

Newsletter

July 6, 1995

HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION
AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT



***** Shore line buffer zones *****

Bring magic to your shore line by creating a 20 foot buffer zone. Allowing grasses to grow naturally and introducing colorful prairie flowers, creeping ground covers and shrubs can provide a new look while filtering sediments, organic matter, nutrients, fertilizers and chemicals from running into the lake. Try planting native plants, low maintenance grasses such as Canada wild rye, red fescue and buffalo grass and shrubs such as redozier dogwood, hawthorne, ironwood and coralberry. Avoid honeysuckle and buckhorn because they are very aggressive and crowd out natural species. For further information, contact the Polk County Extension Office at 485-3136.

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

This organization continues to be a dominant power in our area in bringing positive changes to our lake environments. Dave Cornelius is the new acting president. If interested in attending the meetings of this organization, give me a call.

***** Loon Lovers Alert *****

A message from our loon watcher, Martha McMahon: "We now have a dear wee loon chick attended by its weary parents. Let's do all we can to protect the family from closer human contact even though it may be well meaning admiration or curiosity. The loons need their space. Let's all respect this and insure us of a happy summer of loon watching."

***** History of Half Moon Lake *****

A message from Martha McMahon: "Last year David Butler asked me to write a history of Half Moon Lake. I am most grateful to the many people who have volunteered very interesting recollections of lake life. My efforts will result in NOT a history but more of a collection of Half Moon Lake memories. I would so appreciate being able to talk to any of you about the good old days or about any unusual lake event even if from recent years. Please call me at 825-2148 to arrange a conversation time."

***** News from Balsam Branch Priority Watershed District *****

The Balsam Branch Priority Watershed Plan was approved by the Wisconsin Lake and Water Conservation Board on Tuesday, June 6, 1995. Members of Half Moon Lake District participated on these citizens' advisory committee. If you would care to receive a copy of the plan or would like further information, give me a call. The main focus is to reduce harmful runoff into the lakes in the area. Because the quality of the water in Half Moon Lake is above average, our lake will not be included in the first stages of the plan.

*** * * * * All lake picnic * * * * ***

The picnic committee under the direction of Shirley Dworsky has decided to hold the all lake picnic in conjunction with the annual meeting of the District which will be on Saturday, August 26. The meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the public beach. The picnic will follow the meeting at 12:00 p.m. The committee is planning for games and exhibits by the DNR, the county conservation commission and a private concern doing lake shore improvement work in the area.

*** * * * * Land acquisition * * * * ***

The Board of Commissioners was authorized at the last annual meeting to initiate a second study preliminary to acquiring fee title or easements to land that is instrumental in preserving the beauty and quality of our lake. After further consultations with the DNR, the Board decided to delay the next study until we have completed some more investigative work on our own preliminarily to initiating an acquisition program. Four major areas of land have been identified around the lake. No priorities have been set between the four areas for acquisition. The Board has assigned a land acquisition committee to do further research during the summer. A more detailed report will be presented at the annual meeting on August 26.

*** * * * * Self Help Program * * * * ***

The DNR instituted a program a few years ago called the Self Help Program which encourages lakes to monitor the quality of the water in their lakes on a regular ongoing basis. Sherm Gardner has been doing the testing on Half Moon Lake for the last two years and we have established a good base for comparisons of the quality of our lake water from year to year. Additional information about the program will be available at the annual meeting.

David J. Butler
Chairman, Board of Commissioners
Phone 825-3578



HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION
AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

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August 31, 1995

Half Moon Lake
Board of Commissioners

Dear Board Member:

I have talked to the members of the Board and we have set Tuesday, September 19, 3:30 p.m. for our next meeting. We will meet at my home at 7072 Lyndale Ave So in Richfield. Home phone is 798-0402. We need to elect officers and prepare the statement of objectives and purposes for the planning grant that we will be sending to the membership. The resolution at the Annual Meeting was that we were to send a statement to the members and give the members 60 days to respond. After that 60 day period, we can go ahead with the application for the planning grant funds. The deadline for application for the next round of funds is February 1, 1996.

I have invited Gordy Mommsen, chairman of the Wetland Acquisition Committee, to attend with us. I hope we can meet for two hours and spend most of the time on the land acquisition program.

I am enclosing some notes I have made in the form of an outline that might be helpful in your thinking when you put together your own notes about the objects and purposes. I hope all of you can come to the meeting having done some thinking about how you might write up our plan. Basically we are going to be asking the state for a planning grant in the amount of about \$10,000. The lake will provide \$3,333 so we will have a budget of about \$13,333. I would think our budget might look something like the following:

Appraisals -----	\$ 2,750
Prepare property maps and legal descriptions -----	\$ 1,500
Research issues of how current wetland laws affect use of designated areas -----	\$ 3,000
Preliminary surveys -----	\$ 2,000
Research issues of how use of land affects lake -----	\$ 2,300
Misc -----	\$ 1,783
	=====
Total -----	\$13,333

One suggestion was made at the meeting that we contact the University of Wisconsin to determine if there might be a graduate

student willing to work with us as part of a project for his education. I will make a contact with the University to see if that might be a possibility. If we had someone like that, they could help us deal with some of the issues involved. I still think we might need outside help in giving us the best advice we can come up with as to how the current wetland laws effect the targeted areas and how much of the areas are needed in order to protect the run off coming into the lake. We might still have to discuss a few of these issues with someone like Barr Engineering.

I am enclosing a copy of the township map, my draft of purposes for the planning grant and a copy of the Application for planning grant funds we had filed earlier in the year but withdrew.

With best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David".

David J. Butler

DJB:dka
Enclosure