

WHITEWATER-RICE

Lakes Management District

VOL. 4,

NO. 3

JUNE, 1992

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF DISTRICT PROPERTY OWNERS:

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District will be held on August 15, 1992 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 our Lake District that you will receive prior to the Annual Meeting on August 15. 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 15, 1992

1) Stephen J. Field, Biologist, United States Geological Survey, will address the meeting. During the last two years, the U.S.G.S. has studied Whitewater and Rice Lakes in some detail. The study was funded jointly by the U.S.G.S., the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, and our Lake Management District. The final report is expected later in 1992. Mr. Field will present the major findings of the study, and answer a few questions from the audience.

- 2) Minutes of the Annual Meeting of August 17, 1991. Copies of these minutes will be distributed.
- 3) Treasurer's financial report for the preceding year. Copies of the Treasurer's report will be distributed.
 - a) Report of the Financial Audit Committee.
- 4) Election of Lake District Commissioner. Candidates for election are:
William P. Norris
N7606 State Park Drive
Bill Norris is running for re-election, without opposition, because our nominating committee, chaired by Rick Breidenbach, was unable to find other property owners willing to run. Please read the personal communication from District Chairman Norris that follows the Agenda.

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

- 5) Proposed Lake District Budget for 1993.

Miscellaneous Operating Expenses	\$ 1,200
Newsletter	1,000
<i>Professional</i> Legal Expenses	700
Membership Dues--Wis. Assn. of Lake Districts & N. American Lake Mgmt. Soc.	200
Fish Stocking	3,000
Wildlife Rehabilitation	500
Weed Control	80,000
Contingencies	4,000
Total	\$ 90,600

38
52,000

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

- 6) Public Input from District Property Owners.
- 7) Establish Date for 1993 Annual Meeting of our Lake District.
- 8) Introduction of Newly Elected Commissioner.
- 9) Adjournment.

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT CHAIRMAN, BILL NORRIS

Our By-Laws, as well as Wisconsin Statutes governing the operations of Lake Management Districts, require that Lake Districts be controlled by 3 elected Commissioners assisted by 2 Commissioners appointed by the Walworth County Board of Supervisors, and Board of the Town of Whitewater, respectively. Elected Commissioners have a 3-year term, and their terms are staggered, so that a new Commissioner is elected each year at the Annual Meeting of our Lake District. Most of the Lake Districts in Wisconsin, including the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District, do not pay their elected Commissioners for their services.

During the past few years, your Lake District officers appear to be encountering an increasing reluctance on the part of its property owners to volunteer their services by running for office on our Board of Lake Commissioners. During the present year of 1992, our Nominating Committee, headed by Rick Breidenbach, was unable to identify a single person among our property owners willing to run for office. Because the electorate of our Lake District includes about 1200 persons, it is very possible that some of you who are interested and willing to serve on our District Board were not contacted. If so, I would

hope that you would contact our Board, and inform the Board of your interest in improving our lakes.

I am firmly convinced that our Lake District is absolutely essential to the continued well-being, viability, and improvement of Whitewater and Rice Lakes. I feel that we are making substantial progress in our efforts to control the excessive growth of aquatic weeds in our lakes, and this program should be continued. Still other efforts should be initiated to get our lakes into a really first-class condition.

I have acted as Chairman of our Lake District since the District was formed in December, 1986. This year I announced that I did not want to run again for office. It seemed time that someone else should take over for the best interests of the District. Because no other candidates could be found, reluctantly I have agreed to run again. I do not want our District to flounder--it needs to survive. It needs your help!

If an appropriate slate of candidates can be found before the Annual Meeting of our District on August 15, 1992, I will withdraw my name from consideration. If no one steps forward, I will do my best to complete another 3-year term.

I thank you all for your encouragement and support during these formative years of our Lake District. I believe that the District can run more smoothly in the future. Most of all, I ask that those of you who have the time, and the interest, step forward and give us a hand.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1993

On December 31, 1991, your Lake District Commissioners arranged for a loan of \$160,000.00 from the Commercial Bank, Whitewater, WI, for the purchase of weed harvesting equipment. This loan was for a period of 6 years, at an annual interest rate of 6 percent. Terms of the loan allow for pre-payment of principal without penalty.

