1975  Formed association. Minutes were not available until 1979.

1979  There were 183 paid members who paid $5. The association worked to have a spillway authorized and built. A walleye rearing pond was started utilizing a rented pond. This failed to obtain satisfactory results and was abandoned after 3 years.

1981  The spillway project apparently moved our association to embark on a feasibility and diagnostic study costing $2860. Dues were raised to $25. The study identified all sources of phosphorus entering the lake. It identified the Crow River as responsible for 88%. Aeration was studied and found to cost $26,000 per year.

1982  Engineering firms were given the feasibility study. Most wells were tested.

1983  We joined with Koronis lake to form a limited watershed. The formation cost $6,550.

1984  A petition upstream served to include them making it a full watershed. Thus the North Fork Crow River Watershed District was formed.

Additional costs, mostly legal, were $18,804. It was determined that our share of the total obligation was $9,000. The Koronis Lake Association gave us a loan to be repaid when convenient.

1985  The Watershed Board was established.

1988  The last installment was paid to KLA for watershed costs. Dues were reduced to $15. Pylons and other debris was removed between lakes to make travel less hazardous.

1989  The association contributed $700 to an earthen dam project on the east end of the lake and $575 toward a detention pond project of the Paynesville Sportsman’s Club. We purchased and installed signs at the boat landings warning of Eurasian Watermilfoil. We requested and assisted the DNR in blocking off Schaumann’s Bay to trap carp in the bay during the winter.

1990  The association hired the spraying of tent caterpillars. This was funded by a separate collection drive costing $3,600.
1991 Some members toured Paynesville sewage facility to demonstrate interest and concern. We pledged $8,000 toward a federal matching fund grant of $90,000 for further studies to be completed in 2 years. Our members began regularly attending watershed meetings. Members volunteered to assist with the study by monitoring rainfall, lake level and water clarity. The second caterpillar spraying costs were $4,800.

1992 The third caterpillar spraying cost was $4,500. It again included the entire shoreline and was funded by a separate collection. A commercial fisherman using the inlet trap removed 135,000 pounds of carp this summer.

1993 Bulrushes were purchased at the suggestion of the DNR. Our volunteers planted them in 21 locations.

1995 Working with the Koronis Lake Association, Phase I of the Diagnostics Feasibility Study with the Clean Water Partnership was completed. This study investigated water quality and sources of pollution. Phase II would work to alleviate major sources of pollution correcting the worst first. Funding will be from federal, state, county and lake property owners. Also a survey of septic systems was conducted.

1996 280,000 pounds of rough fish were removed through the ice at the southwest corner of the lake and later that winter, 190,000 pounds from Schaumann’s Bay. A grant was obtained for Rice and Koronis lakes for $30,000 and 3% loans were available in the amount of $564,750. This was for septic systems, feedlots and erosion.

1997 Paynesville Sportsman’s Club donated $4,000 and the Eden Valley Hawks $1,000 for clean water projects. A milfoil search was conducted.

1998 The Board of Directors voted in favor of not sponsoring a petition for opposing a 500 unit hog barn resulting in a new board and new officers.

1999 100,000 pounds of carp were removed. Instructions were issued on the correct lawn practices and the use of fertilizer, limiting harm to the environment.

2000 A group call the North Fork Crow River Watershed Partnership Project was formed consisting of RLA, KLA and the Paynesville Sportsman’s Club. Meetings are held quarterly to improve the lakes and river quality. The water between Rice Lake and Lake Koronis was designated a no wake zone.

FOOTNOTES:
The association is in it 25th year. The minutes are not clear as to the final disposition of the Spillway Project. It appears that those efforts beginning in 1979 may have evolved into the forming of the watershed and included the federal grant funds.

The minutes revealed concern and efforts each year toward the removal of rough fish and stocking of game fish. Although the removal is by commercial fishermen and the stocking was by the DNR, the efforts were often at the urging of the association.

Through the efforts of many interested members and lake residents as well as several government agencies and community organizations, many clean water projects have been completed. Rice Lake Association extends our thanks to everyone involved over the years.