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Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District

P.O. Box #301 • Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190

www.whitewaterlake.org • www.gwlpoa.org



Chairman's Greeting

Despite subzero temperature and gathering restrictions, the Lions Club held a successful though reduced ice Fish-a-Ree in February using online streaming, fish postings and a drive-thru breakfast showing that we can continue to do activities year-round. I see solid ice as I write this and looking at forecasts a month ahead, but on final submission it's opening fast. Ice outs have been as early as February 22 and as late as April 7. Prior years are never an indicator of what to expect. Unless the ice lasts until May it will not affect our seasonal preparations.

The Board always prepares for the worst as we anticipate the best in conditions. The year 2020 on our lakes was one of the nicest in memory though crowded as more people spent their year full-time on the lakes. We need to be mindful and courteous of others so that all can be safe while enjoying our many activities. Tom Potrykus, Mike Lindemuth and the UW-Whitewater have done a great job in obtaining your feedback with a survey about the lake. They will share their findings in the near future.

After skipping last year, we will again be searching for geese. Look for nests under decks and in hidden areas around your property or anywhere in your area. Dave and Fran Cleven who have coordinated this activity ask that if you see any geese during late April that you contact Ernie Roy at ernie@whitewaterlake.org. If you have not yet given permission to enter your property, please fill out the attached form and send it in. If you do not wish people on your property for this purpose, let Ernie Roy know and he will respect your wishes.

After 10 years of dedicated service, Larry Brady is leaving the Board. His yeoman work with weed harvesting has been evident with the improved recreational water quality of our lakes. A huge thank you to Larry for his service! If you wish to serve on the Board or to be slotted in the future, please let me know by June. We are looking for the next generation of leaders to manage our lakes.

There currently is a move to divert high water from the Lake Lorraine watershed to our headwaters in Natureland Park. We are concerned that this will aggravate and contribute to high water erosion and could significantly affect the quality of our lake waters that we have finally started to see and appreciate. Under Team Leader Ernie Roy and with the assist from Lillian's GWLPOA email blasts, homeowners with the backgrounds and expertise to address this issue have graciously volunteered and are working hard to make sure your interests are protected. A Big Thank You to your neighbors; the Roys, Ganfields, Paneks, Talbots, Drozds, DeMarbs, Mulcahys, Gelshenens, Levins, Ducommuns, Hershs, Kaisers, Ruffs, Waldherrs and Judge Hartigan for this outstanding work in research, planning, and mobilization they have done for all of us. Finally, a heartfelt shout out to the state legislators who have responded and made our voices heard. Please extend your appreciation to State Assembly Members Vruwink and Loudenbeck and State Senators Ringhand and Nass. Please thank them and remember them for their assistance. It is important that high water erosion and water quality continue to be monitored and improved by our Wisconsin DNR.

Finally, we thank ALL the volunteers and organizations who make the beauty of our lake possible every year including the Greater Whitewater Lake Property Owners Association (GWLPOA), the Southern Wakes United Ski Club, the Lions Club, Camp Joy, Scenic Ridge and JNT.

Rich Charts, Commissioner 

2021 Opinion Survey

At last year's Lake Management District Annual Meeting it was agreed that the Management District and the Greater Whitewater Lakes Property Owners Association would sponsor a property owner Opinion Survey in 2021. The purpose would be to benchmark property owner satisfaction with our lakes and their governance. It has been decades since the last comprehensive owner survey was conducted. The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater was selected to create the Survey questionnaire and interpret the results. The University team identified the topics to be explored during several focus group sessions they conducted with a sampling of lakes property owners.

The confidential Survey was conducted primarily using the internet, and when necessary via US mail. The Surveys went out the first week of March, with responses due back April 1. The results of the 2021 Survey will be used by the sponsors when developing their plans and budgets. Survey results should be available in May, with communication to the property owners thereafter. Hope you took the Survey and sent it in.

Tom Potrykus, Team Leader 
edited by guest Becky Morris and approved by Brian

Safety Team Report

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has suspended all in person Safety Courses till at least June 2021. Operation of a Motor Boat in Wisconsin (& Illinois) requires the operator or supervising adult to have a Boater's Safety Certificate if they were born after January 1, 1989. The Course is only available at dnr.wi.gov (cost \$25). The usual May class at the Township hall has been canceled for now. Should this status change,

We will update the District's WEB site & the GWLOA WEB site as well. Information on the course will be available from Larry Brady 847-975-6334 / larry@whitewaterlake.org or Deputy Sean Blanton at sblatz03@sbcglobal.net.

