

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District**  
**July 21, 2007 10:00 A.M.**  
**Half Moon Lake Public Beach**

Committee Members:

Present

- X Sheila Waldoch – Chairperson – Term Expires: July 2007
- X Todd Hanson – Treasurer – Term Expires: July 2009
- X Craig Johnson – Committee and Issues Coordinator –  
Term Expires: July 2009
- Rick Miller – Secretary/WEB page: Term Expires July 2008
- X Stefan Milberg – Polk County Commissioner
- X Harlen Hegdal – Chair, Milltown Township
- X Stan Murzyn – Security Committee – Term Expires July 2008

Other Person(s) Present:

Approximately 185 persons were present at this annual picnic / board meeting.

1. Opening Remarks, Sheila Waldoch – Chairperson:

Sheila began the meeting with a welcome to everyone. She then briefly discussed the purpose of the Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation Board. Sheila introduced and recognized Harlan Hegdal, Tim Moore (Polk County Sheriff), and each of the Board Members.

2. Board Accomplishments:

Craig Johnson described the Board's accomplishments for the year including the signs purchased and installed at the boat launch and those yet to come-near the winter access, the newsletter, the Half Moon Lake website ([www.halfmoonlake.net](http://www.halfmoonlake.net)) which is provided at no cost to the lakeshore homeowners, and update on the joint district/conservancy meeting (protecting water quality), and boat landing update.

3. Secretaries Report – Sheila Waldoch for Rick Miller:

Sheila discussed option and solicited opinions via survey for: financial contributions to the Glassman's for the fireworks display each year, volunteer interest in taking on the newsletter for regular distribution, and interest and volunteers for the boat inspection and lake water inspection program (distributed during treasures report)

Sheila proposed a motion to approve the June 17, 2006 Board Meeting Minutes – motion seconded – chair placed the question to the council - all in favor – none opposed – motion passed (meeting notes were included in the newsletter and on the web site. Additional copies were available at the meeting).

#### 4. Treasurer's Report – Todd Hanson:

Todd stated that Board's budget is in good shape.

Todd stated that the balance last year was about 60,000 – this year the balance is about \$68,000. He stated that we will benefit from the higher interest rates when our funds are soon converted to new certificates of deposit. The balance is made up by about \$9,000 in tax paid by lakeshore property owners each year. Todd stated that the Board was pre-authorized to spend \$9,000 per year without the larger approval by the lakeshore property owners. He finished by stating that money in the past year had been spent on the annual picnic and signs for the public accesses

Todd proposed a motion to approve the proposed budget for 2007 – motion seconded – chair placed the question to the council – all in favor – none opposed – motion passed.

#### 6. Old Business:

Sheila also asked for volunteers to help finish painting the Public Beach washrooms.

#### 7. New Business:

Pat McMahon invited members to the McMahon boat house on July 29 to discuss Half Moon Lake memories.

Members were encouraged to complete the survey for input re: fireworks, the newsletter, and boat and water inspection program.

Stan and Amy Murzyn were presented with a gift subscription for Cabin Life Magazine. Coupons for reduced subscription rates were made available to all present.

Gordy Mommsen will update the lake map for next year's meeting.

#### 8. Milltown Township and Polk County Report – Harlan Hegdal- and Stefan Milberg

Harlan discussed road projects for the year. The price has increased dramatically and the county will focus on feeder roads. They will finish the Unity cut through (190<sup>th</sup>) and are laying and oil/pea gravel layer on Oscar Lane. Harlan also talked about negotiations for a border agreement with Balsam Lake as they move toward annexation. This may eventually lead to sewer access to those on the S. side of Half Moon Lake. The county has made mapping available to residents for \$11/parcel and would be available on the internet. Concerns include too much detail may be a security risk for homeowners. The town is in the process of negotiating some changes. Finally noted-it is possible to require insurance for fishing tournaments held on the lake.

Stefan discussed three shoreline ordinances that have passed (info available on the web). He also reported on the county budget, land conservancy committee and the University Extension committee.

## 9. Election of Officers:

Sheila Waldoch's term expired. Craig Johnson asked if anyone present wanted to volunteer to become a board member. There were no volunteers. Pat McMahon was nominated for the board and the nomination was seconded. Pat McMahon was elected to the board.

