

Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Board of Directors Meeting

June 3, 1995

Wemet at the Butler cabin.

Those present: David Butler, Sherm Gardner, Bev. Hoium, Art McMahan, Gordon Mommsen.

Bev. Hoium read the minutes from the last annual meeting. They were approved.

Art McMahan gave the treasurers report. It is attached.

Sherm Gardner reported on the Balsam Branch Priority Watershed plan. He discussed the importance of keeping the phosphorus from running into lake from the farms.

We discussed when the annual meeting was to take place. It was decided it should be August 26, 1995, 10:00 A.M. at the public beach.

It was decided not to have the clean-up this year.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Bev. Hoium, secretary.

6/3/95

Half Moon Lake Protection Rehabilitation District
Spring 1995 financial Statement

I checking acct # 2201543

Beginning Balance 8/29/94 1,256.75

Income,

Interest P.C.B. Term 5/10/95 13.47

Town of Hilltown Tax Levy Pymt 351.07

364.54 1,621.29

Disbursements

Kan Kallogg 60.00

Ledger Publications 52.37

Waterman Sanitation 565.00

677.37 943.92

Balance 6/3/95 943.92

##

II Savings acct # 3200526

Beginning Balance 8/16/94 2,655.68

Income,

Interest PCB Term 5/10/95 - 77.68

Town of Hilltown (3/1/95) 2,873.33

State of Wisconsin (DNR-5/2/95) 2,267.34

Town of Hilltown (5/2/95) 132.45

5,350.80 8,006.48

Disbursements

None

Balance 6/3/95 8,006.48

Submitted 6/3/95

Richard Mahoney,
Treasurer.

(Balance, both accounts: 8,950.40)

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Agenda for Board Meeting

July 22, 1995

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes of Board Meeting of June 3, 1995.
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Annual Meeting
 - A. Budget
 - B. Election of Commissioner
 - C. Picnic
5. Newsletter
6. Polk County Lakes Association
7. Balsam Branch Watershed District
8. Water Testing - Sherm
9. Shoreline Treatment
10. Land Acquisition & Planning Grant
11. Township
12. County

Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Board of Directors Meeting
July 22, 1995

We met at the Hoium/Ruschoff cabin.

Those present: David Butler, Sherm Gardner, Bev. Hoium, Art & Martha McMahon, and Gordon Mommsen

Art McMahon gave the treasurers report. The balance of the checking and savings account is \$8,950.40. (a summary of the account is attached.)

David began with a discussion of the budget which will be presented at the annual meeting. It was suggested the budget of \$6500 will remain the same. Sherm Gardner made the motion and Art McMahon seconded, ~~to continue with the same rate of 2.5 mils.~~ It was unanimously approved by the board. \$3500 will be used for a study of land acquisition. \$1000 for miscellaneous operating expenses. \$2000 for future land acquisition.

David Butler was nominated to serve on the board for another 3 years.

The committee under the direction of Shirley Dworsky is having the all lake picnic in conjunction with the annual meeting of the District which will be held on Saturday August 26, 1995 at 10:00 A.M. at the public beach. The picnic will follow the meeting at 12:00 P.M. The committee is planning for games and exhibits by the DNR, the county conservation commission and a private concern doing lake shore improvement work in the area. Sherm Gardner will bring his water testing equipment.

Art McMahon will notify the local paper in regard to the date and time of the annual meeting

Sherm Gardner made a motion to give \$25.00 to the Polk County Association of Lakes. The motion was unanimously approved by the board.

Sherm, reported on the water clarity of the lake. It is 22 feet. He reported all of the lakes in the United States are tested simultaneously at the exact same time on the fourth of July.

At the present time there is no ^{eutasian} ~~erasion~~ milfoil weed in Half Moon Lake. There was a discussion how we can protect our beautiful lake from this weed. It was decided to ask property owners to watch boats entering the water to make sure there is not any piece of the weed on their boat or trailer. We also discussed shore line treatment.. Encourage property owners to create a 20 ft buffer zone ~~buffer zone~~ as was printed in the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned.

