



Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District

P.O. Box #301 • Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190
www.whitewaterlake.org • www.gwlpoa.org



Message from the Chair

The lake has been busier than usual this year with many new people and we have seen quite a bit of unsafe boating on the Lake. Several boats and jet skis have gone full speed thru the No Wake at the narrows including a pontoon go full speed with kids on a tube. Kids are going off the back of their boat to tube with the outboard motor running. Boats are buzzing about ten feet off the piers making a significant wake even with swimmers nearby, and even skiers zipping by inside the buoys! More than one pontoon has been seen anchoring in a busy ski lane with groups of people jumping in for a swim, many more than 50 feet from the boat. There have been heads in the water in all directions in the ski lane. It was a miracle none got run over.

We need to be courteous and safe. If you don't know the rules of engagement, take the safety course, stop the safety patrol boat, ask at the marina or the campground. We do not want the accidents often found on other Southeast Wisconsin and Illinois lakes.

Also note that sound carries across the water, especially after No Wake times. People can hear your radios, clatter and voices on shore and across the shore. Be aware and keep the noise to yourself.

In other news Dave and Fran Cleven chose not to do a goose round up as the numbers were too small this year. We may now be in a balancing that requires every other year mitigation. They have done a marvelous job over the last decade cleaning up the lake of unhealthy goose pollution. Thank you Fran and Dave for this and your efforts on Bird Island. The eagles nesting were a nice surprise.

As happens we had no early weeds, followed by a sudden explosion and now the lake is looking good. Terry Anderson is leaving the Board after 3 years of managing the treatments and especially working on bringing Rice Lake back to a healthier state. It's looking good and we all thank Terry for the great work. Mike Lindemuth, also from Rice Lake, is running to replace Terry and to carry on his focus on Rice Lake.

Finally, we have the annual meeting coming up August 22 where you can elect your lake Commissioners, approve the budget for the year and have concerns shared. We are moving this year's meeting to the Fuzzy Pig barn where we can do safe social distancing. We'll also have wipes and sanitizer to better protect the environment. Because of the virus threat, we have cut our program drastically and scheduled only a 1 ½ hours for District and GWLPOA association updates. We strongly urge you to bring your masks.

With a quote from that famous sportsman Tom Potrykus: "I'm not going fishing again. I'm social distancing!"

Rich Charts – Chair 

Weed Committee Report

2020 started off with virtually no weed grow. This delayed our chemical treatment in Whitewater lake to mid-June but we had accelerated weed growth in a couple of the "usual suspects." The balance of the lake has seen moderate to light weed growth. Chemical treatment & harvesting appear to be working.

We have worked to open lanes near the sensitive areas in South Bay. This will allow better fish management in the lake as it allows fish to easily navigate through that thick but resource rich region. Rice lake has seen nonstop

harvesting efforts with the return of heavy aquatic plant growth.

As always, our concentration is on navigation & we cannot harvest in swim/shore or pier areas. If a concern arises in a particular area, we will address it as best we can. For those that have concerns or questions in the future regarding weed harvesting, I am available at 847-975-6334 or by email – lbrady22w@gmail.com.

Larry Brady, Commissioner 

Safety Committee

The boater Safety Class had 74 students receive boater safety certificates this year, primarily due to the cancellations of classes statewide. Other classes were unable to “socially distance” or were initially during the Shelter in Place order. Anyone born after January 1, 1989 *must take & pass an approved Boater Safety Class – no exceptions* to operate a powered water craft in Wisconsin. Illinois also now has the same requirement. With the Labor Day weekend coming up, please make sure you are familiar with WI boating laws/safety and the rules of WW Lake. . Our classes include state and locally enforced rules. Some unique requirements on our lakes that might be helpful to new comers:

- Slow no wake after 7 Pm on Friday, Saturday & holidays.
 - Ski or tube in a counter clockwise direction.
 - No more than two people being towed (ski or tube)
 - No small child in front of the driver on a wave-runner
- Safety**
- No skiing too close to other boats or inside the buoys
 - No anchoring and swimming off the boat in the traffic lanes

Remember safety vests or PFD’s (personal flotation devices) save lives. Please acquire & use proper & well-fitting PFD’s whenever you or your guests are on the waters.

