

ANNUAL MEETING  
August 17, 1996  
WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Lakeview Elementary School gymnasium by Chairman Jim Stevenson. Chairman Stevenson then introduced the members of the Board present at the meeting: Boris Marohnich, Richard Kuhnke, representing the Walworth County Board, Charles Cruse, Bernie Tagney, Lake Management District Treasurer, and Muriel Schrock, Lake Management District Secretary.

Jim Stevenson gave a brief overview of the formation of the Lake Management District in 1988-1989. Mr. Stevenson also reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the Lake Management District Board members and noted that the Board members are elected by the property owners of the District.

The minutes of the 1995 Annual Meeting held August 19, 1995, and Special Meeting held January 13, 1996, were introduced. Chairman Stevenson asked if there were any objections to dispensing with the oral reading of the minutes and there were none. Mr. Stevenson asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes. Dick Cline made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded, the minutes were approved.

Chairman Stevenson introduced Bernie Tagney, Treasurer of the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District. Mr. Tagney presented the Net Worth and Income Statement as of August 16, 1996 (copy attached). Assets total \$247,108.07, Liabilities total \$68,500, with a Net Worth of \$178,608.07. Total Income as of August 16, 1996, is \$90,566.09, total Expenses are \$51,890.81, with a Net Surplus of \$38,675.28. Mr. Tagney read a statement signed by the Audit Committee composed of Raymond Hafertepe, Thomas Ponyicsanyi and Carol Marvin declaring the Balance Sheet as of August 7, 1996 and the Income Statement for the period of 8/10/95 through 8/7/96 were reviewed and the Committee found all the records and accounting to be fair and accurate.

Mr. Tagney then presented the Budget Summary and Budget Detail (copy attached). Edna Barbour questioned leaving the mill rate the same when the District has a surplus of \$38,675.28. Mr. Tagney noted that the surplus will be used for anticipated future equipment replacement. Having this surplus will alleviate the possible necessity of borrowing funds for equipment replacement. Numerous questions were raised regarding the Comprehensive Lake Management Plan to be presented by SEWRPAC later in the meeting and how this will impact the proposed budget. Chairman Stevenson explained that the report from SEWRPAC are recommendations only and do not impact the budget. After lengthy discussion and a proposal to table the approval of the budget until after the SEWRPAC report, Chairman Stevenson asked for a show of hands to continue to proceed with the approval of the budget or to table the approval until later in the agenda. By a unanimous show of hands, the discussion continued.

Treasurer Tagney summarized the Proposed 1997 Budget noting Total Income of \$82,300, Total Expenses of \$86,750, with a Net Surplus of \$-4,450. By a unanimous show of hands, the 1997 Budget was approved as presented.

Chairman Stevenson reported that there is one vacancy to fill on the Board this year. This is to replace Muriel Schrock who has served on the Board for three years. Mr. Stevenson called on Walter Hicks for a report from the Nominating Committee. Mr. Hicks reported that 15 to 17 people were contacted about serving on the Board. Only one person offered to be a candidate for the position, this being Roy Sheahen. Mr. Hicks noted that Mr. Sheahen is an active member of the District. Chairman Stevenson asked to dispense with the casting of secret ballots as there is only one candidate. By a unanimous vote, Roy Sheahen will be the new Board member to replace Muriel Schrock. Chairman Stevenson thanked Mrs. Schrock for her three years of service on the Board.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Harvesting Committee - Chairman Stevenson reported on the weed harvesting this year compared to last year, noting that through August 8, 1996, 336 loads were harvested on 39 harvesting days as compared to 347 loads on 43 days last year. Mr. Stevenson noted the 7' cutter was received on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and has been in operation 10 to 12 days for a total of 65 loads. The harvesting crew is about where we were last year and the lake is in good shape. Both machines are in operation with a 4 man crew and will continue to stay in operation into September.

Equipment Committee - Chairman Stevenson reported that the new harvester was received on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The harvester has not yet been paid for, as the balance is being withheld pending modifications.