Some of the board members took a tour of the Hoium/Ruschoff property.

Respectfully submitted,

6/3/95

Well Horn Lake Protestant Rehabilitation District
Spring 1995 financial statement

I checking acct # 2201593

Beginning Balance 8/29/94

1,256.75

13.47
contribution P.C.B. Tax Siders
Town of Hilltown Tax Levy Pymt 351.67

364.54

1,621.29

Distributions

Kan Kollog

Lodger Publications

Walden Sewer System

60.00

52.37

565.00

677.37

943.92

Balance 6/3/95

#

II Savings acct # 3200526

Beginning Balance 8/16/94

2,655.68

contribution PCB Tax Siders

Town of Hilltown (3/1/95)

State of Wisconsin (DVR-5/2/95)

Town of Hilltown (5/2/95)

77.68

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2,267.34

132.45

5,350.80

8,006.48

Distributions

Note

Balance 6/3/95

8,006.48

8,006.48

Submitted 6/3/95

Accountant
Treasurer

(Balance, both accounts: 8,950.40)

Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting
August 26, 1995 10:00 A. M.

The meeting was changed from Half Moon Lake Pav. to the V.F.W. Club because of rain.

David Butler, chairperson, called the meeting to order and introduced the new people around the lake. He also introduced Craig Roesler from the DNR, Jerry Hanlos, chairperson of the Polk County Supervisors and the elected Board of Commissioners: David Butler, Beverly Hoium, Art McMahan, Dana Gautier, and Sherm Gardner.

Art McMahan read the treasurers report and handed out copies of the report to the membership (it is attached) Jim Smith received the books on August 15, 1995 and reported the books were in order. Art asked for questions from the floor. The financial report was approved. Art stated he is going to ask the bank if there is a way to increase the interest rate on the Lake Association's account.

Martha McMahan gave a report on the Polk County Lakes Fair and also on the loons on Half Moon Lake. The fair was successful and the loons are doing great.

Jerry Hanlos gave a report on the subdivision ordinance. Anyone interested in a copy of the ordinance should give their name to Jerry and he will mail it to them. It was suggested the board look at the ordinance and make a statement as a group. Another suggestion was to write individual letters after the members have read the ordinance which has not been passed yet.

The board of directors nominated David to serve another 3 year term. David asked for nominations from the floor. It was moved and seconded the nominations be closed. David will serve for another 3 year term.

Sherm Gardner reported on the lake testing with his equipment. He tests the lake 5 or 6 times a year. Half Moon Lake tested the best in the area just after Deer Lake. Sherm suggested everyone put a buffer zone of 20 feet around their shoreline to keep the phosphorus, nutrients and sediments out of the lake. It was also discussed how important it is to keep the eurasian milfoil out of the lake. David thanked Sherm for all time he has spent on testing the lake.

David introduced Phyllis Grimm, a biologist who attended our meeting to help the children discover what is in the lake along the shore. She also brought samples of the different milfoil and the Zebra Mussels.

Shirley Dworsky discussed if we should have the picnic at the V.F.W. club or go to the beach. We voted to have it at the lake. Shirley introduced the members of her committee for the picnic and thanked them for all of their hard work.

David explained the grant funds for the purpose of land acquisition. A motion was made to give the board the authority to use \$3500 for the study of the land acquisition. The resolution is as follows: The board will be given the authority to use the sum of \$3500 for the planning grant for the study of the land acquisition. The board will send a statement to the association members of the objectives and purposes of the study. There will be 60 days for the membership to respond and the board will consider all responses. After the 60 day period the board can proceed with the application to the State of Wisc. for the planning grant funds of \$10,000. The deadline for application for the funds is Feb. 1, 1996.

