

Minutes of the Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Board of Commissioners' Meeting - September 12, 2023

Milltown Town Hall

Present - Benike, Butler, Erickson, McMahon, Schatz, Waller, Wood
Absent - Dau

Also present - John Weber

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Ellen Butler confirmed notice to the public through posting in 3 public locations and the presence of a quorum.

There were no additions or subtractions to the agenda. The agenda was approved by unanimous vote following a motion to approve by Waller, seconded by McMahon.

The minutes of the Board's meeting, which was held immediately following the annual meeting held on July 15, 2023, were unanimously approved following a motion to approve by Erickson, seconded by Schatz.

McMahon gave the financial report. Currently there is \$2,859.86 in the fireworks account, but there are some outstanding invoices yet to be paid. The checking account balance is \$21,398.89. There is \$90,693.12 in the money market account, but there are bills yet to be received and paid. McMahon confirmed the District may receive gifts and suggested that fact be publicized to encourage gifting. The financial report was approved by unanimous vote following a motion to approve by Waller and seconded by Erickson.

Benike provided an updated report on efforts to control or eradicate invasive species, particularly Eurasian watermilfoil. DASH was not as successful as we had hoped. Benike will continue discussions with the DNR for its approval of the use of procettaCOR or other chemicals and methods. Wood will discuss with one of his colleagues our frustration with the DNR's delayed response in letting us know what steps we can take to address the Eurasian watermilfoil and will seek guidance on how we may expedite the decision making process.

Benike also discussed the DNR survey. He noted that only about 50% of the surveys were returned timely. The information was sent to Barr Engineering for compilation. Benike noted the greatest use of the lake was for swimming and there was strong support for treating the Eurasian watermilfoil.

Because Wood was going to have to leave due to other commitments, several agenda items were moved forward on the agenda. First, Benike reported that Jacob Druffner from the DNR inspected and surveyed the dam. Druffner discussed repairing damage to the top of the abutment on the northwest end off the dam. We are awaiting a written report. Second, McMahon presented information about launch fees. He noted other lakes charge launch fees and offer daily and seasonal passes. Launch fees must be used for launch related activities. Collection varies, but several use on-site drop boxes. Unless the daily fee exceeds \$8, the District does not need DNR approval. Potential exemptions for lake home owners and special occasions, e.g., kids fishing tourney, Milltown Fishing Tournament, were discussed. Following a motion by McMahon, seconded by Benike, the Board unanimously voted to form a committee to address this issue, including discussing it with the Milltown Township.

Erickson reported that the railing for the handicapped dock at the boat launch is expected to be installed soon and that the transition from the concrete slab to the dock will be adjusted so it is level. Erickson noted the work has not yet been billed, but he expects the District will receive bills after this work is completed.

Schatz noted that state law mandates boaters use the cleaning station before launching their boats. Options for educating the public about the law and for enforcing the law were discussed. In addition to a sign notifying the public of the state law mandating use of the cleaning station, the launch observers will tell boaters of the law and will have checklists to record compliance or non-compliance. Also, efforts will be made to coordinate with neighboring lakes to promote uniformity in notifying the public about the law, launch fees, and other issues we have in common.

Wood discussed the township's priorities for next year including investment in parks, recreation, and tourism. Some of the projects discussed above may fall into that category and thus, qualify for funding. For example, efforts to eradicate milfoil would enhance swimming and other recreational activities.

Wood left the meeting.

John Weber was attending the meeting pursuant to invitation to report on the HML conservancy and the Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) committee. He is the current chair of the conservancy. He has met with various landowners and confirmed their continued verbal commitment to maintain protective buffers around areas of drainage into the lake. He noted, however, there is a reluctance to provide commitments in writing.

Weber also reported there is a vacancy on the CBCW committee following Dan Leh's resignation at the annual meeting. Weber is agreeable to take responsibility for administering the CBCW program next year. The District will need new observers at the boat launch and he recommended the observers undergo training to include teaching people how to use the boat cleaning station. The District should also look into potential funding from the State. Weber will contact the DNR and Katelin Anderson at Polk County for further support of the CBCW program. Following a motion by Erickson, second by Schatz, Weber was appointed chair of the CBCW committee by unanimous vote.

Weber left the meeting.

A fall issue of Loon Lines will be published and mailed. Due to expenses, future issues may be published online only.

Walleye fingerlings will be stocked on September 20 or 27 dependent on water temperature. Approximately one-half of the fingerlings will be put into the lake at the northwest end (at the boat launch) and the other half will be put in at the small boat landing along the southwest shore (at the end of Breezy Bay Court).

Terry Hauer is the chairperson of a committee looking into forming a lake association. He will be invited to attend the next Board meeting and report on the committee's progress.

The Board discussed the appointment of a parliamentarian for the annual meeting. Butler will contact one or more of the persons suggested for the position.

Erickson and Waller will continue to work on proposed amendments to the bylaws for consideration at the 2024 annual meeting. It is expected that legislative changes will make further amendments necessary or expedient.

Schatz reported that he is waiting to hear back from the County regarding signs to be posted at the boat launch informing the public of the law mandating use of the cleaning station. He will follow up with Katelyn Anderson.

The Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers convention will be held April 10-12, 2024 in Stevens Point, WI. Butler expressed her intention of attending and invited other Board members to attend.

The mill levy increase approved at the 2023 annual meeting and its impact on the 2024 budget were discussed. McMahon will contact the County for information on the 2024 equalized full value of taxable property within the District.

Upon motion by Schatz, seconded by McMahon, the Board discussed whether to convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(e). The purpose of the closed session was to consider potential legal matters against/involving a landowner within the District.

Upon motion by Benike, seconded by McMahon, the Board unanimously voted to reconvene open session.

Upon motion by Butler, seconded by Schatz, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.