

WHITEWATER-RICE

Lakes Management District

VOL. 3, NO. 4

JUNE, 1991

NOTICE

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District will be held on August 17, 1991 at 2:00 p.m. in the Gymnasium of Lakeview School near 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 17. 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 17, 1991

- 1) Minutes of Annual Meeting of August 11, 1990. Copies of these minutes will be distributed.
- 2) Treasurer's financial report for the preceding year. Copies of the Treasurer's report will be distributed.
 - a) Report of Financial Audit Committee.
- 3) Election of new Lake District Commissioner. Candidates for election are:

John D. Wildi
5531 E. Lake Shore Drive

Muriel Schrock
5013 E. Lake Shore Drive

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.

4) Proposed Lake District Budget for 1992.

Miscellaneous Operating Expenses	\$ 1,200
Newsletter	900
Legal Fees	700
Membership Dues--Wis. Assn. of Lake Districts & N. American Lake Mgmt. Society	200
Fish Stocking	3,000
Wild-life Rehabilitation	500
Weed Control	£ 2,000
TOTAL	\$86,500

NOTE: At its June 13, 1991 meeting, your Lake District Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution to propose at this Annual Meeting of the District that the District purchase weed harvesting equipment for use in 1992 and beyond. Such purchase will require that the District negotiate a loan. Please review carefully a more detailed description of this proposal which follows.

- 5) Public Input from District Property Owners.
- 6) Introduction of Newly Elected Commissioner.
- 7) Adjournment.

WHITEWATER-RICE
Lakes Management District Newsletter
EDITOR: Gareth Betts
Community Development Agent
Walworth County UW-Extension

RESOLUTION OF LAKE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS TO PROPOSE PURCHASE OF WEED HARVESTING EQUIPMENT FOR WHITEWATER AND RICE LAKES

At the June 13, 1991, meeting, the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Board of Commissioners (with all five members present) agreed unanimously that it is in the best interest, both financially and operationally, of the District to purchase and own its equipment for harvesting aquatic weeds in Whitewater and Rice Lakes. Based on our experience with weed harvesting on our lakes, your District Commissioners propose purchase of the following equipment:

One 10' wide, 14,000 lb. cap. harvester	\$79,500
One 7' wide, 8,500 lb. cap. harvester	56,500
One transport barge, 14,000 lb. cap.	40,000
One shore conveyor, 4' wide x 36' long with 10' intake	14,750
One tilt trailer, with motorized winches	21,000
Discount on purchase of above equip.	7,000
One used dump truck--estimated price	<u>10,000</u>
TOTAL	\$214,750

Operational Considerations:

The heavy growth of aquatic weeds on our lakes during the past five years suggests that continued recreational enjoyment, and improvement of our lakes will require weed harvesting for some time to come. Our negotiations with D & D Products, Inc., North Prairie, WI, (primarily a manufacturer of harvesting equipment) indicate that we cannot expect to continue our present lease arrangement with D & D for any extended period of time. D & D's objective in entering the present lease arrangement with our Lake District was to sell equipment, and D & D has been most helpful in altering the leased harvesting equipment to suit our lakes.

Furthermore, commercial weed harvesters nearby are increasingly hard to find. More and more, Lake Districts in Wisconsin tend to own their equipment. The commercial harvesters that remain prefer to use smaller machines that are

easily transported over the road and service smaller lakes.

The purchase of harvesting equipment will free the Lake District from the annual burden of arranging for weed harvesting of our lakes. However, it will add another task--namely, that of hiring operating personnel, reporting taxes withheld, and arranging for storage and maintenance of equipment during the winter.

Financial Considerations:

Our own estimates, supported by figures kindly supplied by D & D Products, Inc., and by Lake Districts with experience in owning and operating their own harvesters (Big Cedar Lake, Pewaukee Lake, and Beulah Lake), indicate that it is financially advantageous for Lake Districts having major weed problems to borrow money for the purpose of purchasing harvesting equipment.

There are about 13 weeks between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The following represents our estimate of costs to operate the harvesting equipment, described above, for a period of 15 weeks (75 days, or 600 hours) on a schedule of 5 days/week, 8 hours/day.

Direct Labor	\$24,000
Payroll taxes	2,000
Fuel	3,000
Insurance	5,000
Equipment Maintenance	4,000
Contingency & Misc. Items	<u>5,000</u>
TOTAL	\$43,000

These figures suggest that it is easily possible for our Lake District to purchase the above-noted harvesting equipment using the \$80,000 budget item presently allocated to weed control. No increase in this budget item should be necessary.

Provision for Loan:

Your Lake District Commissioners have contacted the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands to request their consideration in extending a loan

from the Wisconsin State Trust Funds in the amount of \$200,000. We anticipate this loan to be for a period of 10 years, with no penalty for early, or partial, pre-payment of interest. The current interest rate for Trust Fund loans is 5.75%. There is also the possibility of a loan from local banks, but the interest rate would probably be higher--perhaps 6 - 8%.