The proposed budget for 95/96 is \$6500.
\$1000 for miscellaneous expenses.
\$3500 for the study of the wetland acquisition.
\$2000 for the fund for future land acquisition.
The proposed budget was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

We moved to the Half Moon Beach for the picnic, games, displays, silent auction, and the children exploring the lake shore with Phyllis Grimm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bev. Hoium, secretary

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 26 AUGUST 1995

I Account # 2201543 (Checking)

Beginning Balance 8/29/94		1,256.75
<u>Income</u>		
Interest Polk County Bank	18.33	
Town of Milltown Tax Levy Payment	351.07	
Polk-Burnett Electric	<u>100.00</u>	
	469.40	1,726.15
<u>Expenses</u>		
Ken Kellogg (Cleanup)	60.00	
Ledger Publications (Meeting notice)	52.37	
Waterman Sanitation (Dumpster)	565.00	
Polk Co. Assoc. Lakes (Dues)	20.00	
Polk Co. Treasurer (Land Parcel list)	7.50	
David J. Butler (Administrative expenses)	442.89	
Amery Commercial Promo. Comm. (Lake Fair)	25.00	
David J. Butler (WI Assoc. Lakes dues)	20.00	
Polk Co. Treasurer (Mailing labels)	4.50	
Jim Kallas (Meeting tent deposit)	<u>25.50</u>	
	1,222.76	503.39
Balance on hand 8/10/95		503.39

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State of Wisc. DNR Grant	2,267.34	
Town of Milltown Tax Levy Payment	<u>132.45</u>	
	5,416.88	8,072.56
<u>Expenses</u>		
None		8,072.56
Balance on hand 8/10/95		8,072.56

The books were reviewed by Jim Smith on 8/15/95 and were found to be in order.

Respectfully submitted

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Half Moon Lake Protection Rehabilitation District
Board of Directors Fall Meeting
Sept 19, 1995

Those Present: David Butler, Sherm Gardner, Dana Gauthier,
Beverly Hoium and Art McMahon.

We met At David Butler's home in Minneapolis MN.

The meeting was opened by David Butler.

We had election of officers. They are as follows:

David Butler, chair. Art McMahon, treas, Bev. Hoium, sec.

Art McMahon reported there is \$7000 in the treasury. If we transferred \$5000 into a CD at 5.4% interest we would have an increase of 3.2% interest. Sherm Gardner made a motion to move \$5000 into a 6 month CD. Bev Hoium seconded the motion.

David read the proposal from the last annual meeting.

The plan for aquisition of the wetlands was discussed.

We are going to go ahead with the study:

Look at all four sights.

Analyze the wetland areas.

Send the purpose of the planning grant to the membership, asking for their response within 60 days.

The McClain property was discussed. (40 acres) The board would like to get a right of first refusal if McClain should decide to sell his property.

Gordon Monson spoke about the importance of keeping our wetlands.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Bev. Hoium, secretary

Richard & Beverly Hoium
5630 North Lilac Drive
Brooklyn Center
MN 55430

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HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION
AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

6625 Lyndale Av So, Suite 526
Richfield, Minnesota 55423

REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING

The electors of the Half Moon Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District met at their Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 26, 1995. Because of rain, the meeting was held at the VFW Club on Highway 46. Following the meeting, the electors attended a well planned and very enjoyable picnic under the leadership of Shirley Dworsky.

A motion was made at the meeting to give the Board of Commissioners the authority to file an application with the DNR for a planning grant to do further investigation on the issue of acquiring property around the lake in an attempt to preserve our wetland areas. The planning grants are available from the State of Wisconsin to gather information necessary before the acquisition of lands. We can ask the state for a grant of \$10,000. This has to be matched by the District with an appropriation of \$3,333. The study costs cannot exceed \$13,333.

A motion was made at the meeting to give the Board of Commissions authority to use \$3,500 for the study of land acquisition. The resolution was as follows:

"The Board will be given the authority to use the sum of \$3,500 for the planning grant for the study of the land acquisition. The Board will send a statement to the association members of the objectives and purposes of the study. There will be 60 days for the membership to respond and the Board will consider all responses. After the 60 day period, the Board can proceed with the application to the State of Wisconsin for the planning grant funds of \$10,000."

