

Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
Fall Board Meeting - Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2022

Bud Ericksen called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. The meeting was held at Bud's cabin on Half Moon Lake.

Board members present:

Bud Ericksen
Ellen Butler
Jim Benike
Steve Schatz
Bob Cutshall

Board members absent:

Mike Dau

Others present:

Doug Ebling
Joe Lonsky

- I. Minutes from the annual meeting (July 16, 2022)
 - A. Jim Benike made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted
 - B. Ellen Butler seconded the motion
 - C. The motion passed unanimously
- II. Increase in the annual levy
 - A. A 20% increase in the levy was approved at the annual meeting
 - B. Ellen will submit the required documents to Polk County to facilitate this change
- III. Finance report
 - A. Ellen presented the finance report dated September 2, 2022
 - B. Jim Benike made a motion to accept the report
 - C. Bob Cutshall seconded the motion
 - D. The motion passed unanimously
- IV. Investment of district funds
 - A. The board had a discussion about how our funds should be invested. We will need to keep sufficient funds liquid because of the uncertain magnitude of future expenditures.
 - B. The funds are currently held in three different accounts; a checking account, a business money market fund and a 12 month certificate of deposit.
 - C. It was decided that we should invest the money in the following manner (amounts are approximate):
 1. Checking account - \$26,000
 2. Business money market - \$40,000
 3. 12 month CD - \$50,000
 4. 6 month CD - \$34,000
- V. Boat cleaning station
 - A. Doug Ebling gave Steve Schatz all of the documentation on the cleaning station that was recently installed at the boat landing.

- B. The station still needs a tie down system installed to protect it from overturning during very high winds. Doug will work with Steve to get that installed this fall.
- C. The district has paid for the cleaning station and will receive the 50% grant money from the DNR over a three year period. The first installment has already been received from the DNR. Ellen will be responsible to see that we get the remaining two payments.

VI. Invasive species

- A. Jim Benike gave the board an update on the current status of eurasian water milfoil (EWM) eradication.
- B. Two types of treatments have been used so far; ProcettaCOR herbicide and DASH (hand pulling by SCUBA divers). This work has been done under the DNR's rapid response program.
- C. Barr will perform two more plant surveys; one in September and the other in October. If EWM is still present, we will apply for another DNR permit to utilize DASH to remove the remaining plants.
- D. We have applied for a DNR grant for this work and have received about \$5,500 so far with a commitment for more to come. The total cost of this work (before receipt of grant funds) could run up to \$30,000. The maximum grant from the DNR is \$25,000.
- E. We will need to prepare a lake management plan for the district to receive additional funding from the DNR (subsequent to the work that is being done in 2022). Jim will work with Barr Engineering to develop and submit this plan.
- F. Jim also reported that a large amount of yellow iris was eradicated this year.
- G. Spotted knapweed (another invasive plant) has been discovered in the area. It grows on the land, not in the lake. We will make sure that there is an article in the next Loon Lines about how to treat this plant.

VII. Boat landing

- A. Cedar Corp. (the engineering firm handling this project for the Village of Milltown) posted the project for public bidding. However, only one bid was received that was in the amount of \$181,531. That amount is roughly \$35,000 over the engineer's estimate of probable cost.
- B. The acceptance of this bid will result in the district's share of the costs to exceed \$30,000 (the amount authorized at our two previous annual meetings). Exactly how much above the \$30,000 limit will depend on the final amount of the DNR grant for this work.
- C. Bud Ericksen will discuss this matter promptly with LuAnn White from the Village and Mike Dau from the Township and try and resolve this issue so the work can proceed this fall. However, it may be necessary to rebid the project this winter and perform the work next spring.

VIII. Boat landing inspectors

- A. After a brief discussion of compensation for our inspectors, Steve Schatz made a motion to increase their hourly pay rate to \$15.00. The motion also included a provision that authorizes the use of these inspectors up to 1,100 hours per year (an approximate 10% increase over the current utilization of about 1,000 hours per year).
- B. Ellen seconded the motion
- C. The motion passed unanimously

IX. July 4th activities

- A. The 4th of July is on a Tuesday in 2023. We will try and have our fireworks display on either July 1st or 2nd. Steve will coordinate this with a fireworks vendor with assistance from Ellen.

X. Email addresses

- A. We will attempt to get the email addresses for all of the property owners on the lake. This will allow us to communicate much more quickly than relying only on the Loon Lines that is published twice a year. Ellen will follow up on this item.

XI. HML Conservancy

- A. The Conservancy recently completed its second round of water quality sampling in the lake and also in the streams that drain into the lake.
- B. The phosphorous levels in the lake are extremely low.
- C. The highest levels of phosphorous entering the lake are coming from Harder Creek. However, the amount of water entering the lake from the creek is very minor in comparison to the amount of water in the lake.
- D. The lake should continue to maintain its excellent water quality so long as there are no significant changes in land use in the watershed. The Conservancy will continue to monitor this.

XII. Adjournment

- A. Jim Benike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 a.m.
- B. Bob Cutshall seconded the motion
- C. The motion passed unanimously

Submitted by,

Bob Cutshall
Secretary