There is a potential for a course dates in June or July at the Scenic Ridge Campground which will depend on demand & the DNR's direction on in person classes. As the weather warms, let's all think "Safety." Please practice safe boating & show courtesy to your fellow boaters/PWC & skiers. "Safety is NO accident."

Important reminder: The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources no longer requires a "competent observer" be present in the boat/PWC if the boat or PWC is engaged in towing person(s) participating in aquatic activity (skiing, tubing, etc.). The water craft must be equipped with a large convex mirror designed to be mounted where the boat/PWC operator can observe person(s) being towed. The placement of the mirror must not interfere with the operator's line of sight. Questions? Please contact the Water Safety Patrol. Your Board strongly urges you to still have a "competent observer" present for increased safety during towing activities, however.

Larry Brady, Commissioner 

Equipment Report

- On January 12, 2021, the Lake District was approved by the Wisconsin Waterways Commission to receive a grant for 35% funding towards the replacement and purchase of a new Hydraulic Weed Trailer-Conveyor. This project was approved by the voters at our annual meeting in August, 2020 and will be replacing a 19 year old piece of equipment.
- The trailer-conveyor is used for transporting aquatic plant and bog material from both Whitewater and Rice Lakes. We currently are awaiting bids for this project with plans for the purchase of the trailer-conveyor this spring and having it available for the 2021 harvesting season.
- Our 10 foot Aquatic Weed Harvester is currently undergoing repairs to replace the diesel engine and perform some minor adjustments. The unit will be in service for the 2021 harvesting season.
- All current weed harvesting equipment will be removed from winter storage and prepared for launching and operation during the latter part of May.

Chuck Chamberlain, Commissioner 

Harvesting Report

After a mild Early Winter – followed by a brutal February, "Spring" is arriving just in time! Spring brings with it open waters & eventually boats, skiers, PWCs &, of course, Aquatic growth – "weeds." The last few seasons has seen the Lake kind to the boaters/swimmers with lower overall growth & fewer invasive varieties. Your Management District believes that will continue & additional success along these lines will be possible.

2021 saw the District receive a Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for financial assistance (Wi 67 % / WWRLMD 33 %) with reviewing our current five-year Management Plan. The update is necessary to comply with DNR requirements to obtain a new five-year Weed Harvesting Permit. Our current permit expired at the end of 2020 but we will be granted a one-year extension to take advantage of the grant award. With that award approval, the District is moving forward with a Plan Update & with the assistance of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Updates on our progress will be reviewed at our annual meeting this August.

The Saturday pickup of weeds from piers will continue the first Saturday after Memorial Day. Please have the aquatic materials on the ends of the pier no later than 8 AM Saturday. Pickup will be from 8 to noon. Any concerns or issues can be addressed by calling or emailing Larry Brady at 847-975-6334 or email to larry@whitewaterlake.org. Please, no yard waste or other organic material should be left on your dock for pickup at any time.

I am planning to leave the board in August after ten years of service. If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the board, please contact me or any other board member for information related to running for a board seat. It has been an honor & privilege to have served the

Whitewater/Rice Lakes community. Thank you.

Larry Brady, Commissioner 

Fish Committee

Results from last summer's fishing tournaments and informal fishing reports indicate we have good largemouth bass and northern pike populations in our lakes. More scientific evidence would have come from DNR conducted shocking surveys, but those were canceled due to COVID 19.

Regarding carp management, last year the State stopped permitting fish netting while it reviewed the of the entire practice of commercial carp netting on Wisconsin waters. The first draft is out for comment, and we have provided input. The Draft includes a way for smaller lakes like ours to be netted for carp, but the regulations and operational details are a long way from being finalized. We should know more by this Fall.

Fishing stocking in our lakes is planned for this Fall, by both the DNR and the Management District. The DNR expects to stock 6000 large fingerling (6-9 inch) walleye in Whitewater and about 300 large fingerling (8-10 inch) northern pike in Rice. The pike are a continuation of the program to control carp through the increase in natural predators. Our private fish stocking will complement the DNR's decision. Not many of the stocked Walleyes are being caught. They are out there, but they feed predominantly in the darker hours, when most of our fishing boats are tied at the pier. Send me a picture of your catch, any species. tompotrykus@icloud.com

Tom Potrykus, Fish Manager 

Weed Spraying

Whitewater and Rice Lakes' weed management is strictly regulated by Wisconsin DNR. We have two strategies that can be used on our lakes, one is weed treatment, and the other is weed harvesting. Clark Aquatic Services will be doing our weed treatment (Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly-leaf Pondweed.) Based on previous years, we are anticipating these invasive weeds and we will do our best to control them, using our budget dollars, and harvesting equipment.

