



Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District

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



Annual Meeting Overview

We invite you to join us for our Annual Meeting at the Lions Club on Saturday, August 24 at 9 A.M. We have a lot to cover as you will see in this newsletter and the highlights below.

Last year we began our transition to hiring and managing our own team of employees, albeit not by choice, but we learned it enables us to be more accountable to our community and to provide better care for our lakes and equipment. This summer we are again blessed to work with a talented and dedicated team of employees led by our crew chief, Scott Center.

Our new 7 ft. Aquarius harvester was delivered to Rice Lake in May, and it will be a boon to our harvesting efforts on that lake. Half of the cost of the harvester was paid by a grant from the Wisconsin DNR.

The DNR also approved a new, ten-year permit for bog harvesting with the possibility of a five-year extension. We issued a request for proposal for our fall bog work; if you know someone who might be interested, please let us know.

We will present a proposed 2025 budget and five-year capital plan to the membership, as well as six proposed bylaw amendments recommended by our Board. The first three revisions conform District bylaws to Wisconsin State Statutes.

Since the sale of JNT in 2022, the Board has explored permanent solutions for storing and maintaining our equipment. This issue has been discussed on and off at Annual Meetings since the Lake Management District was formed in the late 1980's. We will update our efforts including potential options and funding sources.


Lake volunteers assisted the Department of Agriculture round up of 53 geese on the south end of Whitewater Lake. We are grateful for the efforts Ernie Roy and his team for removing these disease carrying birds from our waters.

We are fortunate to have a well-staffed and experienced team to lead our lake safety efforts. This year the sheriff's patrol, again led by Captain Jake Hintz, includes two, newly retired policemen, one of whom is the former chief of police in the City of Whitewater. We look forward to hearing from Walworth County Sheriff Dave Gerber.

We will honor Rich Charts for his 17 years of service to the Lake Management District, including 12 years as chair. We are grateful to Rich for his wonderful leadership and we are pleased to introduce Bob Sczinski, a lake homeowner and a strong candidate who is running for Rich's seat.

Come and learn about our plans and costs, add your input, and vote on items identified in this newsletter. The GWLPOA, which helps build a strong sense of community across the lake district, will also present their annual report and slate of candidates.


You are invited to arrive early at the Lions Club and have coffee and snacks while you meet and greet your neighbors. Free-will donations for the homemade snacks will be used to support Walworth County's K-9 unit. Hope to see you on the 24th!

Carol Ducommun, Chairman 

Chemical Treatments

Lake and Pond Solutions (LPS), our current provider for chemical spraying, surveyed both lakes in early May to identify and map weed growth and submit their treatment recommendations to the Wisconsin DNR. Based on the contractor's survey results and cost estimates, the board authorized LPS to treat Eurasian Milfoil on 69.7 acres of Whitewater Lake. The District elected not to treat Rice Lake, however, based on the DNR's recommendation and is instead managing the weeds there with our new, 7 ft. harvester. The approved Whitewater Lake spraying map is available on the Operations page of our website.

We are conducting a barley straw experiment on Rice Lake with the Wisconsin DNR to determine whether barley straw can slow the growth of algae. In the experiment, which we are funding, we hang bags of barley straw under piers in two areas and send water samples from there as well as a control site to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene for analysis. Results from last summer's efforts, which are available on our website, did not show measurable improvement much as we expected for the first year. We hope to see positive results in the next year or two.

Mike Lindenmuth, Commissioner 

Equipment Report

We had a smooth start to the 2024 harvesting season getting all the equipment ready for operation. Scott Center, our crew chief, and our harvesting crew removed all the equipment from winter storage and got it prepped and launched by May 31.

Our new 7 ft. harvester, which replaced an older, inoperative unit, was originally scheduled for delivery in 2025. We received good news this spring that the new harvester was moved up on the production schedule by the manufacturer (Aquarius Systems), enabling us to accept delivery on May 23.

The new harvester was launched on Rice Lake and will remain there for the harvesting season, as needed. Presently all equipment is fully operational, with both Whitewater and Rice Lakes benefiting from harvesting operations. Moving forward, the Board will continue planning to replace older equipment and searching for a property/storage facility for all the Lake District equipment

Chuck Chamberlain, Commissioner 

Bog Report

The first bog of the year rose in mid-June, two weeks ahead of 2023. Last year we had a new crew and tried a different dredge machine. Learning new techniques, we still picked up many truckloads of floating debris from the navigation lanes, as well as floaters that had been floating up to shorelines and under piers.

