



WHITEWATER-RICE LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

P.O. Box 301
Whitewater, WI 53190



MINUTES OF BUDGET HEARING / ANNUAL MEETING

AUGUST 26th, 2017

Revised 9-1-17

The Whitewater/Rice Lakes Management Budget Hearing / Annual Meeting was held at Lakeview School and called to order by Chairman Rich Charts at 8:35 AM. Approximately 50 property owners including board members and were present. Rich then introduced the board members

Rich began the meeting thanking everyone for attending and continued with the following comments: Conditions were steady through the season, algae was visible on the north lobe and managed, zebra mussels are still down, water clarity is good, and weed growth varied in different areas of the lake.

ADMINISTRATION

Rich asked for a motion to approve the August 27th, 2016 annual meeting minutes. Motion was made by Tom Potrykus and seconded by Val Vesley to approve the minutes. Motion Carried.

REVIEW BY COMMISSIONERS

Power point presentations were given by commissioners and on lake initiatives

Ernie Roy, chemical leader, reported a survey was done on April 25th, 2017 and 60 acres were chemically treated on May 18th, 2017. The 5 year Aquatic Plant Management Plan by SEWRPC is now in hand. He is recommending a study be done on Rice Lake to bring carp and algae under control. He is suggesting that \$10,000 of the 2017 surplus be for a SEWRPC study. A discussion and approval was covered under finance. Rich then approached the podium and spoke of the 6 years Ernie was on the board working yearly with the chemical project and thanked him for the many volunteer hours he served and gave him a token of the board's appreciation.

Larry Brady, weed harvesting leader, reported there are four types of aquatic plants: Native Milfoil, Eurasian Milfoil, Hybrid Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pond Weed. Only invasive weeds can be chemically treated. The machine operators focus on navigation between piers and no wake buoys. Saturday pier pickup is a normal routine. Private harvesting can be done by raking the weeds from piers and shorelines. Weeds taken out of the lake whether by hand or on boats, trailers, or anchors need to be disposed of away from the lake along with grass clippings and leaves.

Rich Charts, bog leader, reported at this time the bog is not as active as in past years. Our permit to harvest bog will expire in 6 years. The DNR has accepted SEWRPC'S recommendation that harvesting bog be continued. Harvesting will begin after Labor Day to mid October. Property owners should call a board member if large pieces of bog break off and are by their property. If possible bog should be pushed out from shore when harvesters are present so they can pick it up.

Chuck Chamberlain, equipment leader, spoke about the progress purchasing a shore conveyor and dump truck. This purchase was voted upon at the 2016 budget hearing. A grant was applied for and we were awarded a grant of 35% which was said to arrive in August of 2017. Once the grant is received Chuck will move forward in the search to purchase the conveyor and truck. The conveyor will cost approximately \$35,951 after the grant is received. Paddle wheels on the 10' harvester were replaced over the winter. Chuck entertained a motion from the floor for approval to continue this Capital plan project. Motion was made by Tom Koppleman and seconded by Val Vesley. Motion Carried.

Brad Corson, finance leader, reviewed the 2017 projected operating expenses and the proposed 2018 Budget. The operating budget is projected to have a surplus of \$89,390 at the end of 2017. Brad recommended \$20,000 be returned to the Capital Fund. Discussion from the floor increased the amount to \$50,000, \$60,000 and to \$70,000. Gordon Philips motioned \$50,000 be put into the Capital Fund, seconded by Dick Kelly. Discussion followed by an amendment from Tom Koppleman and seconded by Doug Goodrich to increase the amount to \$60,000. Motion Failed. There were 23 people were in favor of \$50,000 and 16 people were in favor of \$60,000 with a test straw vote showed which levels were more popular so a vote could be taken. Brad motioned that from the operating budget of \$286,916, \$50,000 be moved to the Capital Fund, seconded by Russ Nelson. Motion Carried. Ernie then motioned a \$10,000 study of Rice Lake be done, seconded by Larry Loizzo. Motion Carried. Brad motioned that the 2018 budget be approved as presented and comprised of an Operating Budget of \$286,917, Capital Fund of \$50,000 and a Tax Assessment of \$245,827

Dominick Fashoda gave a report about the financial audit of the books by saying he went over all check book deposits, expenditures, minutes, contracts, and bid proposals and found the books to be in compliance. He commended Brad and the board for a great job handling the property tax dollars and assured the property owners their money is properly accounted for.\

Election – Rich introduced Terry Anderson as a candidate to the board to replace Ernie Roy. Terry spoke that he is committed to the responsibility of the quality of the lakes. Tom Potrykus motioned that Terry be elected to the board, seconded by Gene Migely. Motion Carried

Wildlife Management – Dave Cleven reported that this was another good year of attempting to manage the Canadian Goose problems. Approximately 49 geese were rounded up. Goose meat is ground up and given to a food pantry. The Wisconsin DNR is aware of the Double Crested Cormorant Birds on Bird Island and at this time cannot be eliminated. A thank you was extended to all volunteers who help with goose management.

Lake Quality – Tom Ganfiled partnering with Terry Anderson are members of the DNR Citizens Lake Monitoring Program. He reviewed the Secchi Readings on both lakes. Stress was again emphasized that phosphorous should not infiltrate our lakes.

Safety – In the absence of Deputy Shawn Blanton, Larry Brady spoke about the Boating Safety Classes that were held with 17 students participating. He reported there were 130 warnings, 25 citations, and 3 arrests for controlled substances. Residents discussed buoy placement and their issues with them. Deputy Blanton will be made aware of their concerns.

Fish Management – Tom Potrykus gave a presentation saying we have good fishing lakes. The state stocked 7000 3” walleyes in Whitewater Lake and 1450 Northern Pike in Rice Lake. The Walleye Spawning Habitat continues to move forward. The application for a permit has been filed. The habitat should be completed in 2018.

In the absence of Ray Baker heading up Carp Abatement, Bernie spoke in his behalf saying an effort was made to net carp and was found that the nets used were too large, and smaller nets will be used in the near future. Cory Dillon who was awarded the carp harvesting permit will continue to work with us.

Lakeshore Management - Theresa Stegeman introduced herself and husband Gerhard as actively taking interest in lake shore plantings and the Wisconsin Healthy Lakes Implementation Plan. She reviewed the importance of “Landscaping” by planting more native plants. She spoke of work done at Natureland County Park and the next work day being Nov 4th, 2017 at 9 AM. Work is also being done on Rice Lake Cliff Messenger State Natural Area, Whitewater Lake Beach Path and Rice Lake Nature Trail. She ended her talk with this quote: “The natural shoreline is one of the most biologically diverse natural habitats in the Midwest.” (Taken from the book: Landscaping for Wildlife and Water Quality)

In the absence of Lowell Hagen, Bob Strand, Town Road Supervisor spoke of tree trimming being done on East Lake Shore Drive. Discussion from the property owners regarding the buoys and place was agitated and Bob was unprepared to answer many questions. He will take concerns back to Lowell to be discussed at a future town board meeting.

Next meeting – August 25th, 2018

Motioned to adjourn the meeting was made by Denise Charts and seconded by Val Vesley. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:46 AM.

GWLPOA held a short meeting following.

Brief District Board Meeting followed.

Respectfully Submitted

Susie Speerbrecher / Clerk