This loan is to be repaid in six annual payments of principal, amounting to \$26,666.66 each year, with the first such payment due on October 1, 1992. Interest payments are due semi-annually on April 1 and on October 1 each year. Thus, the total yearly obligations of our Lake District to the Commercial Bank (assuming no pre-payment of principal) can be summarized as follows:

91 - 1992	0	\$ 33,999.99
92 - 1993	38,044.43	34,777.77
93 - 1994	33,764.89	33,155.55
94 - 1995	32,396.66	31,533.33
95 - 1996	30,733.33	29,920.00
96 - 1997	29,102.22	<u>28,288.92</u>
<i>Oct 197-95</i>	<i>27,780.00</i>	\$ 191,675.56

Costs of weed harvesting equipment to date are as follows:

Basic harvesting equipment	
(D & D Products)	\$ 147,800
Used 1986 GMC Dump Truck	11,000
Used trailer for misc. storage	450
Equipment modifications--	
<i>79.43</i> trailer enclosure, trailer	
<i>524.11</i> hitches, CB radios, spare parts	
<i>1098.41</i> tools, etc. (estimate)	<i>High 2100</i>
Total	\$ 165,250

inc trailers 141394.45

The excess of equipment costs, listed above, over the \$160,000.00 loan from the Commercial Bank, represents a cost to our Lake District of \$5,250.00. Much of this is a one-time cost that will not be repeated in succeeding years.

So far, we see no need to revise our previous estimate of \$43,000 per year for the total cost of weed harvesting operations.

Our contract for herbicidal treatment of the shorelines of Whitewater and Rice Lakes with Aquatic Biologists, Inc. of Fond du Lac, WI guarantees a price for this operation of \$3,413.00.

The above information allows a reasonably good estimate of the total cost of weed control in Whitewater and Rice Lakes during the summer of 1992, as follows:

Payment on loan from		
<i>Vol.</i> Commercial Bank		\$ 34,000
Operation of Weed Harvester		43,000
Equipment Modifications, etc.	<i>Vol.</i>	5,250
Herbicidal Treatment of Shorelines		<u>3,413</u>
Total		\$85,663

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This figure is reasonably close to our early estimate, made at the Annual Meeting in 1991, of the total cost of weed control in Whitewater and Rice Lakes. Inasmuch as this is the first year that our Lake District has owned, and operated, harvesting equipment, however, a figure of \$4,000 is included in the proposed budget for 1993 to allow for contingencies.

The problem of suitable storage of our weed harvesting equipment during the winter months has yet to be resolved. Obviously, we will need to identify space, either indoors or outside, for this purpose. Without discussing the various alternatives at this time, please be advised that your District Commissioners look forward to acquiring a small piece of land near Whitewater Lake and, eventually, erecting a pole barn for this purpose. This will simplify our problems of maintenance and repair, storage of tools and spare parts, and substantially prolong the life of our equipment. We are hopeful that, with time, our Lake District will be able to save funds from its existing budget to be used for this purpose. This subject will be open for discussion at the Annual Meeting on August 15, 1992.

COMMENT ON 1992 WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

Every year is different, and the Spring of 1992 was unusually cool. The cool weather retarded growth of aquatic weeds to the point that weeds were not apparent on May 12. The water levels were perhaps 6 inches higher than last fall, and Rice Lake measured 30 inches below its spillway on May 18.

The new harvesting equipment was delivered on May 8, but because of slow weed growth, did not begin harvesting operations (in the South Lobe of Whitewater Lake) until May 27.

Contributing to this delay was the fact that we had hoped to complete the herbicidal treatment of our lakes before beginning harvesting operations. Originally, we had planned to spray our shorelines on May 11. However, both Robert Wakeman of the DNR and Robert Langjahr of Aquatic Biologists, Inc. advised us to wait until aquatic weed growth was more advanced.

As this is being written on May 31, aquatic weeds are just appearing in the West Lobe of Whitewater Lake. In the South and East Lobes of Whitewater Lake, and in Rice Lake, weed growth is well advanced. In Rice Lake, the weeds are primarily curly-leaf pondweed mixed with smaller amounts of Eurasian milfoil. Whitewater Lake holds about a 50/50 mix of curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian milfoil, with small quantities of coontail. Here and there are patches where either curly-leaf pondweed or Eurasian milfoil dominate.