On-the-job training cost was costly, however, and last fall we exceeded our bog harvesting budget. This year we are legally mandated to repay capital funds that we borrowed last year to pay our contractor, so bog harvesting likely will be limited to navigation lanes and shoreline pickups. Be careful of the hidden bogs below water level.

We were granted a new, ten-year bog harvesting permit from the DNR this spring, with the potential for a five-year extension. Our primary goal remains safety and navigation hazard removal with a secondary goal of nutrient removal.

Rich Charts, Commissioner 

Weed Harvesting

This year the main thrust of our early season harvesting effort was to remove as much curly leaf pondweed as possible since this invasive weed grows early, forms mats on the surface of the water, and typically dies off by mid-June. Once it dies, its seed pods remain active and can germinate as soon as mid-summer or for up to five years, even if they were sprayed with herbicide. Unless we harvest these plants, they ultimately sink to the bottom where the plant material decomposes and releases phosphorus, which contributes to algae growth.

According to surveys conducted in May, curly leaf is the dominant invasive species on Rice Lake this year while Eurasian milfoil is the predominant weed on Whitewater Lake. Pockets of curly leaf can be also found on Whitewater Lake, however, around the south end and in Isabella Bay and several other areas.

We began harvesting on Whitewater Lake in early June following the mandatory two-week waiting period after we sprayed for milfoil there in May. On Rice Lake our DNR permit prohibits us from harvesting until after June 30 when fish spawning is completed. This year, however, we obtained special permission from the DNR to begin harvesting curly leaf pondweed strictly in the navigation lanes in mid-May before it died and settled to the bottom.

As this article is being written, we are finding only modest amounts of Eurasian milfoil to harvest on both lakes. The curly leaf pondweed that emerged this spring has already been harvested. We do not know how densely these invasives will grow throughout the rest of the summer, but our crew is fully staffed and ready to tackle weed growth in any areas where we are permitted to cut.

Carol Ducommun, Commissioner 

Fish Management

It was a quiet winter for fishing. Thin ice forced the Lion's Club to cancel its Fish-A-Ree Ice Fishing Tournament, and medical issues kept the carp netting contractor off Rice Lake. However, based on catch reports, fishing was off to a good start in May, with several "keeper" walleye pike being caught, along with the usual assortment of bass, northern pike and panfish.

Last fall, the Wisconsin DNR stocked over 6,000 seven-inch juvenile walleye pike, while your Lake Management District stocked 800 black crappie and 960 yellow perch. This year, the DNR will not be stocking Whitewater Lake since its surveys indicate healthy fish populations there. Stocking for Rice Lake is on hold pending completion of water improvement programs. The Lake Management District will continue our own fish stocking efforts this fall, however, most likely perch and crappie.

We now have four fish cribs in place in Whitewater Lake, and sonar images confirm fish are using the artificial habitat as a place to hide. I just caught two relatively small, northern pike, suggesting the larger fish may be naturally reproducing. I appreciate photos and stories about the "big ones" you catch, but information about the little ones is useful too.

Tom Potrykus, Fish Manager 

Safety Team Report

The District held Boaters' Safety courses in May and June at the Lions Club and had forty-five students enrolled in the courses. The course is open to anyone 10 years or older and is also available online at www.dnr.wi.gov at a cost of \$25. Anyone born on or after January 1, 1989, **must** have a permit to operate a motorboat in Wisconsin (& Illinois.)

Officer Sean Blanton will be leaving the District after 14 years conducting the Boater's Safety Course and leading our Sheriff's Patrol on the lake. We thank him for his time and efforts to make boating on our lakes a lot safer. With Sean's departure, there will be a hole in leading the program. If you or someone you know may be interested in teaching or assisting the class for the 2025 boating season, please contact me or Carol Ducommun. It is not a big commitment of time, and it will be of great service to the boating public.

Important reminder: Know your local lake requirements and Wisconsin boating laws. Rules can change from time to time, so watch for important emails from the GWLPOA. Please feel free to let me know of any safety concerns at larry@whitewaterlake.org


Larry Brady, Team Leader 

Lakeshore Management

Night skies around Whitewater and Rice Lake provide some of the best stargazing opportunities in the area. The surrounding State Forest limits artificial light sources to allow the moon and stars to take center stage. Starting mid-July and lasting through August, the Perseids meteor shower will be visible in our area, producing 50-75 shooting stars every hour.

Keeping your exterior lights to a minimum will provide the best viewing experience and allow wildlife to maintain their natural rhythms of day and night. Best practices include using exterior lights only where needed, pointing lights downward, using timers, and using low-intensity, warm-colored bulbs. Please be courteous to your neighbors, both human and animal, and turn off non-essential lighting in the evening.