Weed Spraying Committee - Chairman Stevenson reported that Marine Biochemists had sprayed 15 gallons of 3-way on 3.3 acres of the western shore line of Rice Lake, 70 gallons on Whitewater Lake and 550 pounds of pellets. A couple of questions were raised regarding the lack of harvesting and spraying in certain areas of the lake. Chairman Stevenson stressed to the property owners present that if there is a concern, the owners should contact the Harvesting Committee members and not the harvesting crew. Matt Schmitt asked about the possibility of cutting channels in the State-owned property on Rice Lake. Chairman Stevenson noted that the Harvesting Committee will be addressing the needs of Rice Lake for next year. Lowell Wilson asked if the Board had looked into the District owning their own spraying equipment. Vic Schrock noted that the liability of handling the chemicals would make it cost prohibitive. Chairman Stevenson noted that the Spraying Committee will look into it to see if it is feasible.

Fish Stocking Committee - Chairman Stevenson reported that 1,924 eight to ten-inch Walleye and 500 six-inch Walleye had been stocked. He noted that \$3,000.00 had been budgeted for fish stocking. The DNR has verbally agreed for funds for the fish stocking

and Mr. Stevenson is waiting for written confirmation. If the DNR does fund the fish stocking, the budgeted amount could be used for possible fish habitats.

Newsletter Committee - Chairman Stevenson reported that 3 newsletters had been sent in 1996. The Board will continue to do 3 mailings this next year.

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Eurasian Water Milfoil Weevil Project - Chairman Stevenson reported that Whitewater Lake is one of 12 lakes participating in a study of Eurasian Water Milfoil Weevils. A team from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has been out several times and has reported that the weevil is in the lake. The Eurasian Water Milfoil has been in the lake for approximately 10 to 12 years. The cycle of the Milfoil is approximately 25 years. This would leave another 15 years of the Milfoil if left as is. The stocking of weevil would accelerate the process of eliminating the Milfoil. The recommendation from the UW-Stevens Point team is to place study plots in the lake; 2 plots in the south bay and 2 plots by the islands on the east side of Ridge Road. The UW-Stevens Point team will present their findings next spring. It is anticipated that based on the report, weevils will be stocked in early June next year. During 1997 and 1998 the team will study what happens in study areas versus the adjoining areas.

Committee to Study Bogs - Chairman Stevenson reported that there is a concern among the Board and property owners regarding the bogs on Bass Lake and Round Lake. The Board has talked about it and the DNR has been contacted. A couple of property owners are interested in this issue, however, no one has stepped forward to Chair this committee and drive this issue forward. If there are any property owners interested in this committee and particularly Chairing the committee, please contact Jim Stevenson.

Priority Watershed Committee - Chairman Stevenson reported that based on a DNR study, the affected watershed of Whitewater and Rice Lakes is very small and do not have a priority. This committee will be dropped.

Chairman Stevenson introduced Dr. Jeff Thornton of SEWRPAC who was instrumental in putting together the Comprehensive Lake Management Plan. Dr. Thornton gave a brief overview of the duties of SEWRPAC (Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission). He noted that SEWRPAC is a unit of government whose role is to provide planning assistance to local government units. He also noted that the duty of SEWRPAC is to provide recommendations to local government units but that SWERPAC has no authority to implement the plans. The Lake Management Plan is provided for guidance. The goal is to maintain the lakes as multiple use lakes for one to two decades in the future.

Dr. Thornton presented maps of Whitewater and Rice Lakes indicating the proposed aquatic plant management and monitoring program. Dr. Thornton briefly discussed the plan for Rice Lake indicating that Rice Lake is a multiple use lake; recreational and residential. The



first objective is for riparian access to the recreational areas. He noted that fishery is the primary recreational use of Rice Lake. By cutting selective access lanes, this will allow access to the recreational areas as well as enhancing angling and fish life.