This motion was approved.

In response to that motion, the Board of Commissioners has met and have prepared the enclosed statement of purposes for planning grant study #2. This is being forwarded to all electors pursuant to the resolution. Also enclosed is a copy of the map showing the 4 major wet land areas around the lake.

The electors are welcome to respond by giving your written or oral

comments concerning the proposal. If you care to make a written response, please send it to David J. Butler, Chairman, Board of Commissioners, 6625 Lyndale Ave So, Suite 526, Richfield, MN 55423. If you care to call, you can reach me at my office of (612) 869-7123 or at home at (612) 798-0402 or you can contact any of the members of the Board of Commissioners. Their names, addresses and phone numbers are as follows:

Beverly Hoium
5630 North Lilac Drive
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429
(612) 560-0055

David Butler
7072 Lyndale Ave So
Richfield, MN 55423
(612) 798-0402

Art McMahon
314 Willow Brook Drive
Mason City, Iowa 50401
(515) 424-1402

Dana Gauthier
3652 Windtree Drive
Eagan, MN 55123
(612) 454-8756

Sherm Gardner
1997 124th Street
Milltown, WI 54858
(715) 825-2163

Bruce Christensen
1767 200th Avenue
Centuria, WI 54824
(715) 825-3596

Gerald Handlos
1751 190th Street
Centuria, WI 54824
(715) 485-9237


David J. Butler, Chairman

September 26, 1995

Half Moon Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
Purpose of planning grant study #2

Purposes

1. To analyze the wetland areas surrounding the lake
 - a. Determine legal descriptions and size
 - b. Determine the ownership of each tract
 - c. Determine their function in relation to the lake
 - d. Determine their assessed value for tax purposes and their market value
 - e. Determine in terms of priority which are most important in preserving lake quality
2. To prepare an analysis of the current federal, state, county and township laws that effect the use of the wetland areas
 - a. Review zoning laws
 - b. Review federal and state wetland laws
 - c. Determine accessibility of wetland area and practicality of development
 - d. Determine what can reasonably be expected to occur if no action is taken by the lake district
3. To determine best method of protecting the wetland areas
 - a. By acquisition of fee title
 - b. By acquisition of conservation easements
 - c. Study effect of real estate taxation on effected areas that create conservation easements
 - d. Determine what governmental body should hold title to the ownership rights in the wetland areas (state, county, township or lake district)
4. To determine what would be a reasonable time line for acquiring the property rights?
 - a. When the property becomes available
 - b. Make a concerted effort to acquire the lands over the next few years by purchase
 - c. Use of condemnation
5. To determine available financing to acquire wetlands
 - a. Use of district funds raised through taxation
 - b. State, federal and local programs that have funds available

