



Higgins Lake Property Owners Association

PO Box 55 308-B Lake Street Roscommon, MI 48653

Website: hlpoa.org email: hlpoa0@gmail.com

Ph.: (989) 275-9181 Fax: (989) 275-9182

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

Higgins Lake Property Owners Association

Board Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Brad Gibson at 9:05 A.M.

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

Agenda: Charlene asked to have the Aquatic Invasive Species Landing Blitz added to ongoing business. Fred asked that the Michigan State Shoreline Workshop be added to the environmental discussion.

President's Comments: Brad welcomed Fred as a new Board member and thanked all members for all their efforts, taking on huge challenges, with many successes.

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

Committee Reports:

Secretary/Office: Herb shared that the new HLPOA sign was completed and will be hung in front of our building this week.

Herb reported that the McAfee security plan was up for renewal at a cost of \$39.99, which Kathleen will renew.

Treasurer's Report: The March financials were accepted by the Board.

Chuck stated that our membership was due for the Michigan Lake & Stream Associations and the annual membership fee is \$500.00. Ken moved to approve this membership renewal, which was seconded by Herb. All ayes, no opposition, motion passed.

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A discussion was held on the legal expenses incurred since June, 2015 to date for both the Springstead and Bolton law suits filed against the HLPOA. Chuck reported that the amount of counsel fees and other related expenses spent to defend this litigation is \$25,936. Total legal expenses over the same period were \$30,045. Therefore, the Bolton and Springstead litigation costs represent 86.3% of the total HLPOA legal expenses since June, 2015.

Membership/Communication: Dianne stated that the advertising portion of the directory has been completed.

Dianne suggested that an email be sent to 2016 members that have not yet joined, along with the April newsletter and our membership envelope. The Board agreed and emails will be sent on Wednesday.

It was also suggested to send a postcard to all lakefront owners, along with 2016 members that have not yet rejoined, as a reminder. Charlene will follow-up on the printing of this postcard.

A discussion was held regarding upcoming deadline dates:

- Charlene said that committee information is needed by April 21, to be included in the directory.
- Ken stated that May 8 is the deadline for Board candidates to submit bio's, to be included in the annual meeting packet.
- The annual meeting packet will be mailed by June 15, 2017.

Riparian Committee: Jim discussed the recent Riparian Committee meeting. The Committee recommendation was to send a follow-up letter to Ronald Olson, Chief of the DNR Parks & Recreation Division, regarding the West Launch matter. Jim read the letter, which focused on concerns about the planned maintenance including a widening of the launch site, continued water quality concerns and excessive boat load. The letter also asked that work not be performed prior to meeting with the HLPOA. It is hoped this letter will start a dialogue that will expand to a number of additional important policy issues including use by the DNR of copper sulfate at the West Launch and convincing the DNR to take an active role with HLPOA members in the fight against invasive species. The three state sites on the lake represent the greatest threat from invasive species. Jim requested support for the letter, which will be signed by Brad and mailed to Mr. Olson. Ken moved to approve the letter, which was seconded by Herb. All ayes, no opposition, motion passed.

Jim then discussed the pending filing of a lawsuit against AMVETS Lodge to enforce the Lyon Township R-1 Residential Zoning Ordinance to stop the building of a major new marina in front of the property. Target for filing is the end of this month. Based on counsel's recommendation, the Administrative Appeal of the AMVETS permit granted by the DEQ will be dismissed to focus on relief in the Roscommon County Circuit Court. AMVETS has refused to discuss a fair resolution of this matter with us so we have no alternative but to file the lawsuit. A mailing will be sent to lakefront property owners explaining the basis for the litigation and requesting financial support once the case is filed.

Environmental Committee: Charlene asked how we might best distribute the Environmental Bulletin #4 tri-fold, "Biological Indicators of Lake Water Quality." Brad thought it would be very valuable at the

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Landing Blitz in July, as it stresses the importance of boat washing. Charlene will get quotes on printing this pamphlet.

Charlene reported the Michigan Waterfront Alliance will be mailing a position paper on the improvement of Michigan policies concerning the identification, confirmation, protection and management of Aquatic Invasive Species to individuals and lake associations. The paper also includes reforms to the Michigan Waterways Commission. It is requested that lake associations and individuals return the Support Information at the end of the mailing to the MWA lobbyist.