Any Safety related concerns about boating or other activities on the Lake may be referred to Deputy Sean Blanton, myself or any other member of the board. Let’s all stay safe out there.

Larry Brady, Commissioner 

Chemical Treatment

Chemical treatment on both lakes went very smoothly this spring. Although overnight rains destroyed some of the lake front signs, applications efforts were greeted by sunshine and smooth waters. Rice Lake was treated Friday, May 29th and it included the entire residential shoreline. Results with regard to kill rate have been very good with our newest chemical; ProcellaCOR. It has a 3 year effectiveness rate. Whitewater was treated on both the north and south bays’ residential shorelines on Wed. June 10th.

As always, major kudos go out to our ski team members and this year’s leader Matt Kowalczyk for installing the Chemical Notifications signs on both lakes. A job well done though rains damaged some signs. Timing is everything.

Terry Anderson, Commissioner 

Candidates for Board Election

Mike Lindemuth, New Candidate

Nancy and I moved to Rice Lake in November of 2015. It was our dream for many years to experience the “Lake Life”. We have enjoyed our time here and appreciate the dedication of the many lake property owners to improve and enhance our beautiful lakes. The Lake Management Board, I believe, is one way I may contribute to our lake community and represent Rice Lake.

Professionally, I worked 20 years for Dun & Bradstreet in a variety of sales and sale’s management positions. I was with Ernst & Young for 10 years and most recently the founder and owner of a professional services business. My job experiences have taught me the value of collaboration and this, I feel, is an important aspect of serving on the Lake Management board.

Brad Corson, Incumbent Candidate

My wife, Dawn, and I have been property owners on Whitewater Lake for 25 years and have been full time residents since 2009. I have been an active member of the Whitewater-Rice Lake Management District since 2009 in the capacity of Audit Committee Chairman for 2 years and serving as Treasurer for the past 10 years. I have extensive business experience from my 32 years at Hyatt Hotels Corporation where I held the position of Vice President of Accounting prior to retiring in 2009. I graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelors of Science in Hotel & Restaurant Administration. With my financial and business experience, both professionally and prior service with the District, I believe I can continue to make a valuable contribution.

Lakeshore Management

The Lakeshore Management team has been working with Walworth County Parks in an effort to secure Natureland's shoreline. We had originally planned for a volunteer workday, but because the workday was canceled, we decided to trim our plant order in half and just Gerhard (husband) and I weeded the existing buffers and planted 96 brown fox sedges (*Carex vulpinoidea*) along shoreline areas to address erosion issues.

I recently purchased a very useful new book for shoreline erosion projects around our lakes, "Plants for Stormwater Design: Species Selection for the Upper Midwest" by Shaw and Schmidt. The book is a guide to native plants that optimize landscape function, specifically in areas that erode due to stormwater runoff or wave action. Each plant featured in the book includes a description of normal water levels for the species, flooding and other tolerances (such as wave action), design considerations, and wildlife use. All species include a photo of the plant and a graft to illustrate durational flood tolerances. For example, the graft for brown fox sedge describes the species as being tolerant of flooding between 12"-42" for up to three days, but can survive in 6" of water indefinitely.

Aquatic Invasive Species signage at the five boat launches on Whitewater and Rice Lakes were updated by the Lakeshore Management team last fall. Outdated and ineffectively placed signage was removed and replaced with new signage with assistance or guidance from the Town of Whitewater, Wi-DNR and Kettle Moraine State

If invasives are discovered early and reported promptly, we are better able to eradicate these species before they become a huge problem for our lakes.

