

Friday October 03, 2008

October Fall District Meeting

Present:

Craig Johnson	President
Sarah Sawyer	Secretary
Todd Hanson	Treasurer
Tom Lennartson	Board member
Pat McMahon	Board member/Newsletter
Kathy Kienholz	Polk County Commissioner
Dan Leh	Clean Boats/Clean Water
Dave Balestri	Water Studies

1, The meeting was called to order by President Craig Johnson. Secretary Sarah Sawyer read the minutes of the previous July board meeting and they were approved with one correction.

2. Tom Lennartson gave a report on the loon nest project. He had talked with Martha McMahon and also has done some research on what time of the year loons nest. Tom will do further checking on how and when and where to place these nests on the lake. Sarah suggested that the locations be printed in our newsletter to let boaters know the locations to avoid driving too close to the nests.

3. Todd Hanson read the treasurer's report. We have a total of \$74,295.16 in our treasury. There were with no corrections. The detailed report identifying where all of our funds are allocated is attached.

4. Kathy Kienholz, Polk County commissioner, gave an update on the zoning ordinance as it regards to the rental of private properties on lakes. Property owners wishing to rent out their properties must have a two part annual health inspection of the facilities. They also must go through Land and Water to get a special use permit of \$350.00/ property. If there are complaints, they may request a hearing with their neighbors which will cost the owner(s) of the rental units \$500. There is a 2 person per bedroom plus 2 person limit for rentals with a limit of 8 individuals allowed to rent and occupy a property at any given time. For more information, please contact Sarah McCurdy at Land Information at the Government Center. Sarah Sawyer suggested that this information be included in our next newsletter.

5. Dan Leh gave a report on the Weed Rangers (aka Clean Boats / Clean Water). He suggested that they apply for some grant money to help defray the costs of funding this program. Pat knows a professional grant writer. Todd moved that the district fund monies for 15 copies of the book that the Weed Rangers need for training and identification. Pat seconded that motion and it was passed. Tom Lennartson made a motion and Pat seconded it that we purchase signs for the two public boat launches cautioning boaters to check their boats for invasive weeds before launching.

6. Dave Balestri gave a report on the water quality of our lake this summer. The water clarity was tested 4 times this summer. At present there is an 18 foot clarity. There was a second test that was done once this summer but next summer will be performed the required three times.

7. Craig reported on the Half Moon Lake Conservation District. There was a discussion about location, parking, and signage on the new trail off Dau road along Harder Creek. Will motorized vehicles be allowed?

8. Craig asked Pat to be in charge of newsletters. Sarah suggested the need for at least two newsletters per year to be able to adequately disseminate all of the information that we need to pass on to the lake owners. She will work with Sheila Waldoch on publication with the goal to issue the first newsletter in the next 30 days.

9. Milltown Town Chair Harlan Hegdahl was unable to attend the Meeting. On his behalf, Craig reported on the results from the study by JOE Consulting. They recently surveyed Half Moon's dam where water exits to Harder Creek and flows to Balsam Lake. The Township owns the dam. The survey showed that the benchmark about 100 ft. back from the dam was still perfectly in tact and accurate. With that starting point, the elevation of the dam was surveyed. The results showed that the center spillway of the dam was exactly 98.5 feet above sea level. This is the correct height as established by the 1930 "modified" Railway Commission of Wisconsin in Order WP-242. While the elevation was 100% accurate, JOE noted physical deterioration of the dam on the northwest side. Also, there was a slight "split" on one side of the spillway. The District and Township will discuss these two situations and recommend any further action.

10. Craig reported that the Wisconsin DNR has approved the District's request for total funding of \$14,360 for an updated study of the phosphate levels in Half Moon Lake. The last study was completed back in 1992. This study will review any changes since then and also focus on phosphate loading from Tamarack Bay. Based on the results, the District will be able to re-focus its efforts to monitor and control ground water run-off, which is a major source of phosphate entering Half Moon Lake. Of the total approved, the DNR Grant is \$10,000. The District Contribution is \$2,420. The balance of the funding will be funded by "labor in-kind" and the Conservancy.

11. A short report was given on Trash and Treasure Day by Dan Leh and those in attendance. There were many who used the dumpster and also exchanged "trash and treasures". The dumpster was filled to overflowing. Those who made use of the dumpster seemed to appreciate the opportunity of it being made available by the district. The consensus was that in the future there needs to be some monitoring of the dumpster as there were some inappropriate items put into it.

12. Pat reported on the small meetings as a good way to educate people about what the district is doing and get to know them and encourage them to actively participate in the annual meetings, committees, etc. There will be 6 districts and 5 hosts. These small meetings will be potlucks in people's cabins.

13. Fish Committee Chair, Stan Murzyn, was unable to attend the Meeting. At the Annual Meeting, the members had approved an amendment to fund \$5,000 to purchase walleye fingerlings. On Stan's behalf, Craig reported that we unfortunately would not be able to proceed this year. Seeking to continue to control a fish virus from spreading, the DNR required fish farms to undergo more and different testing. This in turn caused delays and ultimately a shortage of harvested fingerlings. Supplies for new customers like Half Moon are just not available this year. Stan will continue to

communicate with Heath Beneke at the DNR and will be encouraging them to return to their normal cycle of stocking Half Moon Lake in 2009. The District will also research the feasibility of purchasing walleye fingerlings in 2009 in addition to the DNR stocking.

14. Tom Lennartson will be in charge of researching and instructing us about a master land plan, in other words, land use, zoning and sub zoning. He will also research education and conservation for a land use policy.

15. At the 2008 Annual District Meeting, a Lake member had raised the topic of the District providing a 4th of July fireworks show using a federally licensed fireworks provider. That member and others obtained such information. It was learned that such a show of about 30 minutes would cost \$3,000. A motion to fund such a show was turned down by the District Board. There were two concerns. First, it was felt that the Board did not have a clear sense of what members would want done. Secondly, with annual District revenues from tax collections being around \$9,000, funding fish stocking and also the Annual Meeting essentially spends those revenues. Hence, the funds are not available for the additional item of fireworks. Craig volunteered to work with interested parties to explore other means to pay for such a show with voluntary contributions.

16. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next board meeting will be Saturday, May 16, 2009 at the Milltown Fire hall.

Sarah Sawyer, Secretary