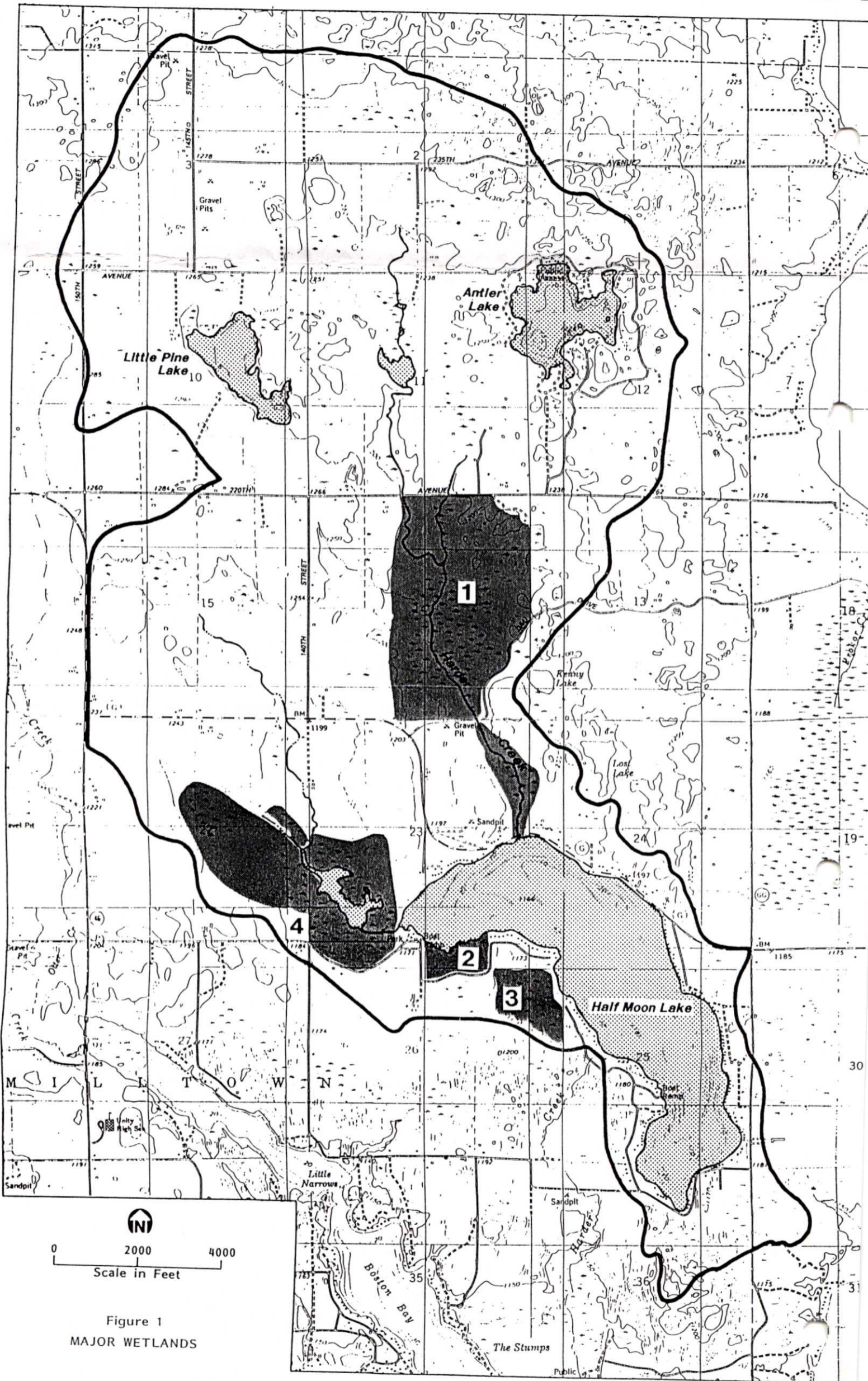


Figure 1
MAJOR WETLANDS

Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting
August 26, 1995 10:00 A. M.

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G-AUTHIER
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Arthur E. McMahon, Jr.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
HALF MOON LAKE REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATION DISTRICT

Saturday, August 26, 1995

10:00 a.m.

Public Beach on Half Moon Lake

The agenda for the meeting will be as follows:

1. Adopt budget for the coming year of \$6,500.
2. Elect one commissioner. The Board has nominated David Butler to serve a three-year term.
3. Act on proposal to seek matching grant funds for preliminary study on acquisition of wetlands.

In case of rain, the meeting and picnic will be held at the VFW Club on Highway 46.

All members and their families are invited to a picnic following the meeting.

*Sent to Ledger - 8/14/95 for 2 publications .
Ledger - 715 - 485 - 3121
" Fox 715 - 485 - 3037*

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July 22, 1995

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The meeting was adjourned.

Some of the board members took a tour of the Hoium/Ruschoff property.