Visit <https://darksky.org/> for more information about the effects of artificial light.

Brian Rahmandar, Team Leader
Brian.rahmandar@gmail.com 

GWLPOA Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the GWLPOA will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Lake Management District on August 24th. Our brief presentation will include a synopsis of our "year in review" and our organization's financial and business reports. The 2024-2025 GWLPOA board members will be presented for approval at this meeting. We have three board members retiring this year. If you are interested in serving on the GWLPOA board, please contact Nancy Lindenmuth at nancyjlingenmuth@gmail.com. We hope to see you there.

Nancy Lindenmuth, President GWLPOA 

Financial Results

In 2023 the Lake Management District incurred a loss of \$19,600 due to overspending on our fall bog harvesting efforts, requiring us to borrow from our capital reserves to pay our harvesting contractor. The Board subsequently passed a revised financial plan for 2024 to reduce spending and restore our capital, as we are required to do. Compared to the 2024 budget, the financial plan reflects lower spending on weed harvesting, chemical treatment and bog removal. These savings will be slightly reduced by increased expenditures for equipment storage, accounting services, and insurance as we continue our transition to operating without a subcontractor.

Consistent with the past three years, chemical costs in 2024 reflect spraying only Whitewater Lake, and not Rice Lake. In May we treated 69.7 acres on Whitewater Lake with ProcellaCOR, advertised as a three-year solution for treating Eurasian Milfoil which is the predominant invasive weed there. For 2025, we are reducing the chemical budget by \$10,000 from the 2024 plan and are investigating using a lake management consultant to help us make decisions about managing aquatic invasive species on both lakes.

Our new, DNR-approved, ten-year bog harvesting plan approved the removal of approximately 10,000 cu. yd. of bog material over 10 years, or roughly 1,000 cu. yd. per year. Last fall, we hired a contractor with dredging equipment to work in conjunction with our harvesting crew who operated our equipment including our

transport barge, shoreline conveyor, large dump truck, and a harvester. Together they worked for 19.5 days and removed 2,550 cu. yds. of bog material. This fall we are targeting 7-8 days of bog harvesting to yield 1,000 cu. yds. and to operate within the constraints of our 2024 financial plan. The 2025 budget will be increased to support approximately 11.5 days of operation yielding 1,500 cu. yds. Our primary focus continues to be removing bogs from navigation lanes and residents' lakefronts.

Our five-year capital plan reflects the purchase of our 7 ft. weed harvester that was delivered in May at a cost of \$269,500, offset by a 50% DNR grant, and a new 10 ft. harvester in 2026/2027 to replace our existing 10 ft. harvester. The capital plan also includes a 30% downpayment for 2025 to purchase land and a building for \$450,000 to store and maintain our equipment as discussed at last year's annual meeting.

Our 2023 storage expenses reflect higher costs than anticipated to find large space with 15 ft. high doors to accommodate our large equipment. Storage costs in 2024 include additional space for our new 7' harvester, while 2025 costs include seven months of debt service for a building instead of rental costs. Legal and professional costs for 2025 reflect real estate closing costs and increased insurance for the new building and a full year with the new harvester.

Dan Berg, Treasurer 

Email Notices from Lake District

Wisconsin State Statute 33.30(2)(a) concerning notification of Lake District meetings was modified in 2023 to allow email notification to those electors and property owners who have agreed to receive such notice.

PERMISSION TO RECEIVE EMAIL NOTICE OF LAKE DISTRICT MAILINGS

I hereby authorize the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District to send emails including our newsletters, which notice the annual meeting in August each year, in lieu of paper copies by mail.

All property owners for your address should sign this form if you agree to receive email notice.

You may bring the completed form to our Annual Meeting on August 24, 2024, at the Lions Club or mail it to the Lake Management District at the address below.

Printed Name _____ Signature _____

Email Address _____

Printed Name _____ Signature _____

Email Address _____

Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District, P.O. Box 301, Whitewater, WI 53190

2025 WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES TAX ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Financial Plan	2024 Projected	2025 Budget	2024 Projected vs 2024 Fin Plan		2025 Budget vs 2024 Budget	
							Increase (Decrease)	% Change	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
OPERATIONS BUDGET TAX ASSESSMENT	\$ 154,276	\$ 193,950	\$ 247,443	\$ 247,443	\$ 247,443	\$ 253,010	\$ (0)	0.0%	\$ 6,267	2.5%
Cost per tax parcel	\$219.14	\$275.50	\$351.48	\$351.48	\$351.48	\$359.39	(0)	0.0%	\$ 7.83	2.5%
CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TAX ASSESSMENT	\$120,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	-	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%
Cost per tax parcel	\$170.45	\$85.23	\$85.23	\$85.23	\$85.23	\$85.23	-	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%
TOTAL TAX ASSESSMENTS	\$274,276	\$253,950	\$307,443	\$307,443	\$307,443	\$313,010	(0)	0.0%	\$ 6,267	2.0%
Cost per tax parcel	\$342.85	\$317.44	\$384.30	\$384.30	\$384.30	\$392.14	(0)	0.0%	\$7.83	2.0%

WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES PROPOSED 2025 OPERATING BUDGET

Summary Operations Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Financial Plan	2024 Projected	2025 Budget	2024 Projected vs 2024 Fin Plan		2025 Budget vs 2024 Budget	
							Increase (Decrease)	% Change	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
Revenue - Tax Assessments	\$274,276	\$253,950	\$307,443	\$307,443	\$307,443	\$313,010	\$ (0)	0.0%	\$ 6,267	2.0%
Other Income	2,072	1,307	800	800	1,399	800	599	74.9%	-	0.0%
DNR Grants	358	8,437	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Launch Fees	686	785	200	200	245	200	45	22.5%	-	0.0%
Total District Revenue	\$277,392	\$264,479	\$308,443	\$308,443	\$309,087	\$314,010	\$644	0.2%	\$6,267	2.0%
Operating Expenses										
Weed Harvesting	19,268	55,371	42,101	38,301	30,771	40,000	(7,531)	-19.7%	\$ (2,101)	-5.0%
Chemical Treatment & Other	86,739	84,639	110,500	93,500	96,568	90,160	3,068	3.3%	(20,340)	-18.4%
Bog Removal	-	76,522	48,527	26,500	29,961	45,000	3,461	13.1%	(3,527)	-7.3%
Repairs & Maintenance	31,876	45,628	35,873	38,600	40,247	44,700	1,647	4.3%	8,827	24.6%
General & Administrative	25,675	29,183	27,105	29,042	29,041	34,850	(1)	0.0%	7,745	28.6%
Total Operating Expenses	163,559	291,343	264,106	225,943	226,587	254,010	644	0.01	(9,396)	-3.6%
Capital Reserve Fund	60,000	120,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	-	0.0%	\$ -	0.0%
Prior Year Surplus (Deficit) Carryover	73,436	127,270	15,663	-	-	-	-	0	\$ (15,663)	-100.0%
Net Surplus (Deficit) Carryover	127,270	(19,594)	(0)	22,500	22,500	-	(0)		(22,500)	

	(actual)	(actual)	(actual)	(est)
Assessed Valuation (000 omitted)	\$295,836	\$330,886	\$399,173	419,132
Change from Prior Yr	4.9%	11.8%	20.6%	5%
Mil Rate	0.93	0.77	0.77	0.75
Average Assmt (705 Parcels)	\$343	\$317	\$384	\$392

WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES CAPITAL RESERVE FUND ACTIVITY

Capital Reserve Fund	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Projected	2025 Budget
Beginning Fund Balance	\$107,367	\$136,484	\$169,309	\$171,011
Additions:				
Transfer from Operations				
Budgeted capital assessments	60,000	120,000	60,000	60,000
Interest income	102	545	350	250
DNR Grants & Other	13,800	76,475	67,475	-
Total Additions	73,902	197,020	127,825	60,250
Expenditures				
Loan to Operating Fund	-	(22,500)	22,500	-
Equipment Purchases	(44,785)	(141,695)	(148,623)	(135,000)
Ending Fund Balance	\$136,484	\$169,309	\$171,011	\$96,261

Recommended 2024 Changes to District Bylaws

The Board recommends approval of the following changes to our bylaws, which were most recently amended in 2013. The first three items are recommended to conform our bylaws with Wisconsin State Statutes and the remaining items are minor clarifying changes. Our bylaws can be found on the “About” page of our website.

1. **Article II** will be amended to confirm that the parties who can vote at the Annual Meeting includes all electors and all real property owners whose name appears on the District’s tax roll.
2. **Article V**
 - a. **Section 2** will be amended to allow email notifications to electors and property owners who have agreed to receive such notice.
 - b. **Section 5** will be amended to clarify that any elector or property owner may add items to the Annual Meeting agenda by submitting a petition at least 30 days prior to the meeting (as opposed to the 45 days currently provided) and delete the phrase “as the board may determine.”
3. **Article VI** will be amended to delete the restriction on Board members or their family conducting business with the District.
4. **Article I:** will be amended to clarify that the District does not own nor have control over Rice Lake Dam.
5. **Article IV Section 2:** will be amended to change the current requirement requiring an “audit committee” of three electors to a requirement that it obtain an “Independent Financial Review” as recommended by the Wisconsin Lakes organization
6. **Correct spelling of “voter roll”** throughout the document.