## 10. Water Quality Report – David Butler:

Secchi disk (i.e. water clarity) readings are taken 6 times per year. The most recent Secchi reading is 15'.

## 11. Sheriffs Department – Tim Moore:

The county implemented communications plan that included a change from an analog to digital communications system. This allows all emergency responders to communicate (police, fire, medical, etc). This also increases signal coverage –there were many “dead” spots where emergency responders were not able to communicate at all.

The sheriff's department is requesting additional officers, though due to the current budget situation, this may not be possible.

Local laws limiting the sale of Sudafed type products and tighter control over the sale of anhydrous ammonia have limited the supply materials needed to manufacture meth. There was a decrease in meth arrests this past year. There was a recent lab bust, but was the 1<sup>st</sup> in 2 ½ years. There was a homicide in the County this year (very near Half Moon Lake). Cabin break-ins continue to occur-especially in the late fall and winter. He suggested keeping an eye on neighbors' property. There are continued complaints of speeding on County Road G. We are able to access the flashing speed sign.

There is an increase in metal thefts and scams.

Funding has been approved to address duplicate fire numbers on different sides of the lake (200<sup>th</sup> Ave). Residents can contact Sarah McCurdy for an update. An estimated 300 numbers will be corrected in the next 2 years.

## 12. Fire Department – Dan Olson, Chief:

Approximately 2/3 of the runs the department responds to are medical. The fire department has been able to purchase rescue equipment with donated funds and DNR grants. This year, the department purchased a new (used) fire engine, 2 4-wheel rescue vehicles and cold water rescue suits. The calendar raffle has been successful. One of the fund raising events announced is the annual Milltown Fire Department Taco Feed/auction. The 2007 Taco Feed fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday October 13 at 4 pm at the Milltown fire hall.

## 13. Toxic Plants-Keith Zygowicz

Keith brought examples of different toxic plants, including wild parsnip (which causes burning and blistering) and spotted nap weed, which chokes out or stunt the growth of other plants creating a greater risk of erosion. Keith also talked about two types of buckthorn and *purple loosestrife*.

#### 14. Clean Boats/Clean Water-Phil Foster

Phil discussed different programs currently in place on Bone Lake implemented in an effort to preserve lake quality-Clean boats/clean water and lake monitoring.

Clean boats/clean water: involves volunteers (usually 2) staffing the boat landing on Saturday mornings and fishing tournaments. The volunteers inspect boats for unwanted aquatic vegetation and mud. Volunteers on Bone work appx. 2 shifts per year for 3 hours per shift.

Lake Monitoring: teams of volunteers survey lake vegetation for invasive species 1/month in designated areas (the sooner an invasive species is identified, the easier it is to eradicate).

Education and training for both programs is available through the DNR, Polk County Land and Water Association and the University of Wisconsin Extension office.

#### 15. Half Moon Lake Conservancy-Gordy Mommsen

Gordy introduced the strategic plans and goals for the Half Moon Lake Conservancy. The conservancy currently consists of 35 acres of and near Harder Creek. The land is a conservation easement that is open to the public. The land can not be farmed or developed.

#### 16. DNR Fish Biologist-Heath Benike

The walleye count is down on Half Moon Lake. Currently there are approximately 300 walleye per (1/2 per acre). Previously there have been 1500-2000 (3 per acre), despite the DNR's restocking efforts. This is common in Polk and Barron County. The decrease is being attributed to an increase in the Bass population-5000 (appx 10 per acre). The DR is suggesting a lift on the size limit of Bass. An informal vote was taken and it was decided the size limit will be lifted. This could be accomplished as early as May, 2008. The Walleye turnaround may take 10-15 years.

#### 17. Loon Report-Martha McMahon

Martha did not have any information on the loons this year. She requested input from the members.

#### 18. Memorabilia Sales:

A vast array of colorful Half Moon Lake attire and other unique and useful items were available for sale at the meeting.

#### 19. Lunch Served at 12:00 noon.

Lunch was provided by Riverview Catering. 165 plates were served – not including folks who had seconds.