Respectfully submitted,

Bev Hoium

Half Moon Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
Spring Meeting
Saturday, June 10, 1995
10:00 a.m.
Half Moon Lake Pavilion

The meeting was called to order by David Butler, chairman of the Board of Commissioners. The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was presented by the treasurer. Other reports were given as follows:

1. Walter Gretsfield reported on stocking of walleye. He reported there were 119 walleye speared by the Indians in the spring of 1995. In September, 1994, the DNR did a lake count by shocking.
2. It was announced there would be no clean up project in 1995 with the District providing dumpsters unless some member around the lake specifically asks for the commissioners to line up a dumpster.
3. Sherm Gardner reported on his collection of water samplings under the self-help program. Sherm also reported on the last meeting that he attended with the Balsam Branch Watershed District.
4. Shirley Dvorsky reported on the progress of the planning for the lake picnic which will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting on August 26.
5. David Butler reported on suggestions for shore line protection.
6. David Butler reported on the proposal by the commissioners to ask for an additional planning grant to move forward on the program to acquire wetland areas around the lake.
7. Jerry Handlos, county commissioner, was present and reported on the proposed subdivision ordinance.
8. David Butler reported there will be a need for a new commissioner to be elected at the annual meeting. If anyone was interested, it was suggested they contact a member of the board.
9. The date for the annual meeting was set for August 26, 1995.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David Butler, Chairman

Half Moon Lake Meeting - Spring

June 10, 1995

<u>Name</u>	<u>Half Moon Phone</u>
Haitia + Arthur McMahon	825-2148
Dana Gauthier	454-8756
SHIRLEY DWORSKY	825-4339 612-698-5595
Jerry Hadlas	
Terry Radke	
RES & J. SCHWARTZ	825-2547
Donna Helms-Juchli	825-3713
M. MARTHA + DAVID BUTLER	825-3578
GORDON MORGAN	825 4206
Tom Lennartson	825 3175
Bob Lennartson	—
DON CROES	825 3235
Tom Diederich	825 3124
IRV CARLSON	825-3178
Bruce Christensen	825-3596
Walt Gustafeld	825-3447
Karen + Steve Melena	825-3717

Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Board of Directors Meeting

June 3, 1995

Wemet at the Butler cabin.

Those present: David Butler, Sherm Gardner, Bev. Hoium, Art McMahan, Gordon Mommsen.

Bev. Hoium read the minutes from the last annual meeting. They were approved.

Art McMahan gave the treasurers report. It is attached.

Sherm Gardner reported on the Balsam Branch Priority Watershed plan. He discussed the importance of keeping the phosphorus from running into lake from the farms.

We discussed when the annual meeting was to take place. It was decided it should be August 26, 1995, 10:00 A.M. at the public beach.

It was decided not to have the clean-up this year.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Bev. Hoium, secretary.

April 3, 1995 - meeting with DNR

July picnic

Dan Ryan - water resource management,
Rich Cornelius
Kevin Morgan
Jenny Handlos
Sherr Gardner
Dana Gaultier
Gordie Mommson
David Butler

Dan

1970 - Feasibility study.

Present - good water quality. Could be problems
in area with development

New Study - establish priority in acquiring wetlands
area.

Rich

#2 - Has value for fisheries. Spawning
for Northern Pike.

Dan - 50% funding by state.

Balsam Branch - money available for easements
shorelands areas & adjoining areas
to wetlands.

Rich

Area 1 - strip of higher land ~~that~~ as buffer

Kevin - ownership is better than easement.
Can use easements if broad enough.

Cheryl - apply for easement.

10:15 - 9:30

Plan 1. overall plan

2. Appraisals.

3. Go to owners for acquisition.

Mapping Co. - \$20 per parcel.
Craig Bentzner.

USGS - Ground water recharge

under plan

Mapping of areas

vulnerable

where easements

Regional planning.

Jane _____, DNR

Balsam Branch watershed Project. meeting - April

Goals

1. Ag^{reduction}
2. lakeshore development

Lake condition goals - Inlake phosphorus concentration.
alum for treatment.

Public Hearings - May 9 - 1:30 To City Board - May 16.
To Land & Water Board (State Committee).

Plan allows for funding of District plans.
wetland Protection.

Ruby Hanson, Luck.
Supervisor.

