



# Newsletter

June 30, 1994

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION  
AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

*July 1994*

\* \* \* \* \* Barr Engineering Report \* \* \* \* \*

Twenty-three (23) persons turned out at a meeting on Saturday, June 25 to hear a presentation by Jon Lennander of Barr Engineering concerning the lake study report that was just completed. Copies of the report are available for reviewing. We have a limited supply so we want the report back after you have finished with it.

The report discloses that the water quality in Half Moon Lake remains excellent. The finding is that the water quality is as good now as it was 20 years ago. The report discloses no major problems. The emphasis is on keeping the good quality that we now have. The report pulls together all of the earlier studies concerning the lake and provides a good base mark from which we will continue to monitor the lake quality. Sherm Gardner is continuing to take lake samples monthly under the Wisconsin Self Help Program.

The report suggests the following positive steps to be taken:

1. Creation of a watershed steering committee to work with surrounding farmers
2. Creation of buffer strips on property adjoining the lake
3. Creation of more storm water holding ponds
4. Acquire title to lands in our wetland areas
5. Ordinance redevelopment concerning the construction in the watershed area.

Other areas for further studies were mentioned such as the following:

1. Septic survey
2. Weed study
3. Long term monitoring program
4. Shoreline stabilization program
5. Outlet study
6. Look at alternatives for future action

\* \* \* \* \* Polk County Lakes Fair \* \* \* \* \*

"For a better life on our lakes...for better lakes in our lives!"

Saturday, July 23, 1994

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Paradise Supper Club Grounds on Balsam Lake

Timber Wolf Alliance, Raptor Center, Project Loon, Aquatic Plants, Fish Shocking, Lawn Fertilizer Demo, Fish Prep & Cooking Demo, Music, Food and Drink, plus much, much more!

Parking nearby and at the courthouse where a shuttle bus every 15 minutes will take you to the fair!

Additional information will be published in area newspapers.

Volunteers from Half Moon Lake are needed to help Friday evening, July 22 and Saturday, July 23 to see that the Polk County Lakes Fair is a success. If you are interested in giving 2 to 4 hours of your time, please call Art or Martha McMahon at 825-2148.

\* \* \* \* \* Fishing Report \* \* \* \* \*

A conversation with Rick Cornelius of the DNR revealed that the St. Croix tribe of Indians reported spearing 60 walleyes in the spring of 1994. Their allowed quota was 110. As a result of the spearing, the bag limit for walleyes in 1994 has been reduced from 5 to 3. If the tribe had speared their full quota of 110, the DNR would have reduced the bag limit to zero. If there had been no spearing by the tribe, the bag limit would have been 5.

The DNR plans to stock another 28,900 walleye fingerlings in 1994. They will do some additional fish counting in the fall to try to determine whether the earlier stockings of walleye fingerlings has been worthwhile.

One interesting note was that the DNR reported that there were no walleyes in the lake prior to 1930. Until that time, the waters contained only bass, northern and other pan fish. Stocking of walleye was begun in 1930.

\* \* \* \* \* Lake history \* \* \* \* \*

A committee is being organized to write a history of Half Moon Lake. Art and Martha McMahon are going to be working on the committee. If there are others interested in helping, please give us a call. In talking with land owners around the lake, we find that there is a lot of history that needs to be preserved before people get much older.

\* \* \* \* \* Lake bank protection \* \* \* \* \*

We have been talking recently about the need to add field rock, rip rap or other forms of protection against lake shore erosion. In riding around the lake, it is obvious there is still a lot of lake front property that has not been protected with rock or logs or

other means to prevent erosion. There are a number of firms that are providing their services to lake front owners to bring in field rock or trap rock and in some instances, other larger types of rock. A number of projects have been completed recently around the lake.

In further conversations with people from the DNR and in reading other articles on the subject, we need to give some further consideration as to what the overall impact these shoreline improvement projects may be having on the lake. We should be concerned about the affect this lake shore protection may be having on the aquatic and animal life in the area. The permits being issued strictly regulate the height of the rocks and the size of the rocks in order to insure that aquatic life will still have access between the lake and the land. It is an area I had not given thought to and I think we all ought to give a little more attention to it.