During April and May, our web site will post the DNR permit, and the Lake Maps identifying the extent of weed distribution after the Spring weed survey with timing for chemical spraying. We will use Facebook and our web site for continued updates. Prior to lake treatment, a notice will be attached to all docks in the vicinity of treatment with precautions. Those of you who use irrigation systems from the lake would you please email me at mdlgeneva@gmail.com so that I can notify you when the chemical treatment is scheduled so that you don't turn on your irrigation system. In addition, the included notice in this edition is prescribed by the DNR.

Mike Lindenmuth, Commissioner 

Summary of 2020 Financial Results

2020 finished the year with a net surplus of \$88,539. This is comprised 1st of the an additional \$15,817 in surplus that we budgeted to be carried over from 2019 due to lower bog harvesting expenses. The remaining \$73,677 surplus is from current operations. Specifically, The Chemical budget had a surplus of \$38,180 due to a smaller treating acreage deemed necessary by the DNR, The Bog Harvesting budget had a surplus of \$25,553 due to a shorter harvesting period with a much smaller bog appearance, and an \$11,063 surplus from Equipment Maintenance due to our newer equipment. Notably, we spent the least amount on Equipment Maintenance going all the way back to 2008. However, we did have a major equipment failure that will be managed through Capital in 2021 as discussed under Equipment.

Our capital fund had a starting balance of \$63,099. We had budgeted contributions of \$60,000 and interest of \$71. We capitalized expenses of \$44,631 for the refurbishment of the 12 ft. harvester. This gave us an ending balance in the capital fund of \$78,540.

Brad Corson, Commissioner 

2021 Boat Launch Fees

As a reminder, all Town Boat Launches require a launch fee as suggested by the guidelines of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Envelopes will be available at the Self-Pay Boxes located at each launch site beginning with the Spring/Summer Boating Season. Launch Fees for Calendar Year 2021 will remain the same as last year and are listed as follows:

Daily Fee: Lake District Resident (\$4.00) Non-Lake District Resident (\$6.00)

Annual Fee: Lake District Resident (\$20.00) Non-Lake District Resident (\$30.00)

The fees listed above apply **only** to the **Town Boat Launches** on Whitewater Lake. These are located at:

- Cruse Lane
- R-W Townline Road and Krahn Drive
- R-W Townline Road and Chapel Drive

Fees at the **State Park Boat Launches** located on Whitewater and Rice Lakes are under the jurisdiction of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Chuck Chamberlain, Commissioner 

Whitewater and Rice Lakes Management District NOTICE

Proposed Aquatic Herbicide Application for Eurasian watermilfoil and Curlyleaf pondweed control on Whitewater and Rice Lakes.

The Whitewater and Rice Lakes Management District (the District) proposes to assess and chemically treat up to 175 acres on Whitewater Lake and up to 65 acres on Rice Lake to control the excessive growth of the exotic invasive aquatic plants, Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curlyleaf Pondweed. The District proposes to conduct an application of ProcellaCOR EC (florpyrauxifen-benzyl) and Aquathol K (endothall) to be performed by Clarke Aquatic Services. We anticipate the treatment to occur sometime in spring, 2021 and will proceed only after the District obtains a permit for the treatment from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Notification of the exact dates of treatment and water use restrictions associated with the use of ProcellaCOR EC and Aquathol K will be provided by the posting of shoreline in and adjacent to treatment areas, and public access points.

The water use restrictions associated with use of the above pesticide are noted below:

Up to 5 Day Irrigation Restriction (ProcellaCOR EC)

For additional information on the proposed treatment including a completed copy of the permit application, DNR Chemical Fact Sheets on florpyrauxifen-benzyl and endothall as well as proposed treatment map please visit : www.district.whitewater.org

If you do not have internet access, would like a hard copy or for additional questions about the proposed treatment, please contact me: (630) 707-1843 mdlgeneva@gmail.com

Mike Lindemuth, Commissioner 

Permission for Entry to Property for Goose Management

I authorize representatives from United States Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services and Whitewater/Rice Lakes Management District to access the property listed below for the purposes of goose management (egg oiling and/or a round up). This permission form has no expiration date and remains in effect until you request to be removed from the approved site list. You will have an annual opportunity via newsletter or direct mailing to remove your property from the approved site list. Thank you for your assistance.

Ernie Roy, Wildlife Manager 

Printed Name: _____

Lake Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature (Mandatory): _____

Mail to: Whitewater/Rice Lakes Management District, PO Box 301, Whitewater, WI 53190

Spring 2021