Key

Wetland Protection
Dan Seeman, ^{Prm} Corp of Eng.
Ed Slainsky
Gary Spidel

Keith
NRCs
Natural Resource
USDA
old Soil Cons. Service
Aug 12, picnic

Food Security Act - 1985. - Proh. planting crop in wetland.
Farm Bill # 2 - 1990 - Prohibit destroying wetland.
lose rights to participate in ag programs.

Type of wetlands -

River & Harbors Act - Tied to Interstate Commerce.
St Croix River only navigable
water. Most owned by parks.

Early 1970's Section 404 - Clean Water Act - Non navigable water.
Discharge of fill into wetlands.

Covers filling & dredging.

Timbering. Ag. exempt

What is a wetland? - Not always wet.

1987 manuals - look for hydroic vegetation or soil.

Regulate all wetlands. - ^{cover} Dredge or fill wetland

Types of permits.

1. Nationwide - rip rap - City municipal
40 types. - easy.

2. General - Regional control - DNR.
Docks, culverts, roads.

Public review & notice.

Denise

Craft

612 - ~~290-5357~~
ST Paul 5357

Cops ^{can require} Mitigation 1-1 Dunder "2 acres can grant permit without mitigation.

DNR - Navigable waterway - float a canoe.

City - Gary Spindel

low
115

all wetlands 5 acres of over within
1000' of lake or 300' from stream.

Activities - allows ag. if no drain, dredge fill
or develop. No structures.

Do allow board walk across wetland.

No variances.

Can rezone by taking wetland off the map.

DAVID J. BUTLER & ASSOCIATES
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

DAVID J. BUTLER
ANDREW A. O'BRIEN

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6625 Lyndale Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423
(612) 869-7123
FAX (612) 869-0570

DORINDA K. ANDERSON
Legal Assistant

April 12, 1995

Board of Commissioners
Half Moon Lake P & R District

Dear Commissioners:

We had 3 meetings that I wanted to report to you. On Sunday, April 2, Gordie Mommsen and myself met with John Wolf and his friend, Marvin Turner. Both of these gentlemen have worked with the federal government in the area of appraising property and acquiring easements. They have offered their services to help the lake district if we move forward with a program of acquiring easements and fee title to some of the lands around the lake. Our meeting was helpful in that we were able to get a closer idea as to what some of the costs might be for obtaining appraisals.

On Monday, April 3, Gordie Mommsen, Sherm Gardner, Dana Gauthier, Jerry Handlos and I met with Dan Ryan, Kevin Morgan and Rick Cornelius of the DNR, Jeff Timmons of the county conservation department and Cheryl Bursik, project director for the Balsam Branch Watershed District. The consensus coming out of that meeting was that the Half Moon Lake District should proceed forward in it's plans to acquire easements or fee title in the 4 designated areas around the lake. It was decided that we do not need to proceed with the proposed Barr Engineering study because it was already clear that these lands should be acquired. I am enclosing a letter from Rick Cornelius from the DNR which pretty well sums up his view of our situation.

We all agreed at that meeting that instead of having Barr conduct another study, we should ask for funds to begin work on acquisition of the properties. Dan Ryan was of the opinion that we could amend our grant request and ask for funds to pay for appraisals, surveys and property ownership reports. We can withdraw our application for the Barr Engineering study and file revised application before August 1. That is the direction I would recommend we go. By that time, we can put together a new application and pin point exactly what we need to have accomplished as our first step in acquiring these properties. We have talked to various persons about getting us maps that show the owners of the various properties and we have discussed the matter of appraisals. We may have to have some surveying done.

On Wednesday, April 5, Sherm Gardner, Gordie Mommsen and myself met with the Balsam Branch Lake Advisory Committee. There were representatives there from the Army Corp of Engineers, Soil

Conservation Department, DNR and Polk County. They discussed the administration of the current wetlands laws. I think all of us went away with the impression that the current wetlands laws go quite a ways in protecting the current wetland areas but there are enough exceptions and inconsistencies that we cannot rely on those laws to do the protecting of our areas around the lake that we are talking about. The general feeling was that we need to pursue follow through with our acquisition plans and not be content to rely on the wetland laws.

