	Council Agenda Item	
Meeting Date:		
Agenda Item:	Lakes Meeting Follow Up	
Staff Contact (name, email, phone):	Michelle Dujardin, mdujardin@whitewater-wi.gov, 262-473-0121	

BACKGROUND
(Enter the who, what when, where, why)

On Saturday, August 26, 2023 a public lakes information meeting took place. I would like to share with you the outcome of a conversation I had with Heidi, the Wisconsin DNR representative, following a recent meeting. We discussed the various lake management strategies and goals for our community. Heidi provided several insightful recommendations, and I am writing to outline our conversation and present some recommendations for your consideration.

1. Lake Tour and Goal Discussion:
After our meeting, Alderperson Gerber expressed a strong desire for a concrete plan moving forward. Heidi's recommendation is for us to take a tour of the lakes on a boat to discuss our objectives and priorities. She suggested that this tour include the City Manager, two Council Members, herself, and me. Heidi has graciously offered to coordinate two boats, one of which would be hers. The proposed dates for the tour are October 16th or October 19th, starting at 11 am, with a conversation to follow. I believe this approach will provide us with valuable insights and clarity on our goals.

2. Chemical Treatment Considerations:
Heidi highlighted that if the City intends to undertake a mass chemical treatment, it is advisable to collaborate with a qualified contractor. She has indicated her readiness to recommend some contractors for this purpose. Importantly, she emphasized that the contractor typically completes 98% of the permit application process. I concur with her recommendation that this responsibility should not be delegated to our in-house staff.

3. Expert Engagement - Hydrologist from Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission:
Heidi has initiated contact with a Hydrologist from the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. While the Hydrologist generally deals with comprehensive planning, Heidi is exploring the possibility of having him join a meeting via Zoom. This expert would address pre-submitted questions, aiding in the clarification of lake management concepts. Please note that this arrangement is still in the process of being confirmed.

4. Winter Burns and Controlled Fires:
Regarding winter burns, Heidi advised us to reconnect with the "Certified Burn Boss" that Eric had previously worked with. She emphasized the need for proper permits, processes, and certifications associated with controlled fires. Heidi's guidance will ensure that we adhere to the necessary protocols.

5. Benchmarking with Other Lakes:
Heidi provided us with a link to review the lake management strategies of other lakes, particularly highlighting Whitewater Lake, which has experienced both chemical treatments and harvest methods. I'm in the initial stages of exploring this resource and will provide an update as I gain a deeper understanding.

6. Lake District Education Webinars:
Heidi and I are collaborating on setting up educational webinars focused on Lake District matters. This initiative will help us stay informed about the latest practices and advancements in lake management.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
(Dates, committees, action taken)

FINANCIAL IMPACT
(If none, state N/A)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

In light of the above recommendations and insights from Heidi, I recommend that we proceed with the lake tour to gain a clearer perspective on our goals. Additionally, collaborating with a qualified contractor for chemical treatments and seeking expert guidance for education purposes aligns well with best practices.

To effectively guide our lake management strategies, we seek your input on two key points:

1. Lake Improvement Goals and Challenges:
Could you please outline the specific lake improvement goals and challenges our community faces? This information will help us tailor our strategies accordingly.

2. Representatives for Lake Tour:
Please nominate two Council Members to join the lake tour with the City Manager, Heidi from Wisconsin DNR, and myself. Their involvement will ensure a comprehensive perspective as we discuss objectives and priorities

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED
(If none, state N/A)

N/A