With good weather, weed spraying is scheduled for June 3, possibly extending into June 4. During this time, the transporter will be returned to D & D Products in North Prairie to correct a relatively minor design problem. The transporter will be back on the lakes by June 8, and weed harvesting should be on schedule thereafter.

OUR DISTRICT NEWSLETTER SEEKS A NEW EDITOR

During the past 5 years, our NEWSLETTER has been edited by Gareth Betts, Community Development Agent, Walworth County UW-Extension. We were informed recently that Gareth's responsibilities are such that he will be unable to assist us as Editor after this Newsletter is printed. We wish to thank Gareth for his cheerful, and competent, assistance over these many years.

We will be searching for a new Editor, and the appointment will be announced in a forthcoming issued of our NEWSLETTER.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM WISCONSIN'S DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

From: Dan Helsel
WI-DNR, Water Resources

DNR Staff to Identify Valuable Wildlife Habitat at Whitewater Lake

On July 7th, a boat load of DNR staff will be cruising Whitewater Lake. Individuals from four DNR programs, including Fisheries, Wildlife, Water Regulations and Zoning and Water Resources will spend the entire day surveying the lake. The objective of the field work is to gather data that will allow the DNR to identify "sensitive areas" along the shoreline and within the lake that provide valuable habitat for fish and other aquatic wildlife. After the field data has been analyzed, a report will be generated specifying the location of all the sensitive areas around the lake. The report will also recommend and/or specify what management activities can occur within the area. Abutting property owners will be notified if their area is designated as a "sensitive area." If you have any questions concerning this program, feel free to contact Dan Helsel, Water Resource Manager at the WI-DNR (414-263-8714).

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From: Douglas E. Welch
WI-DNR, Fisheries Biologist

**Whitewater Lake Comprehensive
Fishery Survey**

I would like to bring you and members of the Whitewater/Rice Lakes Management District (WRLMD) up to date on 1991-93 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) activities conducted and planned on Whitewater/Rice Lakes.

I issued fish stocking permits to the WRLMD for stocking northern pike into Rice and Whitewater Lakes and walleye into Whitewater Lake in 1991. The WRLMD purchased 500 northern pike fingerlings for Rice Lake, 1,000 northern pike fingerlings for Whitewater Lake, and 20,000 walleye fingerlings for Whitewater Lake. These fish were stocked in June and July, 1991. The northern pike purchased by WRLMD and stocked into Rice Lake suffered significant mortality because water temperature in the hatchery truck was much colder than lake water temperature. To make up for that mortality, I stocked 600 large northern pike fingerlings raised in state hatcheries into Rice Lake in September, 1991.

In March, 1992, I set 8 trap nets into Whitewater Lake to assess the northern pike population. I captured only 17 northern pike during 13 days of netting. These fish ranged between 18.6 inches and 29.5 inches in length. It appears that northern pike populations are low and may need to be enhanced by stocking. Incidental catches included 23 walleyes that ranged between 12.6 inches and 24.9 inches, and 6 largemouth bass that ranged between 17.4 inches and 21.5 inches in length. I recommend that the WRLMD purchase and stock 3,200 3.5 inch to 5.5 inch northern pike or 1,280 7 inch or larger northern pike into Whitewater Lake in 1992.

In April, 1992, I transferred 8,067 4 inch to 6 inch yellow perch and 3,596 6 inch to 7 inch bluegills from Whitewater Lake to Delavan Lake to bolster those populations. Removal of these fish will not significantly impact populations in Whitewater Lake. Yellow perch produce an average of 28,000 eggs per female and can produce up to 200,000 eggs per female. Female bluegills produce an average of 20,000 eggs and can produce up to 60,000 eggs.

I will begin implementation of the Whitewater Lake Comprehensive Fishery Survey in July, 1992. This 12-month project will include dissolved oxygen/temperature profiles, shoreline seining, electrofishing, and fyke netting. After data is collected and analyzed, management recommendations will be made.

I look forward to this year's activities and working with you and the WRLMD to enhance fish populations on Whitewater and Rice Lakes.

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HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

ON AUGUST 15.



WHITEWATER-RICE

Lakes Management District

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