\* \* \* \* \* Balsam Branch Priority Watershed Project \* \* \* \* \*

After getting off to a good start on the new Balsam Branch Priority Watershed Project which is being funded through state and county efforts with the project under the management of Carl Lindquist, things have slowed down a bit as a result of Carl Lindquist resigning and taking a job elsewhere. Jeff Timmons, the conservation director has taken over management of the project and he and Pat Schmidt, an employee in the office are making arrangements for the Polk County Lake Fair to be held July 23. In talking with Jeff Timmons, I find that the run off from surrounding farm yards into Half Moon Lake is not materially affecting the water quality in the lake. This is supported by the Barr Engineering report. He felt the introduction of phosphorus into the lake, which is the material that accelerates the growth of algae, is less from barn yard run off than it is from fertilizer run off from residents around the lake fertilizing their yards. One of the programs that the Polk County Lakes Fair will be having will be on how to properly fertilize lawns around the lake. Apparently nitrogen is not a factor in polluting the lake in that there is already more nitrogen in the lake than the weeds can use so they don't necessarily multiply as a result of more nitrogen. It is the phosphorus in the fertilizer that causes the damage. If people would use lawn fertilizers that had no phosphorus, the damage if applied properly would be minimal. This again is something we need to pay more attention to and share ideas as we learn how to be more conscious of what we are doing to the lake.

\* \* \* \* \* Jet skiers \* \* \* \* \*

It has been said that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. The same can be said about a nuisance being in the eye of the beholder. Some people get more upset over jet skiers than others. I have generally taken the position that they have a right to be on the lake along with everyone else and there is not a lot we can do about the noise. A situation arose a couple of weeks ago, however, that made me realize there are some people who are abusing their rights in using their jet skis in ways that should not have to be tolerated. There is a point at which common decency dictates that

we recognize there is a place to use toys that is appropriate and there is a place where toys are not appropriate. In the area of noise, it may be comparable to fire works. We generally recognize that people are going to use fire works around the 4th of July but we would not want our neighbors exploding fire works all summer long. There may be areas of compromise.

I think we need to talk more about how the jet skiers can enjoy their equipment and still be conscious of how it bothers other people's peace and tranquility. One suggestion I make is that jet skiers make a conscience effort to go out beyond 300 feet from the lake shore before they start doing their circles and banging into waves. I know that this is not required under the law and this is not in the form of a proposal for regulation but it is in the form of a suggestion that I would like to have the jet skiers consider. I would be glad to have your feed back and if you want to write a letter to the editor and have it submitted, I would be glad to see that all other contrary views are expressed.

\* \* \* \* \* Law Changes \* \* \* \* \*

The 1993 Wisconsin legislature in Act 167 made some major changes in the law pertaining to lake districts. In summary, they are as follows:

1. The number of members on the Board of Commissioners may be increased from 5 to 7. We now are only authorized to elect 3 persons from around the lake on the Board of Commissioners with the other 2 members being appointed by the county and township boards. This means we will have a spot for 2 more commission members if the electors decide to increase the number on our board from 5 to 7. I recommend this action be taken and I will be recommending it at the annual meeting. One of the 3 commissioners from around the lake must be a resident of the lake area. Under the new law, the electors are no longer required to elect a resident of the area to be on the Board if no resident is willing to serve.
2. No owner of riparian land (which means adjacent to public water) may convey any of the riparian rights in the land to another person. This means that an owner of a lake shore lot cannot transfer an easement to a person owning a back lot for the use of going over the lake shore property to construct a dock or other structure in the lake. An easement can be given across the lake shore property where no structure or material will be placed in the water by the holder of the easement. This should preclude the operation of a marina by a developer of back lots.
3. A lake district may assume the powers of a township sanitary district by resolution at the annual meeting. These powers include the power to require inspection of on site sewage systems, collect solid waste, construct water and sewer systems, make drainage improvements and other powers.