Our spring meeting of members has been set for Saturday, June 10. I would like to have the Board meet some time before then. We might consider some time the end of May. Art McMahon will be coming up some time the end of May so if everyone was at the lake the last weekend of May, we might meet then. Sherm Gardner gets down to the cities on Mondays so we could consider meeting on a Monday noon some time in May. We can take a look at our various options.

With best personal regards,



David J. Butler

DJB:dka
Enclosure
cc: Gordie Mommsen



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

1418 East LaSalle
Barron, Wisconsin 54812
TELEPHONE 715-537-5046

George E. Meyer
Secretary

April 4, 1995

IN REPLY REFER TO: 3600

David Butler
6625 Lyndale Ave. So., Suite 526
Richfield, MN 55423

Dear Dave:

I thought I'd better try and summarize the main points of our April 3rd meeting while things are still fresh in my mind.

I think it was generally decided that what was needed was a pared down "action plan", trying to minimize planning costs so available funds can be used for land acquisition or easements. There seemed to be consensus that all four wetlands are important to Half Moon Lake and deserve protection. While the wetlands can be prioritized, in reality the order of acquisition may be more dependent on willing sellers than on a priority system.

The wetland near the boat landing (nr. 2 on the map) may be the highest priority due to significant fish and wildlife values and because this site might be attractive for future lakeshore development. While this wetland is considered part of the lake, this is no guarantee of protection from alteration or degradation. Such wetlands can be degraded when the adjacent upland is developed with residences, and landowners subsequently try and improve their access to the lake by clearing away the wetland vegetation for pier sites, boat channels, swimming beaches, etc. Because aquatic vegetation can be removed mechanically without a permit, the DNR cannot prevent wetlands from being altered in this manner. To prevent this scenario, a buffer strip of upland adjacent to the wetland should be obtained by the lake district, preferably in fee title, to preclude development. An easement prohibiting piers and boat docking on that shoreline might also work.

The next highest priority would be the wetlands associated with Harder Creek (nr. 1 on the map). Harder Creek is a significant water source to Half Moon Lake, and therefore protection of Harder Creek and associated wetlands is a water quality concern. While farming activity in this area may be decreasing, residential development is increasing.



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on
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Paper

Ideally, the wetlands and a buffer strip of upland adjacent to the wetlands can be obtained through easement or fee title. The objective would be to prevent residential development or farming in the wetlands or immediately adjacent to the stream and wetlands. The size of the upland buffer strip would likely vary depending on conditions such as topography, landowner concerns, etc. A fair number of landowners would be involved, meaning that acquisition would probably occur over a period of years.

Fencing out of livestock may be necessary at some locations, and this should be taken into consideration when looking at acquisition boundaries. A straight boundary on upland is easiest to fence. Also, if the acquisition is in fee title, the boundary fencing responsibility is divided equally between landowners, while with an easement, the easement taker is responsible for all the boundary fence.

The other two wetlands may be somewhat lower priority, but still deserve protection. Again, acquisition by easement or fee title of the wetland and/or upland bordering the wetland is the objective.

In addition to working with Dan Ryan on this project, I think the lake district should work closely with the Polk County Land Conservation Department. Their Balsam Branch Priority Watershed project should dovetail nicely with the lake district project. The LCD is a good source of information on land use, and priority watershed easements may help accomplish your wetland protection objectives.

Kevin and I enjoyed the meeting at Balsam Lake, and we are impressed with the foresight and commitment of the lake district to consider wetland protection. The concern for the overall quality of the environment around the lake is also very gratifying. Good luck, and if Kevin or I can be of help, let us know.

Sincerely,



Richard R. Cornelius
Fisheries Biologist

cc: Dan Ryan
Kevin Morgan
Jeff Timmons - Polk Co Center Bldg
Tom Beard

