

February 28, 2017

Dear Gerrish Township board members,

The Higgins Lake Property Owners Association. (HLPOA), Higgins Lake Land Conservancy (HLLC) and Higgins Lake Environmental and Economic Coalition (HLEEC) wish to express their strong support for the Higgins Lake Swimmer's Itch Organization (HLSIO) program.

The HLSIO program is science-based, uses the most experienced and trained scientists, has clear metrics, coordinates with other lake associations in the Michigan Swimmer's Itch Partnership (MSIP), is supported by the Lyon Township board and has delivered outstanding results consistent with SICON's prior program on Glen Lake. The HLSIO board represents a cross section of Higgins Lake business, local government and association leaders and is focused on delivering a highly effective swimmer's itch program.

Our review of SICON's two Final Reports in 2015 and 2016, representing a thorough analysis of the science and data from HLSIO/SICON's two years of work on Higgins Lake, continues to document the high level of effectiveness of the SICON program methodology. However, the science and data in the two Final Reports raise very serious doubts about the effectiveness of the separate Gerrish Township lethal, harassment and nest box program.

The HLPOA, HLLC and HLEEC request that the Gerrish Township board end its separate lethal, harassment and nest box program and join with HLPOA, HLLC, HLEEC, HLSIO, Lyon Township and other lake associations in Michigan (MSIP) in a unified, coordinated, science-based 2017 program. A unified, coordinated, science-based swimmer's itch program on Higgins Lake that brings together all of the talents and resources of the Higgins Lake community will unite the community and help ensure the continued success of the fight against swimmer's itch.

Brad Gibson, HLPOA President

Bob Frye, HLLC President

Glenn Artz, HLEEC President