4. Lake districts may appropriate money for conservation of natural resources directly or through payment to bonafide non profit conservation organizations, if authorized by the annual meeting.
5. Lake districts may establish a "non-lapsable fund" to finance specially identified capital costs. This is designed to permit lake districts to save funds each year in order to undertake a capital project or purchase in the future.
6. Lake districts are currently limited to a 2.5 mil annual tax levy for "cost of operation". The new law defines "cost of operation" and "capital costs". Capital costs are not subject to the levy limit.
7. Currently projects having a cost in excess of \$5,000 must be approved at the annual meeting. This figure is increased to \$10,000. The budget is required to specify any item with a cost to the district exceeding \$10,000.
8. The law clarifies that a lake district may adopt a boating ordinance if it is delegated the authority to do so by each city, village and town having jurisdiction on the lake.
9. The law clarifies the authority of lake districts to establish and operate water safety patrols, hire certified law enforcement officers and obtain enforcement aids from the Department of Natural Resources to offset a portion of the cost of operating the water safety patrol.
10. The law makes numerous technical clarifications concerning the enforcement of boating ordinances by lake districts, including the use of citation (traffic ticket) procedures and provisions authorizing circuit court enforcement proceedings.

\* \* \* \* \* Polk County Association of Lakes \* \* \* \* \*

The Polk County Association of Lakes continues to be active. The meeting on June 25 covered the subject of upgrading septic systems on lake property. Art and Martha McMahnnon attended as a representative of Half Moon Lake. If there are others who would care to participate, please give me a call.

\* \* \* \* \* Half Moon all lake picnic \* \* \* \* \*

The all lake picnic scheduled for July 9 has been cancelled. Shirley Dworski has volunteered to work on a committee next year to see that we have an all lake picnic in 1995. If there are others interested in working on that committee, please call Shirley at 825-2339.

\* \* \* \* \* Lake clean up \* \* \* \* \*

The commissioners have decided that we should hold another all lake

clean up the last weekend of August so it has been set for August 26, 27 and 28. A large trash container will be located at the town beach and groups will be encouraged to undertake collection of trash along the roads, creeks and wetland areas to help clean up the areas. If you have large appliances that are being dumped from your garage or cabin, there will be a fee of \$20 per appliance. Phil Siegle is in charge of the project.

\* \* \* \* \* Wetlands Committee \* \* \* \* \*

The Wetlands Committee, under the guidance of Gordy Mommsen, will be doing more looking into the subject of acquiring land or easements in order to preserve the areas around Harder Creek and Tamarack Bay. We will also be looking at other areas around the lake that need to be preserved into the future. If there are others of you who would like to serve on that committee, please give me a call.

\* \* \* \* \* Boating operation \* \* \* \* \*


The DNR reports that protection of sensitive environmental areas of a lake can be accomplished through municipal boating ordinances. The DNR reviews and comments on such ordinances. The DNR Bureau of Land Enforcement considers ordinances based on public health, safety and welfare. They are now interpreting public welfare to include environmental concerns. More attention is going to be given to the affect of boating with high powered motors on the environment.

\* \* \* \* \* Loon watch \* \* \* \* \*

Martha McMahnnon reports that our pair of loons has had a successful hatch with two baby loons. I am sure most of you have seen them by now. Try to avoid them when boating on the lake to protect their safety. Gordon Mommsen and Phil Siegle built a loon nesting platform. The loons didn't use it but we appreciate the efforts of Gordy and Phil. They intend to build more for next year.

\* \* \* \* \* Annual Meeting \* \* \* \* \*

The Annual Meeting of electors is set for Saturday, August 27 at 10:00 a.m. at the beach. All residents around the lake are electors. Please plan to attend. In case of bad weather, it will be held at Unity School.

  
David J. Butler  
Chairman, Board of Commissioners  
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