

BUDGET HEARING AND ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
AUGUST 21, 2004 – 9:00 AM

The 2005 Budget Hearing will be held at 9:00 AM followed by the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District at Lakeview Elementary School on Townline Road, Whitewater WI. All members of the district are encouraged to attend. The meeting agenda will include the following:

- Vote on the deficit in 2004 budget.
- Discuss and approve 2005 Budget
 - Talk by Barry Mess, Biological Services Inc on chemical spraying and weed harvesting options.
 - Budget discussion by major category – Harvest, Chemical, Bog, Administrative, Fish Stocking. O be integrated with Committee reports
 - Purchase Proposals
 - Convert the weed transporter from an outboard motor to a diesel system – Cost \$21,000.
 - Purchase an additional 12 weed harvesting machine – Cost \$123,000.
 - Apply chemicals to treat the core area of the south bay(appx. 35 acres, if weeds are extensive and approved by DNR - \$9675 to \$12,795.
- Election of two commissioners each for three-year terms. Each candidate will make a brief presentation
- Treasures and Audit Report
- Old Business
- New Business

Adjournment

A short organizational meeting of the board will immediately follow for the purpose of electing officers and appointing committee assignments.

Message from the Chairperson, Jim Bartlett

The tone of last years meeting was to improve the weed harvesting process and to move forward with the bog removal effort. I believe we made some progress in both of these areas.

One big change this year is that we contracted with JNT Marina (Jeff Widner) to provide and manage the weed harvest crew. Jeff had provided assistance to the district last fall and indicated to us his interest in improving the harvesting function. We requested bids this spring, and Jeff submitted the low bid for providing this service.

In addressing the weed cutting process, we focused on three areas:

1. Start early. The weeds were not killed over the winter, so we began the cutting process earlier than ever before. Jeff's crew began cutting in late April and had completed a cycle of both lakes by Memorial day.
2. Increase cutting time – Jeff had the crew out on the lake early in the morning and staying the full 40 hours. Machine maintenance was switched to Saturday to avoid cutting into cutting time. The weed transport was used to allow the cutters to keep harvesting and the cutters where moored close to the work site to reduce time spent driving to the target area.
3. Friday cleanup – Cutting creates floaters. When possible, the crew used the 7 ft cutter to pick up floaters along the shorelines were they had mowed.

We feel these efforts helped and that the lake quality improved this year over last year. If you agree, please tell Jeff and/or his crew that you appreciate their efforts.

Another major change this year was in chemical treatment. Under Gary Marvin's direction, our chemical contractor completed the spraying of the lake by the first week of June. In addition, Gary had them spray more of the shoreline and further out than in previous years. By all of the feedback, the results were very good. We plan on continuing with that approach next year.

Gordon Phillips has prepared a grant request for assistance in bog removal. Essentially, We have asked the state for a matching grant to assist us in covering the bog removal expenses. The hearing on our request is not until late August, but we are hopeful that the state will pay 50% of our bog removal costs.

During the annual meeting we are going to present proposals for three major expenditures. These expenditures would allow us to expand the level of service we provide, but are not necessary to maintain the current level of service.

1. Convert the weed transport from a 90 HP outboard to a diesel engine and to modify the equipment to include stabilizer bars – estimated cost of \$21,000. We would only proceed with this project if we could obtain a 50% grant from the DNR.

Actual Cost to district $\$21,000 * 50\% = \$10,500$, less $\$3,500$ estimated value of replaced outboard = $\$7,000$. Diesel should operate for 10 years, $\$700$ per year cost versus the estimated outboard cost of $\$1,600$ per year. In addition, gas savings of approximately $\$1,000$ per year.

2. Purchase an additional 12ft cutter for the district at a cost of $\$122,000$. Again, we would only proceed if we received a 50% grant from the DNR leaving a district cost of $\$61,000$. Additional costs of $\$7,500$ for labor and $\$2-4,000$ operating costs.

With this equipment, we would increase our mowing capacity by 50%. This increase would allow us to better control the weeds in the core portions of the lake, e.g., the south bay shallower bays of all of the lakes. The additional equipment would also allow us to increase our bog removal efforts.

3. The level of weed in the core of the south bay was very bad. Given the need to address the lake as a whole earlier in the year, the weed crew could not address this area until early July. When they did cut in this area, they created a proportionally higher level of floaters. These floaters showed up on shores throughout the lake.

If the weeds are as bad next year, and if the DNR would permit us to spray the core of the lake (appx. 35 acres), we could spray the lake early in the year at a cost of approximately $\$9,500$ to $\$11,500$. Eliminating the weeds would reduce the floaters throughout the lake and increase the usability of that bay. This program would not address any of the area south of the island, only areas inside of the buoys.

Currently, we have approximately $\$55,000$ available in the equipment fund for equipment purchases and have budgeted another $\$10,000$ in the 2005 budget.