Dr. Thornton then explained the more extensive management areas for Whitewater Lake. Again, the emphasis is on riparian access to all areas of the lake. Dr. Thornton gave a brief review of the different types of "bogs" that exist in Whitewater Lake, noting the floating bogs are attached to the bottom of the lake and are valuable habitat areas, eminently worthy of protection. The peat bogs are uprooted, not attached to the lake bottom and do move around the lake. These may be removed when washed up on shore. The third type of bog are large masses of plant materials uprooted from the lake bottom. These also may be removed from the lake. It is suggested that the floating bogs be protected. It may be beneficial to have a study of plant flora to determine the actual value to the lake system. Dr. Thornton noted the south bay contains native aquatic plants that are worthy of protection.

Dr. Thornton noted that copies of the full Lake Management Plan will be available through the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District Board. Chairman Stevenson expressed thanks to Dr. Thornton for the preparation of the Lake Management Plan.

Chairman Stevenson invited public comments from property owners present. Walt Hicks noted that participation of property owners is deteriorating. He encouraged property owners to become more interested and asked each person present to bring one or two new people to the meeting next year. He noted there will be two vacancies on the Board next year. All property owners are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings and get involved.

Bob Zarach expressed concern about having a "no wake" zone in the area of the bogs that pop up. Jim Stevenson noted that the Board is working on establishing a committee to study the bogs. Active members are needed for this committee.

Anna Benjamin noted that she has been a lake property owner since the 1960's. She appreciates the amount of work that the Lake Management District has been doing and expressed appreciation to the Board for all of its efforts.

The next annual meeting of the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District was set for Saturday, August 16, 1997, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Lakeview Elementary School.

Milfoil Weevil Project - Jim Stevenson will have updated information for the Annual Meeting.

Proposed Bog Committee - Leo Worth, Charles Cruse, and Jim Mulcahy (soil scientist) are interested in serving on such a committee. Board Chairman Stevenson will attempt to find a chair for this committee at the annual meeting.

Clerk Mary Mesmer was requested by the Chairman to confirm the arrangements for the Annual Meeting at Lakeview School on August 17th. Secretary Muriel Schrock and Treasurer Bernie Tangney were asked to provide 100 copies each of the appropriate reports for distribution at the meeting., and Muriel was also asked to provide the necessary tellers for registration at the door and for any ballot vote, should that be necessary.

#### New Business:

A letter was read from Mark C. Burmesch, DNR Conservation Warden for our area, regarding complaints we have received from home owners about abandoned boat lifts at Chapel Hills Resort and decaying piers along the west side of Isabelle's Bay on Whitewater Lake. Warden Burmesch says that his only recourse if cleanup orders are not complied with is to issue a littering citation. However, he suggests that we review State Statute #66.0495 which gives the town government the authority to order removal of dilapidated and abandoned piers.

Ron Fero stated that the Township of Whitewater has been notified by the County that since all of our lake accesses are zoned R1 (residential), as of August 16th, we are to cease and desist their use for any other than residential use. The zoning department has advised that the accesses should be rezoned. The Township is waiting for a letter from the County saying that this will not be enforced until Labor Day, and in the meantime are meeting with the zoning people and attorneys in the next week to look for a solution.

Regarding buoy placement, Ron Fero announced that some additional buoys have been added at the North end of Whitewater Lake, and Roy Sheahen moved those at the sides of the island at the South end in order to create a no wake zone behind the island.

#### Public Input:

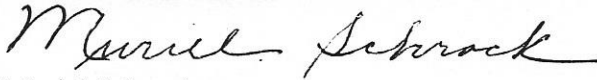
In answer to a question regarding differences in results between pellet and spraying operation, Spraying chairman Boris Marohnich noted that there seemed to be very little difference, although the pellets seemed to work a little faster in Woodchuck Alley.

Our Annual Meeting will be Saturday, August 17th, at 2:00 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Lake View School on Kettle Moraine Drive. It will immediately be followed by a short organizational meeting of the Board for the purpose of appointing officers and committee chairmen. Jim Stevenson passed out a listing of existing committees that he asked the Board to review and submit any suggestions that they may have for the type, formation, and membership.

Chairman Stevenson announced that the next regular monthly meeting will be September 12th.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Muriel Schrock  
Secretary