Forest-SU. An aquatic invasive species that's on everyone's radar these days, and that hopefully hasn't arrived on our lakes, is starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*). This is a troublesome species, because it is extremely difficult, if not impossible to manage with herbicides. If you happen to notice starry stonewort in our lakes please notify WWLMD right way, there is a possibility that we might be able to contain and remove this menace before it spreads.

Many other lakes in our area participate in an Aquatic Invasive Species blitz event, where volunteers man boat launches and educate boaters about what to do about aquatic invasive species that might be transported on

their vessel. DNR freebies are given away during the blitz to make it fun for everyone. Hopefully, our lakes might participate in future blitzes if we can get volunteers who are willing to take the lead in this effort.

In addition to starry stonewort, please be on the lookout for two very problematic terrestrial invasive species that have recently made an appearance around our lakes, Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*). Both species were probably transported to our area by lawn mowing equipment. These exotic species are super aggressive and can be enormously destructive to landscapes, especially shorelands. Japanese knotweed can grow roots up to 65 feet in length, is rather tall and dense, and loves to live in that immediate shoreline area. It's an attractive plant, especially when in flower, but don't be fooled by its beauty, because this plant's destructive roots can grow in rock rip rap, has been known to damage home foundations and will eat pavement. Our lake's known JK outbreak is being managed with a three-pronged approach, root crowns were initially dug out with the help from a church volunteer youth group. Then the Lakeshore Management team followed up with some foliar herbicide treatments and then let the herbicide do its work before covering the area with several layers of tarp to smother the approximately 30' X 30' infestation area located on a steep slope. The eradication effort seems to be working, but this is an area that is shady and dry. JK thrives with sun and water, so will be much harder to control if its far-reaching roots work their way towards our shorelines.

Lesser celandine was discovered on at least five properties around Whitewater Lake and is a far less imposing plant than JK. It's actually rather cute and attractive, especially with its cheery little yellow blooms. LC is an extremely dense low-growing groundcover, which can often invade lawns and woodlands and is often overlooked at first. It thrives in shady-wet areas, but can also grow where it is dry and sunny. This plant overtakes ground vegetation and then goes completely dormant above ground in June, leaving bare soil for eight months of the year before it reemerges again the following March. Bare soil left in its wake can then erode and degrade water quality on our lakes. Small infestations can be dug out if you can manage to remove all the tubers from the ground and contain its seeds and bulbils. But for larger infestations you may have to resort to an herbicide. Unfortunately, there is an extremely tight window of opportunity to treat this plant with an herbicide, which is limited to when it

Lakeshore Management Continued

first emerges in March to just after it begins to flower in April. If treatment is delayed too long after flowers have formed, plants will just be top killed by the herbicide with little effect to tuberous underground growth. Most folks aren't going to notice LC at all until it flowers, but by then, herbicide treatment may be too late for that year.

We need many eyes on the landscape and in our waterbodies to look for outbreaks of exotic invasive species. If invasives are discovered early and reported

promptly, we are better able to eradicate these species before they become a huge problem for our lakes. So please learn about each, be proactive and report sightings immediately to the WWRLMD, Town of Whitewater or Walworth County Land Use and Resource Management.

Let's make Healthy Lakes Together healthylakeswi.com

Theresa Stegemann,
Lakeshore Management team leader

262-458-4226 theresa.stegemann@gmail.com 

Equipment Report

At the writing of this report, all harvesting equipment has been launched. Our 7 foot harvester will begin cutting on Rice Lake after chemical spraying is complete. Our 12 foot and 10 foot harvesters are available for harvesting on Whitewater Lake and will be cutting after chemical spraying has been completed. The large transport barge will be used for Saturday weed pick-ups from the end of the piers. Please make certain that only aquatic plants are placed at the end of your pier for pick-up. Grass, yard vegetation, leaves and sticks are materials that are not appropriate for pick-up by the Lake Management District, as they can damage our equipment. Extreme heavy winds/severe weather conditions may result in the postponement of a Saturday weed pick-up.

