

HLPOA
Environmental Committee
& Policy

2016 Annual Meeting
July 16, 2016

Mission and Objectives

- HLPOA Mission – To protect, preserve and enhance the quality of the lake and surrounding watershed.
- Committee Objectives
 - Increasing environmental awareness.
 - Strengthening partnerships.
 - Serving as a resource and contact point for the membership and board on environmental issues.

Background

- Foundation for the policy:
 - Issues identified by the 2014 Membership Survey
 - Environmental Committee Recommendations
 - Observable Changes in the Lake - Algae, Sediment Characteristics, Changes in Aquatic Organisms.
 - Key Issues - Lake Level, Nutrient Levels, Erosion, Invasive Species and Toxic Pollutants.

Proposed Policy

- Mission
 - To Protect the Lake Ecosystem.
- Purpose
 - Provide “visible” guidance on decision making.
 - Establish a foundation for forming partnerships.
 - Inform the membership and public on key issues affecting the lake ecosystem and the economy it supports.
- Effective upon approval of the Membership.

Proposed Policy

- Supports the Legal Lake Level.
- Supports scientific research and control of Swimmers Itch.
- Supports Efforts to Reduce Nutrient Levels -
 - Septic Systems, Lawn Fertilization, Preserving Trees and Shrubs and Green Belts.
- Supports Sustainable Watershed Practices -
 - Planning, Land Use and Conservation.
- Support Efforts to Reduce Toxic Pollutants -
 - Watercraft, Application of Herbicides, Pesticides and Persistent and Bioaccumulative Chemicals.
- Does Not Support Illegal Activities or Activities Conducted Without or in Violation of Required Permits.

Water Quality Sampling Project

- The purpose of this preliminary study is to document the benthic algal community and associated levels of phosphorus (ortho-phosphate) and nitrogen (nitrate-nitrogen and ammonia) in the littoral zone of Higgins Lake.
- Ascertain whether nutrients, algae and snail densities are correlated.
- Dr. Rex Lowe, Bowling Green State University

Monitoring Locations & Parameters

- Nearshore locations (11) around the lake.
 - Selected in areas of low to high T-phosphorus concentrations.
 - Coordinated with SICON snail density sampling locations.
 - Nutrients (ortho-phosphate, nitrate-N and ammonia) and benthic algae.

Sampling Locations & Sediment Quality