ON OUR DISTRICT'S WEED CONTROL PROGRAM FOR 1991

If you can find it, please re-read our last Newsletter dated April, 1991. This will refresh your memory regarding our efforts to control weeds in our lakes this summer.

On May 28, Marine Biochemists, Inc. of Milwaukee, Wisconsin treated the entire developed shoreline of Whitewater and Rice Lakes with 2,4-D to a distance of 30 feet from the shore. Only one property owner requested that his lake front not be sprayed.

The new 10' wide harvester was launched on our lakes on June 3. As stated in the previous Newsletter, the harvester will try to operate in a fashion that will promote the growth of a "weed fence" just inside the line defined by the "No-wake Buoys." Hopefully, this "weed fence" will help to hold floating weeds off shore where they can be picked up by the harvester. Please do your part by trying to avoid cutting up this "weed fence" with your boat propeller, and encourage others to do the same. Enter and leave the main body of the lake through the "gates" in the "weed fence." The "gates" are defined as being adjacent to the No-wake buoys.

Because we will be using a single, larger, harvester with a weed capacity nearly twice that of the 7 foot machine used in 1990, we anticipate that the weed transporter may have some idle time between taking successive loads from the harvester. This time could be used to pick up loads of weeds that property owners have already

collected from their beaches. To avoid shutting down the harvester, the property owner must be located in the reasonably-near vicinity of harvesting operations. The weed pile must be at a place that is accessible to the transporter--preferably, on a pier. And, because our Lake District does not have funds for additional help, the property owner will need to provide the labor to load the weeds onto the transporter. It will also be necessary for the property owner to contact the harvesting crew to arrange a mutually convenient time.

AN ASSIST FROM THE GREATER WHITEWATER LAKE PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION

by Ray Heger, President

Weeds, Weeds, Weeds! What can we do with them? To help answer this question, your Greater Whitewater Lake Property Owner's Association is going to attempt to help. This summer we shall try an Experiment. The Lake Management District will make its weed transporter available on weekends. Your Association will hire this equipment and go around Whitewater Lake at least one time to allow you to discard any weeds you have accumulated by your shore or pier. All the details are not worked out as yet, but tentatively the dates for pick-up will probably be July 14, July 21, July 28. Look for more specific information in the *Good Morning*, and *Walworth Week*, prior to those dates.

Please be patient with us, we really have no idea how helpful this will be, but we think we can be of some help in reducing the amount of floating weeds. Hope that you will all cooperate with us.



ON OUR LAKE DISTRICT FISH STOCKING PROGRAM

This year the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will allow us to stock as many as 32,000 walleyed pike and 2500 northern pike in Whitewater Lake. The DNR will also allow us to stock 600 northern pike in Rice Lake. Doug Welch, DNR Area Fish Manager, strongly recommended the stocking of as many northern pike as possible--up to the maximum mentioned above. Preliminary fish surveys show that the northern pike are disappearing from both our lakes. The northern pike are a key predator fish in maintaining a healthy pan fish population. This is also our year to stock walleyed pike on our every-other-year stocking program.

With the above facts in mind, it was decided to purchase 20,000 walleyes for stocking in Whitewater Lake, using \$5,000 previously committed to the fishery program. A proposal to commit another \$2,000 to stock northern pike (300 in Rice Lake, and 1,000 in Whitewater Lake) was tabled (on a 2 to 2 vote) due to uncertainties regarding our current budget. If it is not possible to stock northern pike this year, we will try to do it next year, since walleyes must be stocked on an every other year basis.

At this moment, the State of Wisconsin is busy developing its biennial budget. We are hoping that the budget will allow the DNR to conduct its Comprehensive Fish Survey of Whitewater and Rice Lakes. This survey has been pending for some time. Its completion could put Whitewater and Rice Lakes on the list of Wisconsin lakes that are automatically stocked by the DNR.

ON THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF OUR LAKES:

The study of our lakes by the U.S. Geological Survey appears to be proceeding nicely, and on schedule. Representatives of the U.S.G.S. visit our lakes about every two weeks to check their

equipment and take readings. Unfortunately, there has been some vandalism of equipment installed by the U.S.G.S. around the lakes. We appreciate the splendid cooperation we have had from several of our Lake District Property Owners. Without their assistance, this study could not have been done.

We have been informed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that we must apply for DNR funding to continue the second phase of the U.S.G.S. study. The application is due on August 1, 1991.

**REMEMBER TO ATTEND OUR ANNUAL
MEETING ON AUGUST 17!
and
HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER!**





WHITEWATER-RICE

Lakes Management District

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