Please keep in mind at the start of each harvesting season, changes in operating personnel may take place. New operators require time for proper training in the safe and efficient operation of the equipment. Harvesters that appear to not be cutting weeds, usually is an indicator that new personnel are being trained. We appreciate your patience.

Chuck Chamberlain, Commissioner 

Fish Management

The lakes look good... best I have seen in the 65 years I have been here. Bass fishermen / women going by every morning seem happy with their catch... and mostly release. This in spite of the fact, that with the addition of the eagles nesting on Bird Island, we now have 5 bird species that make a living eating fish on our lakes!! Fishermen catches are mostly bass, a few 24 inch Northern Pike and some decent walleyes. Wacky worm seems to be the bait of choice. No report from the birds.

The DNR is in a shut down mode, so no plans to stock either Rice or Whitewater this year. We have a new local DNR fish management representative so there will be a learning process. Currently working to see if fish sampling could take place this Fall to verify Walleye reproduction in Whitewater and Pike reproduction in Rice are occurring, justifying the money we and the DNR have spent trying to make this happen. Call me 608 883 6664 if you catch a small northern pike or walleye...6-8 inches. That's good sign of natural reproduction.

In general, Carp activity seems to be much lower this Spring. Maybe the walleyes and pike are keeping the carp population in check... as is the plan.

If it appears the DNR will fish survey this Fall, then a good strategy for the lakes Management District would be not to stock fish this year... the stocked young mess up the survey count. More to follow.

Take someone fishing.

Tom Potrykus, Team Leader 

2021 WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES TAX ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Projected	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	2020 Projected vs 2020 Budget		2021 Budget vs 2020 Budget	
							Increase (Decrease)	% Change	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
OPERATIONS BUDGET TAX	\$ 240,053	\$ 195,827	\$ 216,415	\$ 231,128	\$ 231,128	\$ 229,210	\$ -	0.0%	\$ (1,918)	-0.8%
Cost per tax parcel	\$340.98	\$278.16	\$307.41	\$328.31	\$328.31	\$325.58	\$ -	0.0%	\$ (2.72)	-0.8%
CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TAX ASSESSMENT	\$56,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%
Cost per tax parcel	\$79.55	\$71.02	\$71.02	\$85.23	\$85.23	\$85.23	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%
TOTAL TAX ASSESSMENTS	\$296,053	\$245,827	\$266,415	\$291,128	\$291,128	\$289,210	\$ -	0.0%	\$ (1,918)	-0.7%
Cost per tax parcel	\$420.53	\$349.19	\$378.43	\$413.53	\$413.53	\$410.81	\$-	0.0%	\$(2.72)	-0.7%

WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES PROPOSED 2020 OPERATING BUDGET

Summary Operations Budget	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Projected	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	2020 Projected vs 2020 Budget		2021 Budget vs 2020 Budget	
							Increase (Decrease)	% Change	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
Revenue - Tax Assessments	\$296,053	\$245,827	\$266,415	\$291,128	\$291,128	\$289,210	\$ -	0.0%	\$ (1,918)	-0.7%
Interest Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -	-	-	-
DNR Grants	5,025	910	-	-	-	-	\$ -	-	-	-
Contributions & Other	1,557	1,980	3,063	1,264	2,000	1,500	\$ (736)	-36.8%	(500)	-25.0%
Total District Revenue	\$302,635	\$248,717	\$269,478	\$292,392	\$293,128	\$290,710	\$ (736)	-0.3%	\$ (2,418)	-0.8%
Operating Expenses										
Weed Harvesting	39,429	44,307	47,519	41,925	47,842	58,550	\$ (5,917)	-12.4%	10,708	22.4%
Chemical Treatment & Other	53,513	94,994	107,641	75,340	112,300	112,000	\$ (36,960)	-32.9%	(300)	-0.3%
Bog Removal	28,880	44,722	42,416	58,739	59,509	59,019	\$ (770)	-1.3%	(490)	-0.8%
Repairs & Maintenance	40,867	33,096	33,097	30,697	33,205	31,618	\$ (2,508)	-7.6%	(1,587)	-4.8%
General & Administrative	16,682	17,620	20,185	17,911	18,450	31,298	\$ (539)	-2.9%	12,848	69.6%
Total Operating Expenses	179,370	234,739	250,858	224,612	271,306	292,485	(46,694)	-17.2%	21,180	7.8%
Capital Reserve Fund	56,000	50,000	50,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	\$ -	0.0%	-	0.0%
Prior Year Surplus (Deficit) Carryover	54,131	121,397	85,375	53,995	38,178	61,775	\$ 15,817	41.4%	23,597	61.8%
Net Surplus (Deficit) Carryover	121,397	85,375	53,995	61,775	(0)	0	61,775		0	

