



Higgins Lake Property Owners Association

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President:	Brad Gibson	Directors:	Bob McKellar
Vice President:	Charlene Cornell	Bill Case	Fred Swinehart
Secretary:	Herb Weatherly	Ken Dennings	Jim Vondale
Treasurer:	Chuck Brick	Bob Hoffman	Dianne Wagner

Higgins Lake Property Owners Association

Board Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Brad Gibson at 9:12 A.M.

Board Members Present: Brad Gibson, Herb Weatherly, Chuck Brick, Ken Dennings and Bill Case. Dianne Wagner, Charlene Cornell and Jim Vondale were present by phone. Bob Hoffman and Bob McKellar were absent.

Agenda: Brad asked that the report from the Michigan Waterfront Alliance be added under new business. Ken asked that the letter to HLF regarding Swimmer's Itch be added to the HLSIO report.

President's Comments: Brad stated that an off-site retreat is planned for May 11, from 9:00 - 3:00, to discuss future planning. An HLPOA member who is a professional facilitator has volunteered to assist.

February Minutes: Herb moved to approve the February 20, 2017 minutes, as written. The motion was seconded by Ken. All ayes, no opposition, motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Secretary/Office: Herb shared that we received approval from Gaylor Insurance to hang our new sign in front of the building.

Treasurer's Report: The January and February financial reports were accepted by the Board, along with a new format.

In regards to the 2017 budget, Brad said that it is still too early to make any determination for changes, specifically to the legal fund.

Membership/Communication: Dianne reviewed advertising funds for the new directory, which will again be profitable. Thank you, Dianne! There was discussion regarding whether the directory should be for 2017 members who had paid dues at the time of printing or include 2016 members and any new 2017 members who had paid dues up to printing. It was noted prior directories included multiple years

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because most members renew, maximize the listing and recognize that many members don't pay dues until they arrive on the lake. A motion was made by Chuck to include both 2016 and 2017 members, which was seconded by Ken. All ayes, no opposition, motion passed.

Charlene stated that the annual meeting packet will be mailed the first week of June, including the directory.

Dianne also provided an updated list for the Board members, of 2016 HLPOA members that have not yet renewed in 2017. Board members will individually contact their friends and neighbors and provide membership materials. That will save on postage for a final reminder mailing.

The dues deadline of January 31 was discussed, which is now included in our bylaws. Chuck pointed out the deadline has been recognized for years by the HLPOA board even though not in the bylaws. Ken stated that with most members away from the lake and mailing issues, this is not feasible for many. Jim suggested we keep the deadline, recognizing it will not work for everyone.

Personal thank -you notes, to all members that have donated towards our funds, were sent by Charlene. Thank you, Charlene!

Charlene noted there is an Aquatic Invasive Species Landing Blitz, July 1 - 8, 2017. Volunteers are needed.

A suggestion was also made to provide the Higgins Lake State Parks with our environmental tri-folds for distribution this summer.

Riparian Committee: Two topics were discussed in the Riparian Committee: issues regarding the West Launch facility and AMVETS. Jim provided an update on the West Launch matter noting that HLPOA members, after reading the HLPOA communication, had followed up with the DNR regarding concerns about the pending maintenance, including environmental concerns, long standing environmental and other concerns at the launch, boat load, notice and other issues. Jim also discussed dredging at the West Launch and use by the DNR of copper sulfate. The Riparian Committee contingent recommendation was reviewed by the board. After reviewing the matter, including the advice of counsel, the board decided to send the matter back to the Riparian Committee for further consideration.

The board discussed the AMVETS permit to establish a major new marina in front of the property as well as other improper activities. The board discussed the status of the administrative hearing and the pending filing of litigation against AMVETS to enforce the Lyon Township R-1 single family zoning ordinance. The filing of an enforcement action in Roscommon County Circuit Court was previously approved by the board. The administrative appeal has been adjourned several times and AMVETS has rejected efforts to discuss a fair resolution. Bill Carey is preparing the lawsuit papers and filing timing. Ken asked if Lyon Township has changed its position regarding enforcement its ordinance. Jim replied that another recent contact with Lyon Township showed it is still not planning to enforce its zoning ordinance against AMVETS and Michigan law does not require enforcement by the Township.

