

Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

Minutes- Annual Meeting- July 18, 2015

Half Moon Lake Public Beach- Voss Landing

Meeting called to order at 10:00am by Chair John Weber. Board members present and introduced: John Weber, Chair; Dan Leh, Treasurer and Vice Chair; Ellen Butler, Secretary; John Briegal, Fisheries; Sarah Anderson, Newsletter; Harlen Hegdal, Milltown township Chair.

JW verified that the meeting postings and publication were legal.

Motion to approve agenda, made by Suzy Bank, 2nd by Chris Schneider, all voted and carried.

Opening and welcome remarks by John Weber. New residents introduced themselves- Tammy Saad- bought her parents cabin on Breezy Bay. Sam and --- Lehman bought the cabin on 190th to the west of Dr. Eppley's old cabin. Thanks to Sue Schneider and Sheila Waldoch for offering HML apparel and home furnishings for many years as the Loon Ladies, and are now retired. Kate McMahon and her partner, Tara---, are the new owners of the merchandise and their new name is Cabin Chicks. David Butler is selling his Half Moon Lake history books. He researched and interviewed people and gathered stories for 6 years and wrote his book.

The Field Captain Sheriff of Polk County, Steve Smith?, spoke about many issues. 1. The speed board on highway G on the north end of the lake was donated by Ron Glassman. Anyone can request to use it and it can be placed in any area of need for a speed reduction reminder. 2. Water patrol- newest piece of equipment- purchased from Tousley Motor Sports (Ron Gassman) is a personal water craft with very bright night lights and is the only PWC allowed to be out after sunset. It is eligible for the DNR refund program over the next 5 years- they had to buy up front. It was used to recover a body in the St. Croix River. It is the only PWC like this in Polk County. There are many people certified to use it. The Sheriff dept. shares the use around the Polk County lakes. It is very versatile and much appreciated. 3. Fireworks- Wisconsin statute states that a permit is required to shoot off fireworks, which is anything that "goes bang and/or leaves the ground"- per Sheriff Smith. Minnesotans can purchase fireworks in Wis. Wisconsin residents can not purchase fireworks in Wis. So, for our firework show on HML, a permit is granted to Milltown township chair- he is the only one who can issue a permit. Also, a bond is needed with the permit. If the police receive a complaint about fireworks being set off, they will come out and issue a verbal warning first, then ticket later. With a permit, 11pm is a reasonable time to end the noise. (racetrack) 4. Methamphetamine problem- terrible- in the 1990's and early 2000's, the meth labs disappeared. Now, there is a straight pipe line from Mexican cartels. Property crimes- leads to pawn shops, which are now required to report and input all information and serial numbers into a central data base. Police can type in suspects name and check for stolen items- it is all connected. Now, meth buyers will barter items, and no longer use pawn shops, due to

central reporting. 5. Some cabin break-ins are seen. Can use the “castle doctrine” to use force necessary to protect yourself in a reasonable means- need to be able to explain your action- also applies to force used in your vehicle. 6. “Project lifesaver” for people with wandering tendencies and dementia- can install a transmitter- allows to locate person in 4-17 minutes (per practice)- in village of Balsam Lake- minimal start-up cost, then \$10.00 per month. 7. ATV’s now allowed on many township roads in Polk County, but not on County Roads- as G.

Motion to approve 2014 Annual Meeting minutes made by Marv Christofferson, 2nd by Herb Townsend, approved and carried.

Nominate officers- hand out ballots for Secretary and Treasurer.

Audit report- Mike McMahon and Chuck Erickson examined the accounts and transactions of the district books. All accounts have been found to be true and correct. Motion to approve report- Chris Schneider, 2nd by Suzy Bank, carried and approved. Dan Leh gave Treasurer’s report. Budget for 2016 will be the \$29,380.00. Budget handouts are available upon request form Dan. Motion by Diane Erickson and 2nd by Linda Sternberg was made to approve budget, vote taken and approved.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) report- Dan Leh is Chair. Rick Miller gave thanks to Dan for all he does for the lake; Iliids camera, CBCW, hiring and educating launch ambassadors, etc.