Assessed Valuation (000 omitted)	\$253,949	\$262,745	\$268,672	\$268,672	\$268,672
Change from Prior Yr	5.4%	3.5%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Mil Rate	0.86	1.07	1.01	0.92	0.92
Average Assmt (704 Parcels)	\$421	\$349	\$378	\$414	\$413

WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES CAPITAL RESERVE FUND ACTIVITY

Capital Reserve Fund	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Projected	2021 Budget
Beginning Fund Balance	\$45,196	\$77,820	\$19,819	\$63,099	\$75,568
Additions:					
Transfer from Operations					
Budgeted capital assessments	59,000	50,000	50,000	60,000	60,000
Interest income earned/transfd	129	152	141	100	10
DNR Grants & Other		19,674	1,500	-	-
Total Additions	59,129	69,826	51,641	60,100	60,010
Expenditures					
Equipment Purchases	(26,505)	(127,826)	(8,361)	(47,631)	(45,500)
Ending Fund Balance	\$77,820	\$19,819	\$63,099	\$75,568	\$90,078

2020 Financial Update and 2021 Proposed Budget

At this point, only the Chemical Treatment operation has been finalized and came at \$75,340, or \$36,960 under budget. The Weed Harvesting and Maintenance expenses are projected to both come in under their respective budgets with weeds in good shape and no major breakdowns. So, 2020 expenses are projected to come in under budget by \$46,694 and with the additional carry over surplus from 2019 of \$15,817, gives us a total projected surplus in 2020 of \$61,775. For the 2021 Budget, we will have two expense items not present in 2020, our DNR required 5-Year lake plan for \$11,000 and a proposed member survey for \$12,500. Leaving all other expenses largely at the same level as budgeted in 2020 gives a total operating expense budget \$292,485 and a Capital Budget of \$60,000. The carry over surplus from 2020 allows us to leave the 2021 Tax Assessment at almost the exact same amount, or \$289,210, a decrease of \$1,918. For 2020 Capital, we completed the refurbishment of the 12-foot weed harvester for \$44,631. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in acquiring a grant from the DNR on that project and as such, will not be able to purchase the new Weed Hydraulic trailer approved for this year. Rather we are proposing that be completed in 2021.

Brad Corson, Treasurer 



Annual Meeting and Budget Review

Where: Fuzzy Pig barn *Please note change of venue
(Bring masks and plan to social distance)*
N8660 Clover Valley Rd, Whitewater

When: Saturday, August 22, 2020

Agenda: 9:00am Opening remarks
Rich Charts, Chairman
Call to Order and Introductions
Approval of 2019 Annual
Meeting Minutes
9:05 Presentation of Candidates to
the Board and Elections:
Brad Corson / Mike Lindemuth
9:15 Financials
2019 Actuals - Brad Corson
Capital Plan – Chuck Chamberlain
2020 Proposed Budget – Brad Corson
Audit Report – Dominick Fashoda

9:45 Lake Conditions and Safety
Larry Brady and Terry Anderson
9:55 Open Discussion/Resident Input
10:05 End of District Segment
10:05 GWLPOA Annual Meeting
Lillian Roy
10:30 Brief Lake District Board Meeting
Election of officers and
administrative approvals

Next Annual Meeting August 21, 2021