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A discussion was held regarding the funding of this litigation. Jim suggested a solicitation mailing to all riparians, including Camp Curnalia and all of Lyon Township. Dianne agreed it was a good idea to create an AMVETS fund, which Chuck said would become restricted and we could track funds through Excel. It was agreed to mail (vs. email) this solicitation, as we could include remit envelopes. Jim and Chuck will work on what will be needed to print for this mailing.

HLPAC: Brad said he received a message from John Lindley, HLPAC lobbyist at PAA, confirming the recent political contributions by HLPAC had been received.

Chuck reminded the Board of critical elections in the upcoming one to three years. The board will need to have discussion on this. Brad said we are always looking for good potential candidates.

HLSIO: Dianne stated that we are waiting for final quotes from both Dr. Curt Blankespoor and Ron Reimink regarding their Swimmer's Itch proposals for 2017. Jim added, The HLSIO board will make a decision which contractor to retain after reviewing their proposals.

Ken Dennings led a discussion of issues regarding the Gerrish Township permit. Ken explained that there are actually two permits needed by Gerrish Township for 2017: 1. A Special Purpose Permit issued by the USF&WS for lethal take of up to 25 mergansers and 2. A Harassment Permit issued by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Our concern is that the USF&WS Permit is silent, with regards to the use of artificial nest boxes that were installed in 2015 and subsequently used to attract nesting hens in 2016. We believe prior approval of the USF&WS should have been obtained by Gerrish Township. To our knowledge, neither the Township nor Northpoint Fisheries Management sought approval of the regulators to utilize artificial nest boxes at Higgins Lake. We maintain the use of these nest boxes simply provides a ready opportunity to attract more nesting hens, which subsequently results in an increase of merganser broods each spring. Therefore, we formally requested the nest boxes be removed prior to "ice out" at the Gerrish work session on March 10th and again at the Gerrish Township monthly meeting on March 14.

Chuck inquired regarding the status of state funding for Swimmer's Itch. Jim said that \$89,000.00 was recommended for Higgins Lake for its 2017 control program by the MSIP steering committee from the \$250k state appropriation. The remainder was divided up among the other 4 lakes along with administrative and research projects. Jim added that the cost of control programs for Higgins Lake will decrease significantly this year and into the future. The MSIP lobbyist, John Lindley from PAA, is working to get approval of an additional \$500,000.00 from the Michigan legislature to fund swimmer's itch efforts.

Chuck then asked if the letter sent to Gerrish Township, regarding support of the HLSIO program from the HLPOA, HLLC and HLEEC, should be posted on our website. The Board agreed this would be a good idea.

Local Government: Herb reported that he and Ken attended the Gerrish Township meeting regarding continuation by Gerrish Township of the Northpoint Fisheries program. Ken added that a discussion

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concerning the banding of ducklings arose. Jim noted that Dr. Curt Blankespoor just received permission from the regulators to use web bands to mark captured ducklings. Herb asked where Ron Reimink stood on getting permits and Jim explained that he is currently working on permits for several lakes, including Higgins.

Jim and Ken discussed issues with the Gerrish Township nest box program.

Jim then reported that the MSIP website, misip.org, is up but still under development.

Last, Jim added that there is a MLSA (Michigan Lake & Stream Associations) conference on April 21 & 22 at Crystal Mountain. Jim will be making a presentation with other representatives from MSIP lakes, Crystal and Glen, about progress working together on SI.

Ongoing Business: Ken, representing the Elections Committee, reviewed 3 very qualified applicants for the empty Board position: After much discussion, Fred Swinehart was elected by the board to fill the vacancy until the next election. Ken will advise all applicants of this decision. Fred is currently a member of our Environmental Committee.

A discussion was held regarding the DASH Boat/Milfoil Permit, and HLF's request that HLPOA support a renewal of their permit. It was noted HLPOA previously sent a letter to HLF asking questions about the methodology being used for harvesting milfoil with the DASH boat, including questions about the large number of milfoil fragments that were in the lake and washed ashore following DASH boat work near Pine Bluffs last summer, whether there were any metrics including release of fragments, training, process issues, etc. While the HLPOA board wants to be supportive of HLF milfoil efforts, we still have not received a response to our letter after one follow-up. HLF will be contacted again for a response. A drone company who previously presented to the HLPOA board is working with other lakes to map invasive species like milfoil to provide help in determining if efforts are effective over time. This new technology appears to be reasonably priced.