Carol Ducommun, Candidate for Board

My husband, Steve, and I bought our home on Whitewater Lake in 1995 and enjoyed spending weekends here with our family for many years. Now, we are delighted to be able to spend more time at the lake, with visits from our children and grandchildren as their schedules allow.

After 20 years in the corporate world working in strategy, finance and engineering, I embarked on a career in volunteer public service. I served three, four-year terms on the New Trier School Board, including as President and Vice President, and one term on the Wilmette Village Board. I have an MBA in Finance and a BS in Operations Research and Industrial Engineering, both from Cornell University.

In 2021, I led the Lake Management District’s steering team that created six Navigator teams to address issues raised in the spring survey of property owners. The teams worked throughout the fall and winter of that year and ultimately made recommendations to District, the towns of Richmond and Whitewater, and the GWLPOA. In 2022, I was elected to the Lake Management District, where I now serve as the chairman and weed harvesting commissioner. It is my pleasure to work with a superb team of fellow board members, employees and volunteers and I would be honored to continue working on the many exciting initiatives that we have underway.

Robert Szcinski, Candidate for Board

What a dream to find Whitewater Lake, a home that needed some love and begin creating a wonderful place for lasting memories. That has been the mantra of Jodi and I since we found Whitewater Lake in August of 2020. It’s our place of peace, happiness and never-ending projects :-). We will continue that journey and love to create, meet new friends, and keep our gift of Whitewater and Rice Lake and the community in the best shape ever.

I have worked in the corporate world for over 30 years for Philip Morris, Kraft Foods, Mondelez International and McCain Foods, in Engineering, Operations and Technology, locally, regionally and internationally. I hold an MBA in International Business, MS in Manufacturing Engineering and BS in Electrical Engineering. I’ve traveled and worked with communities in over 60 countries and over that time, learned a lot about business, manufacturing, bringing people and technology together to get “stuff” done. I have been the President of our Condominium Association for the past five years in Highland Park, IL and transformed how we run the Board, manage the budget, plan and execute our projects, and work. I am also part of several Professional Associations.

Giving back is something important to me and as I think about the opportunity with the Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District. It will give me a chance to give back through the experiences I have gained over the years and help the Board, and community be its best no matter what challenges come our way.

Annual Meeting and Budget Review

- Where:** Lions Club at N7470 Kettle Moraine Drive
- When:** 9 A.M. on Saturday, August 24, 2024
- Agenda:**
- 9:00 Call to Order and Opening Remarks – Carol Ducommun, Chair
 - Introduction of Board Members and District employees
 - Approve 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes
 - 9:05 Review by Commissioners
 - Chemical & Barley Initiative – Mike Lindenmuth
 - Weed Harvesting – Carol Ducommun
 - Bog Removal – Rich Charts
 - Equipment – Chuck Chamberlain
 - Purchase of land and building – Carol Ducommun
 - Financials: 2024 Actuals – Dan Berg
 - 2025 Capital Plan – Chuck Chamberlain
 - 2025 Proposed Budget – Dan Berg
 - Report of Outside Financial Review – Don Olinger
 - 10:15 Comments by Sheriff Dave Gerber
 - 10:20 Introduction of candidates & voting: Carol Ducommun, Bob Szcynski
 - 10:25 Presentation on Lake Initiatives
 - Wildlife Management -Ernie Roy
 - Fish Management - Tom Potrykus
 - Safety -Larry Brady/Amy Rodgers
 - Navigator: Wakes and Shoreline Erosion -Jeff Panek
 - Shoreland Management -Brian Rahmander
 - 10:35 Proposed Bylaw Amendments – Carol Ducommun
 - 10:45 Five Minute Break
 - 10:50 GWLPOA Annual Meeting Agenda – Nancy Lindenmuth
 - 11:05 Election Results
 - 11:05 Honor Outgoing Board Member: Rich Charts
 - 11:10 Input from Town of Whitewater and Richmond
 - 11:15 Open Discussion/Resident Input
 - 11:30 Adjournment – Next Meeting August 23,2025
 - 11:30 Brief Lake District Board Meeting

Votes will be taken on each of the following matters:

- election of two board candidates
- proposed amendments to District Bylaws
- 2025 budget and capital spending plan
- authority to incur up to \$450,000 of debt to purchase land and a building for District purposes

WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES



Management District



P.O. Box #301
Whitewater, WI 53190