Sailboat race was on July 5th- 4 boats competed. See pics on website: www.halfmoonlake.net. Please send old photos— historical to Rick Miller to put on HML website.

Weed ranger- Rick Miller met with Kaitlin Holmes from Polk County on Thursday afternoon from 1-4pm to learn about new invasive species- Rusty Crayfish, large mystery snails, curly leaf pondweed. She comes every Wednesday to check the beaches. Rick says we have healthy emergent plants. There is a lake south of Polk County (name?) that has Eurasian Milfoil.

Rick M. is inviting anyone to become a new weed ranger. It is fun and educational and you get to be in a boat for the job! Kids can help too! The website: www.halfmoonweeds.net shows pictures of weeds-with a worksheet to print out and use for identification. Dan Leh is taking over as the Lead Weed Ranger.

Question: why don’t we have running water at the landing to spray off the boats?

Answer: theft and cost. Can look into the idea for running a water line from well to the dock. Would the water just drain into the lake? Is it needed?

CBCW- 2014- Charlie and Jack Hatten, Sam Butler are the inspectors this summer. Josh Hatten has retired and is in college. The Hatten boys are John and Jane Webers grandsons. 2014- 1139 boats were inspected for weeks, 250 people spoken to regarding invasive species and how to clean the boats, trailers, empty ballast water, etc. 50% of boats have weeds on trailer as they pull into the landing to launch boat. Pull them off! Our lake district pays for these young men to work for CBCW at the public beach landing. The DNR gave away towels and literature. Iliid camera- is the 2nd line of defense to deter - takes 24 hours to check it. No prosecutions have yet been made with

Sheriff. They are not used to fining for weeds yet. Jet skis- need to drain ballast B4 go into lake! DNR- big push to drain live wells at site of take out. Put fish on ice packs. Balsam Lake- 5 launches- their CBCW team checked 839 boats in 2014, Bone Lake checked 732 boats. HML is way ahead! HML is leader in Polk County because we hire! Good idea! Many thanks to Dan Leh! It takes lots of time and energy to run this vital program.

Water Clarity report- Dave Balestri has managed this for 3 years. He uses the Secchi Disc to measure water clarity. It is a round black and white disc and he lowers it in the water, then measures the depth where he can't see it anymore, as the reading. HML has water clarity reports for 20 years, on water clarity, temperature, dissolved O2 and chemicals- phosphorus and chlorophyll. Sherm Gardner used to measure this. The 20 year average is 14.9 feet. Dave measures every month. Dissolved O2- you want over 5ppm, and at 10 feet deep, the O2 was 6.4ppm. His Daughter Erin assists with these measurements. The water runs through filters and a pump to measure the dissolved O2. More O2 can support more bass, need 5ppm for walleye, 4 for sunfish, lower than 4 too warm and then carp can live. The highest Secchi reading is in the spring at 26 feet. The DNR counts in July and August. The temperature at 40 feet down was 47 degrees. How do we compare? Deer Lake is very close. Can check stats at DNR.com-Polk County. Thanks Dave and Sherm!

Loon Report- Pat Mechelke- one loon baby hatched around June 10th and survived on north end- she tracks 3 times per week. "Floaters" are loons who don't have a mate. There is a lack of nesting area on So. End- need new platform on South end of lake. Doug Ebeling says the platform is ok, but the loons are not interested. Thanks Pat and Doug!

Fishing Report- John Briegal- Pan fish are good. Walleyes are coming back. DNR found 17-17-1/2", so next year will be good keepers. Found a dead floating walleye that was 21". DNR stocks on odd year- in fall 2015- every other year on odd. 5500 fingerlings- who will monitor this fall? DNR confirmed stocking will happen this fall 2015.

County Supervisor- Jim Edgell was not present

Milltown Township- Harlen Hegdal reported that the township is in great shape. The township opened all of its roads to ATV's. He worked with Luck ATV club who are very responsible. A road can be closed to ATV's with majority vote. These rights can be remove if they do not obey the rules. County BOA- new zoning laws- a cabin within 75' of shoreline no longer has to go B4 the BOA to remodel, do maintenance and repair. Up to 35', need to receive permit. Consider your neighbors with "light trespassing and pollution" with big yard lights and all night lights. Smalledge Memorial donation(\$724.00) is not a district issue, so will give the money to the water ski course permit people.