Charlene reported that the Michigan Waterfront Alliance is working on a report involving AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) and the Michigan Waterways Commission. They are trying to change the method of funding, as most funds are geared towards the Great Lakes as opposed to inland lakes. This report, with the intent to improve Michigan policies, will be sent to individuals and lake associations, asking for their support. Currently, the Michigan Waterways Commission has no representatives from inland lakes.

Adjournment: Herb moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Chuck. The meeting adjourned at 11:51 P.M.

Next meeting will be Monday, April 17, 2017 at 9:00 A.M.

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HIGGINS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
MARCH 31, 2017

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 37,887
Total Current Assets	<u>37,887</u>

Other Assets

Prepaid Rent	-
Restricted Cash	4,504
Total Other Assets	<u>4,504</u>

Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 42,391</u></u>
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LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ -
Accrued Payroll and Withholdings Payable	868
Accrued Expenses	-
Prepaid Membership Dues	-
Total Current Liabilities	<u>868</u>

Total Liabilities	868
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NET ASSETS

Unrestricted :	
Unrestricted	26,643
Temporarily Restricted	14,880
Permanently Restricted	-
Total Net Assets	<u>41,523</u>

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 42,391</u></u>
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Higgins Lake Property Owners Association
3 Months Ending March 31, 2017

	Members	Dues	Temporarily			Annual Budget	Variance Fav/(Unfav)
			Unrestricted	Restricted	Total		
REVENUES:						515 Members	
Membersh	309	\$ 90	\$ 27,810	\$ -	\$ 27,810	\$ 46,350	\$ (18,540)
Legal Fund			\$ -	\$ 371	\$ 371	\$ 8,000	\$ (7,629)
AmVets Fund				\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ 150
Other (Gen'l/Lobbyist Fund)			\$ 1,010	\$ -	\$ 1,010	\$ 4,000	\$ (2,990)
Directory Advertising			\$ 5,175	\$ -	\$ 5,175	\$ -	\$ 5,175
Environmental Fund			\$ -	\$ 530	\$ 530	\$ 4,000	\$ (3,470)
Investment Income			\$ 36	\$ -	\$ 36	\$ -	\$ 36
TOTAL REVENUE			\$ 34,031	\$ 1,051	\$ 35,082	\$ 62,350	\$ (27,268)
OPERATING EXPENSES:							
Lobbyist			\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ 12,000	\$ (9,000)
Satisfaction of Legal Costs			\$ -	\$ 3,655	\$ 3,655	\$ 12,000	\$ (8,345)
Payroll			\$ 3,042	\$ -	\$ 3,042	\$ 11,560	\$ (8,518)
Office			\$ 1,706	\$ -	\$ 1,706	\$ 8,885	\$ (7,179)
Other Administrative			\$ 1,231	\$ -	\$ 1,231	\$ 8,925	\$ (7,694)
Satisfaction of Environmental Cos			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ (4,000)
Organizational Support			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,975	\$ (2,975)
Miscellaneous Expense			\$ 154	\$ -	\$ 154	\$ 1,514	\$ (1,360)
TOTAL EXPENSE			\$ 9,133	\$ 3,655	\$ 12,788	\$ 61,859	\$ (49,071)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS			\$ 24,898	\$ (2,604)	\$ 22,294	\$ 491	\$ 21,803

Higgins Lake Property Owners Assoc.
Statement of Cash Flows
 January through March 2017

	Jan - Mar 17
OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Net Income	22,294.46
Adjustments to reconcile Net Income to net cash provided by operations:	
Cash:Checking Account	2,470.38
Cash:Chemical Checking	-10,351.44
Cash:Petty Cash	-16.54
Cash:Savings Account	-20,371.32
Certificates of Deposit	20,356.75
Legal Account:Amvets Contributions	-150.00
Legal Account:Restricted Cash	-1,525.77
Payroll Taxes Payable:Federal Payroll Taxes	126.56
Payroll Taxes Payable:State Taxes Withheld	-192.66
Payroll Taxes Payable:SUTA Payable	1.12
Payroll Taxes Payable:Workers Comp Payable	58.46
Prepaid Membership Dues	-12,420.00
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	280.00
FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
Net Assets:Temporarily Restricted Net Asse	250.00
Net cash provided by Financing Activities	250.00
Net cash increase for period	530.00
Cash at beginning of period	1,353.30
Cash at end of period	1,883.30