to approve a permit to treat the bogs. I also think that some photos of the bog area (both submerged and emerged) including perhaps some aerial photos would be very useful and eye opening for decision makers who don't possess first hand knowledge of the conditions. Other issues that I think would have to be addressed include:

- Alternative methods for treating the bogs, including an assessment by qualified experts as to the risks involved with each
- A specific proposal detailing extent of bogs to be cleared
- Cost/financing options
- Disposal of residue

The work of the District is performed by interested members who are willing to volunteer their time and expertise. Therefore, it will be necessary to identify several people who would be willing to work on this project and someone willing to take the lead and chair this committee. The committee will be expected to keep the Board informed of its activities and to make regular reports to the Board on its activities and progress. If you are interested in serving the District in this capacity, please let me know so that we can get started with this.

As I write this column, we are still awaiting delivery of our new 7 ft. harvester. The manufacturer was unable to provide this equipment in the Spring as had been planned. While this has certainly hampered our efforts to do a more thorough job of harvesting and cleaning up floaters, we have been fortunate that the weed problem this year is not as bad as it was last year. The Equipment Committee is in close contact with the manufacturer and we expect to receive this machinery soon.

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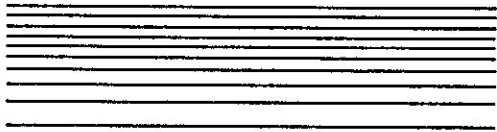
MISCELLANEOUS - Our crew chief advises that, if you have gathered weeds that you would like picked up, and will place them on the ends of your piers, the crew will take them when the transporter is in your area. It is no longer possible for them to take weeds from the shoreline, as it is too hard on the machinery and contributes to frequent breakdowns.

A property owner along Ridge Road reports that there are numerous large items floating around his pier - sections of an old pier, a rusted water tank, log sections, etc. Let us be aware that anything thrown in the water does not disappear, but turns up elsewhere in our lakes, often on someone else's shoreline. These floating items not only are dangerous, but also deface our lakes

Since we continue to get complaints about the disintegrating boat lifts and piers on the shoreline of the motel on Whitewater Lake, we have again contacted the DNR for their assistance in enforcing a previous clean-up order.

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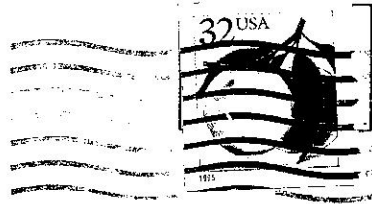
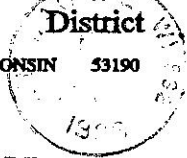
***Summer Fun to Everyone!!***



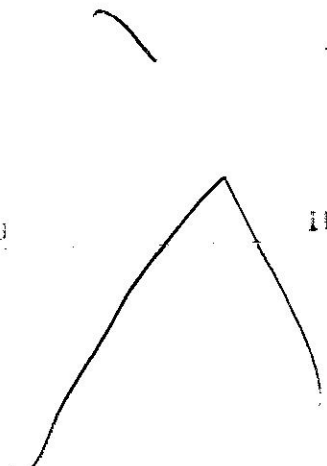
**WHITEWATER-RICE**

Lakes Management District

P.O. BOX 301, WHITEWATER, WISCONSIN 53190



FORWARDING ORDER EXPIRED



IL 60630

53190/0801