Newsletter Report- Sarah Anderson- 10 issues of the Loon Lines have been published! Sarah is going off the Board and off the newsletter- Thank you Sarah! Pat McMahon will continue on the newsletter and Diane Erickson will become co-editor with Pat. Thank

you Ladies! PaperWorx in Amery does the publishing. The mailing labels are created from the tax roll lists, so any changes need to be made at the County level. There will be a Facebook page for the Loon Lines, and a digital copy in the future. Send articles and pictures to halfmoonlakeloonlines@gmail.com. The website for the lake is managed by Rick Miller and the address is www.halfmoonlake.net. He updates this once a week. Please send information, pics, news, history, etc. to Rick.

Fireworks Report- Successful weekend with tie dye, movie, popcorn, lemonade and fireworks. Boothill Pyrotechnics is hired to do fireworks for \$2700.00. The costs are collected from ads in the newsletter. Milltown Library hosts the movie night at the public beach. 30 kids came to tie dye t shirts. There were 80 people at the movie on the beach park. The fireworks were 25 minutes long and a great display! Many boats were on the lake watching and enjoying. Need help with soliciting for ads in newsletter for revenue.

HML Conservancy- Ellen Butler gave report. The HML watershed is 5100 acres and extends mostly to the north. 50% of our water comes from Harder Creek, 40% comes from Tamarack Bay. Need to keep clean the area around these inlets and create buffers on front yards to lake.

Long Range Planning committee- no report

Lake Map- Arne Kolbjournsen had updated the lake/cabin/names map. Send your updates to him.

Kids Water Ski Day- Matt Smith- First Saturday of August- meet at South end- bring skis and 75 foot rope. The record is pulling 14 kids behind one Mastercraft ski boat in 1985.

2014 Advisory Motion- review- "continue to add \$10,000.00 each year to the reserve fund as directed by the membership". Motion made by Marv Christofferson, 2nd by Doug Eberling, voted and passed.

2016 Budget- Dan Leh- no tax raise! Same as 2014 and 2015. tax \$19,380.00 budget + \$10,000.00 reserve fund(emergency invasive species treatment) = \$29,380.00

\$29,380.00 for 2016 expenditure proposed. Motion made by Diane Erickson, 2nd by Chris Schneider, voted, and passed.

Thank you gifts to Dan Leh and Sarah Anderson who are going off the Board.

New business: Discussion- Does district take on responsibility for fireworks, movies, popcorn, lemonade, tie dye? Need new firework committee, new ads person, do we find volunteer and if not, do we hire someone to sell ads for the newsletter? Pat McMahon made a motion that we hire PaperWorx to sell ads, as no one volunteered to do this job. 2nd by Tom Lennertson.

Lighting discussion about bright yard lights at night- discussion about providing cones/shades for downlighting. Township will ask Polk Burnett to put a cone/shade on the

public beach light so we can see what they look like, and how they work. Motion by Dan Leh, 2nd by Diane Erickson to put cones on all the big yard lights owned by PB. Amendment to give discretion to the Board to make that decision. Will begin with cone on beach light. It is common to put a cone/shade to prevent light to go horizontal, reflected light will still go vertical. Polk-Burnett designed the cones. We can not mandate cones on all lights. Put cone on beach carried and passed. 5 opposed. Discussion on idea on lake directory. Harlen H. said that Balsam Lake has one and people really like it and find it handy. Comments- yes! Dave Balestri mentioned making an online "nextdoor" for HML that people can sign up for- need separate email.

The 2016 annual meeting will be at 10am at the public beach park on Saturday, July 16th.

Thanks to previous Board members: Pat, Dan, Sarah and others from John W.

Adjourn at 12noon.

Board of Directors Meeting

A Board of directors meeting was called immediately following by President John Weber.

All members attending.

Order of business- to elect officers

Ellen Butler was nominated for Treasurer, vote was taken and election carried.

Dave Balestri was nominated for Secretary, vote taken and election carried.

Bud Erickson was nominated for Vice-President- vote taken and election carried.

All other positions remain unchanged.

Meeting was adjourned.