Fred reported on the Michigan Shoreline Partnership workshop he attended at the Cranbrook Center, where the focus was on landscape architecture. Landscape architects and professional contractors discussed local protection of inland lakes. Septic systems were discussed, a problem throughout Michigan, along with a need for shoreline stewards. Fred stated that there are certified landscape architects, possibly in this area, and Dianne suggested we could provide this information to our members. Fred added that it was suggested to do an inventory of the shoreline, to see the magnitude of the issue. Brad will contact Vicki at the HLF, for clarification of their shoreline plans. Brad added that the big picture is to include 21 miles of shoreline and Charlene suggested the possibility of using drones.

Ken reached out to the environmental committee with a proposal that it consider a plan to stop the granting of permits to use copper sulfate on Higgins Lake by the DEQ and use by the DNR. He suggested drafting a resolution for both townships that would be forwarded to both the DEQ and DNR. Dianne suggested offering this resolution at the annual meeting.

HLPAC: Brad stated that upon advice from PAA lobbyist John Lindley, the HLPAC agreed to donate \$500.00 to Senator Hildenbrand's "Senate Majority PAC 2018 Fund."

HLSIO/MISIP: Dianne reported that Dr. Curt Blankespoor is currently working on the lake pursuant to the 2017 HLSIO program. A mailing explaining the program and requesting financial support will be sent soon.

Jim gave an update on efforts to obtain an additional state appropriation to add to last year's \$250,000 appropriation. Jim discussed the elements of Dr. Blankespoor's 2017 control and research program.

Jim added that Glen Lake will train an additional team of biologists to perform trap and relocation of common mergansers on Michigan lakes next year, including Higgins. The MISIP is working with state and federal regulators on developing criteria for permits. This will help to further reduce the costs of effective trap and relocation programs in future years. MISIP is working to further develop qPCR as a low cost water sampling test for monitoring and measuring the SI infection of a lake. MISIP also is researching the effectiveness of using drones to locate common merganser nests. This work is being done on both Glen Lake and Lake Leelanau. Early studies show great promise.

This year, the DNR and USFWS decided that trap and relocation of common mergansers has been shown to be an effective means of reducing SI and a separate permit was created that does not have to be tied

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to a Scientific Collectors Permit for the five lakes participating in the MISIP pilot program. The DNR asked that the request for the permit come from each lake association. Jim asked for approval for HLPOA to send an email to the DNR, on behalf of HLSIO, for a permit for trapping and relocation of common mergansers on Higgins Lake in 2017. Charlene moved to approve this request, which was seconded by Dianne. All ayes, no opposition, motion passed. Dianne added that this shows the HLPOA support of Dr. Blankespoor's HLSIO program.

Jim reported that he and representatives from Crystal Lake and Glen Lake will make a presentation about the work of the 24 MISIP lakes at the April 22, 2017 Michigan Lake and Stream Association annual conference at Crystal Mountain Resort. The MISIP will also hold a meeting of the eight member steering committee and the general membership in the morning.

Ken discussed that at a special meeting, a motion passed for Gerrish Township to remove nest boxes placed on the lake by Northpoint Fisheries. This occurred as a result of three meetings with Gerrish Township, including support from concerned citizens.

Local Government: None.

Ongoing Business: Charlene discussed the Landing Blitz from July 1 - 9, which is sponsored by the DEQ Water Resources Division. Volunteers are needed and we can choose any day and time to man the North State Park Boat Wash. Brad will check to see if the HLF is going to participate.

A discussion was held on the two pending law suits filed by Pat Springstead and Marv Bolton against the HLPOA.

New Business: Brad discussed a response to a member email.

Brad then stated that Bill Case asked to resign from the Board for personal reasons. The board discussed the long and distinguished service to HLPOA members by Bill Case. Bill will be missed. Chuck moved to accept Bill's resignation, which was seconded by Charlene. All ayes, no opposition, motion passed. Ken reviewed the bio's of two potential replacement candidates, Mike Burnside and Throck Osborn. Jim moved to fill the vacancy today and to decide between the two candidates, which was seconded by Charlene. All ayes, no opposition, motion passed. With a show of hands, Throck Osborn was elected as a new Board member replacing Bill Case. Throck's excellent work on the Bylaw Committee was recognized during the discussion.

Charlene outlined everything that will be needed for the annual meeting packet: agenda, 2016 minutes, financials, director candidate list and bio's, approved proxy form and committee reports. This is needed by May 15, 2017.

