

Half Moon Lake District Meeting  
May 24<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM  
Milltown Fire Hall

Those present: Craig Johnson, Kathy Kienholz, Stan Murzin, Todd Hanson, Sheila Waldoch, and Harlan Hegdahl

Visitors: David Butler and John Weber

Absent: Rick Miller

- Craig Johnson called the meeting to order.
- Introductions: Kathy Kienholz was elected as a Polk County Commissioner and will be the County representative on Half Moon's District Board.
- Minutes were approved from Sept 1 meeting. (see attached)
- Treasurer's Report was presented by Todd Hanson: Anchor bank took over for S& C bank. Records were not in order as they should have been due to the change over. Suggest shopping local banks for best interest rates and service.
- Treasurer's report was approved (see attached).
- Harlan Hegdahl reported on activities affecting Milltown Township: Fiber optics are being installed around Half Moon by Lakeland Communications. Because of numerous past complaints about the Power Company (rates, spraying, trimming, etc.), Milltown Township is considering forming a utility commission. However, there is some further legwork to be done on the ability of such a commission to regulate a cooperative. Totally funded by the DNR, a test strip of natural prairie grasses, which buffer surface water run-off, will be started at the Half Moon beach area. Harlan intends to resign in the fall as his official residence will become Florida. All on the District Board thanked him for his years of service. Harlan has been a wonderful asset for all in the community.
- Kathy Kienholz reported on activities affecting Polk County: The highway department buildings in Balsam Lake are old. In fact, one is no longer used because of various issues. They've requested funding for a new building to house their equipment, etc. The building currently used was built in 1937. Johnson Controls has been secured to look into significant energy savings for the County.
- David Butler submitted a report on behalf of the Half Moon Lake Conservancy (see attached). He reviewed how the Conservancy was started. He said the Conservancy has developed a walking path on the Conservancy property off of Dau Road. Signs at the site will further define the walking path. The property is 40 acres through which Harder Creek flows (and surface water is filtered) before going through the Kaiser property. Around half of Half Moon's water comes from Harder Creek. After recent consultations with the DNR and Federal Fish and Wild Life Service, it has been decided to leave the property just as it is. The Conservancy is also working with the biology teacher at Unity High School to create study projects for those that are interested in learning more about the biology of the lake and its surroundings.
- David also discussed the land area Tamarack Bay. The Conservancy plans to host an educational dinner for land owners around that area to help them stay informed about the important role played by the land immediately surrounding Tamarack Bay. All surface water flowing into Tamarack Bay first crosses their land allowing many harmful nutrients to be filtered out before the water reaches the Bay. The dinner would be for educational purposes only.
- As the Conservancy has learned, there is a lack of complete information about the role played by Tamarack Bay in maintaining the water quality of Half Moon Lake. Starting in 1980 and subsequent years, several studies paid for by the Lake District suggested 20% of Half Moon's water comes from the general area of Tamarack Bay.
- Stan Murzin reported on safety concerns around the lake: There are several brown bears that can occasionally be seen around Half Moon (see picture posted at [www.halfmoonlake.net](http://www.halfmoonlake.net)). People should know this is normal and be alert to their possible presence. Meth arrests are down dramatically in the County.

- Old Business
  1. Additional signs for lake access are still in Spooner Sheila reports – Janie Weber could pick up
  2. Sheila reported on the Lake Picnic and Annual meeting survey. See Attached
  3. Fireworks – tabled
  4. Dam review – Chris Schneider has been asked to head up an overall review of the dam.
  5. Jon Weber working on plan for Clean Boats, Clean Water
  6. Pat McMahan – Boating Regulations – will have book available for attendees of the annual meeting.
  7. Martha Mc Mahon wants to resign as Loon Watch Lady. Motion failed. It is hoped that she will stay on in that capacity.
  8. Pat McMahan is also working on learning about the new Wisconsin pier legislation and will report at the next meeting
- New Business
  1. David Butler was asked to review the By Laws of the District
  2. Recycling fliers for electronics, appliances and any other items will be brought to the next meeting by Kathy. The Polk County Recycling Center is on Hiway 8 near the new Menards.
  3. Trash and Treasure Day to be set – District will pay for a dumpster. Rick and Sheila will spearhead this initiative.
  4. Fire department wants to hire a cleaning person. A motion was made and passed that the District would pay a \$100 annual honorarium to the fire Department in gratitude for housing our meeting and expenses incurred due to our meetings. This should be made to the Unity Fire Association
  5. Fish – Stan will be the fishing committee head. If our District pays for larger fish will this cancel the DNR stocking of fish on designated years. This was a concern. Stan to visit the Sportsman Club and get their input and support of Fish stocking in the lake. Stan was also going to see if the DNR had reduced the size of allowable bass to be in possession.
  6. The Memory Meeting at the Mc Mahon residence in August was a success with 31 people in attendance. Martha and David took notes. There will report of this in the newsletter.
  7. The Annual Meeting is set for July 19<sup>th</sup> at the beach. Amy Merzin will offer her fantastic assistance as she's done in the past.

Newsletter: Want to announce that the District may be looking for new board member that is a full time resident. Ask for items of discussion to be presented at the Annual Meeting. Sarah Sawyer was mentioned as a possible board member applicant

Next get-together will be Friday night June 20 at Craig Johnson's cabin. Not an official meeting so Harlan and Kathy do not need to attend. This will be an Annual Meeting Planning meeting.

Motion to close – passed.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Waldoch – sitting in as past chairperson a non voting member and acting secretary as Rick Miller was unable to attend.