

Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
Annual Meeting - Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2023

Bud Ericksen called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m. The meeting was held at the public beach on Half Moon Lake.

Board members present:

Bud Ericksen
Ellen Butler
Jim Beneke
Bob Cutshall

Board members absent:

Mike Dau
Steve Schatz

- I. The first order of business was for Bud Ericksen to confirm that proper legal notice for the meeting had been given and that there was a quorum present, which he did.
- II. Approval of the meeting agenda
 - A. Randy Walker made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as drafted by Bud Ericksen
 - B. Reese Brackins seconded the motion
 - C. The motion was unanimously approved
- III. Approval of the annual meeting minutes from July 16, 2022
 - A. Doug Ebling made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted
 - B. Suzie Bank seconded the motion
 - C. The motion was unanimously approved
- IV. Selection of new board members
 - A. The board has nominated two individuals to join the board; Mike Waller and Mike McMahon
 - B. After a brief introduction of these two individuals, Bud Ericksen asked if anyone would like to nominate someone else to the board. There were none.
 - C. Reese Brackins made a motion to close the nominations and Chris Schneider seconded the motion.
 - D. There was a unanimous voice vote to approve Mike Waller and Mike McMahon for the two board positions.
- V. Invasive species
 - A. Yellow iris - Jim Benike, Doug Ebling and Judy Proell have been assisting property owners in removing yellow iris.
 - B. Zebra mussels - Deer Lake, Balsam Lake and Lake Wapogasset all have zebra mussels in them. As of now, Half Moon Lake does not. Property owners at the end of the lake near the boat landing were asked to be diligent about watching for them. If they are discovered, they need to be removed as soon as possible or they will quickly spread throughout the entire lake. There is no chemical treatment for zebra mussels that is currently approved by the Wisconsin DNR (DNR).
 - C. Eurasian water milfoil (EWM)
 1. Jim Benike gave a thorough report on the actions the board has taken to deal with this problem. Jim has been working diligently with Barr Engineering to deal with the DNR and the Tribal DNR to develop a treatment plan.

2. The lake currently has about 12 acres of milfoil infestation. For 2023, the DNR will not allow the use of the chemical ProcellaCOR to treat the milfoil. So we will have to use scuba divers to hand pull the plants. This is time consuming and expensive. We have a DNR approved DASH permit and will begin removing the milfoil on July 17th.
 3. The cost of dealing with the EWM problem for our 2022-23 fiscal year was about \$92,000. The projected expenditure for fiscal year 2023-24 is \$73,000. Jim will continue to work with Barr to deal with this problem.
- D. There was a lot of discussion about the unfairness of the lake property owners having to bear almost the entire financial burden of the invasive species problem, especially when it is highly unlikely that they are the source of the infestation. We do get some financial assistance from the DNR, but it is fairly minimal. There was discussion about charging a landing fee at the main public landing to help pay for this and also soliciting donations from entities who use the lake regularly. The board has already discussed some of these ideas and will continue to investigate their feasibility.
- VI. 2023-24 budget and mill rate proposal
- A. Ellen Butler presented the proposed 2023-24 budget which includes substantial funds to continue to deal with the EWM problem.
 - B. Currently, the only way we have to pay for these expenses is to increase the mill rate. The current rate is 0.03833%. The proposed rate for 2024 is 0.08%
 - C. After a thorough discussion of this matter, Reese Brackins made a motion to approve the proposed budget and raise the mill rate to 0.08%. The motion was seconded by Charlie Wold. The motion passed unanimously.
 - D. There was a suggestion that we could set up some type of endowment fund where people could donate to fund the protection of the lake. This could possibly be done in conjunction with the Half Moon Lake Conservancy. The board will investigate the feasibility and legality of how to set something like this up.
- VII. Establishing a lake association
- A. Terry Hauer explained how the Balsam Lake Association worked. The board has been discussing this idea with Terry and will determine how to set up something like this. The association would deal with matters like; the Loon Lines, buoy management, July 4th events and other social activities.
 - B. Anyone interested in working with Terry on this should contact him at (651) 261-4124 or terry@wordsworth.net.
- VIII. Clean boats, clean waters
- A. Dan Leh gave a brief overview of the inspection/monitoring activities that are performed at the boat landing. The inspectors are there eight hours per day, seven days per week. Approximately 50 boats per day come into the lake.
 - B. Bud recognized and thanked Dan for his 20 years of leading this effort.
- IX. Loon Lines
- A. There was a brief discussion about going all digital with the Loon Lines. It currently costs \$26 per year per property owner to print and mail out paper copies (copies are sent out twice a year). Doing this electronically would save a substantial amount of money. The board will discuss matter further.
- X. Half Moon Lake website (halfmoonlake.net)
- A. Currently, this is the only electronic means of official communication from the board to the property owners. There is a Half Moon Lake Facebook page, but that is not used for official communications.
- XI. Lake level

- A. Sarah Sawyer Anderson brought up the issue of the lake level (currently very low). There were concerns raised that the dam has settled and also is leaking water underneath it. The board will discuss this situation with the DNR.

XII. Fish stocking

- A. The DNR will again stock the lake with about 5,700 6" to 8" walleyes this fall.

XIII. 2024 annual meeting

- A. The 2024 annual meeting will be held on Saturday, August 3, 2024

XIV. Meeting adjournment

- A. At 11:45, Randy Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Judy Proell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Bob Cutshall
Secretary

**Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
HMLPRD**

**Finance Report
As of 7-11-2023**

Royal Credit Union bank (RCU)

Royal Advantage Plus checking acct.	\$ 16,220.83
Business Money Market – Capital Fund	\$ 67,926.81
Savings account .3% ...7985	\$ 5.14
TOTAL	\$ 84,147.64

RCU Fireworks account	
Royal Advantage checking	\$ 879.86

REVENUE SOURCES in 2022

Taxes collected	\$35,840.00
Polk County Lottery	\$ 532.00
Bank Interest – checking acct.	\$ 56.00
TOTAL	\$36,428.00

EXPENSES and TRANSFER

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM)

**Aquatic Invasive Species treatment since April 2022:
\$ 91,570.**

Barr Engineering Co.	23,000
Aquatic Plant Management-	33,150- DNR grant 25,000
Shore Cleaning Station-	35,420 -DNR grant 19,193

Lake management- Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) and ILIDS camera at beach	11,200.00
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Transfer to Capital Fund for AIS (aquatic invasive species) Treatment - (2 years)	20,000.00
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Loon Lines Newsletter- 2 issues	5,600.00
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Annual meeting	2,400.00
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Administration	460.00
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Other	1,000.00
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TOTAL:	40,660.00
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Submitted by Ellen Butler, Treasurer

**Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
(HMLPRD)
2024 Annual Budget Proposal
Jan 1, 2024- December 31, 2024**

Revenues:

Tax Levy	82,223.00	based on approved mill rate
Lottery Credit	500	
Interest	40	
Total Revenues	82,763.00	

Cost of Operations:

Administration	1,000
Info and Education- Biannual newsletter, annual meeting	10,200

Lake Management-

Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) beach monitoring and ILIDS (internet landing installed device sensor) camera	18,000
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New Boat Launch- one time expense - 30,000

Eurasian Water Milfoil planning and treatment-	53,000
BARR Engineering Co.-	23,000
Aquatic Plant Management-	30,000

Total Expenditures - 2022-23 112,200

Typical Year expenditures- 2023-2024 82,200

2024 Operating Budget Tax Levy - 82,223.00