Brad said we would discuss the "Friend of Higgins Lake Award" at the next meeting.

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Brad stated that the May 11 retreat at the Ralph A. MacMullan Center, will cost \$100.00 for the conference room. Ken moved to approve this cost, which was seconded by Fred. Five ayes, one abstained, motion passed. Individuals will each pay for their own lunch.

Adjournment: Herb moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Dianne. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 P.M.

Next meeting will be Friday, May 12, 2017, at 9:00 A.M.

**HIGGINS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
APRIL 30, 2017**

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 38,095
Total Current Assets	<u>38,095</u>

Other Assets

Prepaid Rent	-
Restricted Cash	2,837
Total Other Assets	<u>2,837</u>

Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 40,932</u></u>
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LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ -
Accrued Payroll and Withholdings Payable	955
Accrued Expenses	326
Prepaid Membership Dues	-
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,281</u>

Total Liabilities	1,281
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NET ASSETS

Unrestricted :	
Unrestricted	30,205
Temporarily Restricted	9,446
Permanently Restricted	-
Total Net Assets	<u>39,651</u>

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 40,932</u></u>
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Higgins Lake Property Owners Association
4 Months Ending April 30, 2017

	Members	Dues	Temporarily			Annual	Variance
			Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Budget	Fav/(Unfav)
REVENUES:						515 Members	
Membersh	330	\$ 90	\$ 29,700	\$ -	\$ 29,700	\$ 46,350	\$ (16,650)
Legal Fund			\$ -	\$ 541	\$ 541	\$ 8,000	\$ (7,459)
AmVets Fund				\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ 750
Other (Gen'l/Lobbyist Fund)			\$ 886	\$ -	\$ 886	\$ 4,000	\$ (3,114)
Directory Advertising			\$ 6,400	\$ -	\$ 6,400	\$ -	\$ 6,400
Environmental Fund			\$ -	\$ 1,010	\$ 1,010	\$ 4,000	\$ (2,990)
Investment Income			\$ 36	\$ -	\$ 36	\$ -	\$ 36
TOTAL REVENUE			\$ 37,022	\$ 2,301	\$ 39,323	\$ 62,350	\$ (23,027)
OPERATING EXPENSES:							
Lobbyist			\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ 12,000	\$ (8,000)
Satisfaction of Legal Costs			\$ -	\$ 5,896	\$ 5,896	\$ 12,000	\$ (6,104)
Payroll			\$ 3,971	\$ -	\$ 3,971	\$ 11,560	\$ (7,589)
Office			\$ 2,225	\$ -	\$ 2,225	\$ 8,885	\$ (6,660)
Other Administrative			\$ 1,446	\$ -	\$ 1,446	\$ 8,925	\$ (7,479)
Satisfaction of Environmental Cos			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ (4,000)
Organizational Support			\$ 530	\$ -	\$ 530	\$ 2,975	\$ (2,445)
Miscellaneous Expense			\$ 154	\$ -	\$ 154	\$ 1,514	\$ (1,360)
TOTAL EXPENSE			\$ 12,326	\$ 5,896	\$ 18,222	\$ 61,859	\$ (43,637)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS			\$ 24,696	\$ (3,595)	\$ 21,101	\$ 491	\$ 20,610

Higgins Lake Property Owners Assoc.

Statement of Cash Flows

January through April 2017

	<u>Jan - Apr 17</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Net Income	21,100.77
Adjustments to reconcile Net Income to net cash provided by operations:	
Cash:Checking Account	2,470.38
Cash:Chemical Checking	-10,633.44
Cash:Petty Cash	17.01
Cash:Savings Account	-20,371.32
Certificates of Deposit	20,356.75
Legal Account:Amvets Contributions	-150.00
Legal Account:Restricted Cash	645.43
Payroll Taxes Payable:Federal Payroll Taxes	287.00
Payroll Taxes Payable:State Taxes Withheld	-170.82
Payroll Taxes Payable:SUTA Payable	7.92
Payroll Taxes Payable:Workers Comp Payable	76.32
Prepaid Membership Dues	-12,420.00
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	<u>1,216.00</u>
FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
Net Assets:Temporarily Restricted Net Asse	-206.00
Net cash provided by Financing Activities	<u>-206.00</u>
Net cash increase for period	1,010.00
Cash at beginning of period	1,353.30
Cash at end of period	<u><u>2,363.30</u></u>