

Minutes

Rice Lake, Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

Posted: Town of Rice Lake Municipal Building,
City Hall of Rice Lake, Rice Lake Area Chamber of Commerce

**Place: United Presbyterian Church, 20 W. Messenger St., Rice Lake, WI
54868 (Handicap Accessible)**

Time: 8:30 AM

Date: April 15, 2026

Josh Estreen: Chair	x	Don Putnam: Treasurer/Commissioner	x
Chris Olsen (Secretary)	x	Doug Edwardsen/Commissioner	x
City Rep – Open		Bob Anderson/County Rep	
Randy Bina/Commissioner	x	Dave Blumer (LEAPS) Consultant	
Christina Solie (LD Coordinator)	x	Carol Kettner /WQ&LP Committee	x
Guests:		Nate Emerson: Operations	

Notice: A quorum for the City or Town of Rice Lake, or other municipal bodies may be present but, no actions will be taken.

Agenda Item:	Notes:
1. Call to order by Chair: Acknowledge posting of meeting minutes and agenda.	Call to order 8:30
2. Roll Call & Introductions:	
3. Pledge of Allegiance:	
4. Public Input: (limited to five minutes) No Board action will be taken	a) None
5. Consent Agenda: a) Secretary’s Report Approval of minutes of 03/18/26 b) Treasurer’s Report Approve as presented 04/15/26 c) Approve the payment of bills as presented	
6. Motion to approve Consent Agenda	a) Bina/Edwardsen - Approved
7. Consent Agenda Items pulled for further discussion and/or action:	
8. Old Business:	a)
9. New Business: a) Dam operation/water level follow-up - Edwardsen	a) Edwardsen contacted local dam operators which is Barron County. 2 contractors are responsible for daily checks and maintaining DNR approved levels. All operations are directed from Barron County Land Conservation. Any questions to the Lake District can be directed to the county office. Draw down is 6 inches in the fall and raising takes place between March 10-20

<p>10. Standing Committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Finance-Putnam b) Lake operations-Bina c) Consultant/Grants-Blumer d) Lake Protection/Water Quality-Solie/Kettner e) Inter-governmental – Anderson, City or RL f) Lake District Coordinator-Solie 	<p>each spring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) March 31 – Checking \$12907.19, Money Market \$33542.14. First loan payment for \$25477.43. Grant for Clean Boats arrived, \$2000. b) See Addendum A. Question on felled trees in water. If tree is blocking official navigation channels, district will assist with clearing. Training session on boats for staff. Harvesters are ready to launch for season. c) Notices sent out on Eurasian water milfoil and yellow iris treatments. 40 homeowners responded with permission to treat iris. d) Pontoon to be launched and water sampling started last week of April. Estreen went around late ice and picked up 100 lbs of garbage. Motion to approve purchase of electronic anchor for pontoon. Putnam/Edwardsen - Approved e) Organizational meeting happening at City and Lake District should be assigned a rep. Town of Rice Lake still looking for land for recycling leaves, branches. District will continue to engage in conversation with Town of RL. f) Earth day April 22. Good signup. CBCW inspectors hired for the summer and training set up. Fishing opener will be first inspections. Ordered lift cover.
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<p>11. Closed Session – Motion to convene into Closed Session pursuant to WI ss19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility and WI ss19.85(1)(f) considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par.(b) applies which, if discussed in public, would likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations.</p>	<p>a) Not needed</p>
<p>12. Open Session – Motion to reconvene into open session to take any action resulting from the closed session.</p>	<p>a) Not needed</p>
<p>13. Future Agenda Items:</p>	<p>Town of Rice Lake Property agreement. Boat Launch party</p>
<p>14. Set next meeting date/time:</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: May 20, 2026</p>
<p>15. Consideration of Adjournment:</p>	<p>a) Bina/Edwardsen - Approved</p>

Submitted April 15, 2026

Chris Olsen - Secretary

Addendum A – Operations Report

Lake Operations Report 4-15-2026

Lake: Open water, buoys are in and scouting for obstructions this week.

Equipment: 2 harvesters were put in the water on April 14th. Big Red the boom truck is at Campia to repair a hydraulic leak. Our barge is in the water to deploy the buoys and allow the city staff to do some Canadian Goose hatch control. Christiania’s pontoon will be delivered later in April.

We will be contacted and given a few weeks’ notice before our new harvester arrives. This timing will allow us to consider having residents attend a launch of the new harvester.

Ideas are being processed on how this might work.

Staff: Nate, Russ and Jeff have worked a few hours on equipment and launching harvesters. A safety training of staff using materials provided by Inland Harvesting will be conducted before harvesting this spring. Dan Streuli is scheduled for work after the new harvester arrives.

Other: Nate has hauled some brush from Nora Cemetery using the boom truck at the directions of the city. Staff can be available as other years for Earth Day Cleanup.

Randy Bina

Nate Emerson