

Dear HLPOA Members,

Hi, my name is Brad Gibson and I am your new HLPOA President. On Sunday July 19, the HLPOA board met and selected officers. Charlene Cornell is our new Vice President, Bob McKellar is the new Treasurer, and Herb Weatherly has agreed to stay on as Secretary. Dianne Wagner was reelected and Robert Hoffman and Dave Batchelor have joined the Board as well. A complete list of all the board members and their contact information is attached and can be found at the HLPOA website. Sharing of specific biographical information of all board members will be provided in the weeks to come. I am thrilled with the diversity of talent on the board. We have experiences from government, environmental protection, education, and both large and small business. The talents of the current members will serve you well.

I would be remiss if I did not thank all the previous board members and officers who served our organization. Although Jim Vondale is staying on as a board member his leadership as President the past year navigating a very difficult transition has been a blessing. His hard work and skill have moved our association forward and have steered us in the right direction of making the HLPOA more responsive to our members. He and Ken Dennings have spearheaded the creation and operation of the Higgins Lake Swimmers Itch Organization (HLSIO). We can't thank Jim enough for all he has done and continues to do for our organization.

I also want to thank those who have left the board in the past year. Under Pat Springstead's leadership, the road end issues have been largely resolved. Pat's work in the political theater has served us well and is appreciated. Marv Bolton has served as Treasurer of the HLPOA for a number of years and his work fighting Eurasian Water Milfoil has been very helpful. Rick Meeks has been a leader in water quality issues around the lake for years, his work too is valued. Bob Blamer and Tom Kizer both served on the board in recent years and I thank them for their service and dedication. I additionally acknowledge Sue Gelderbloom for her contributions as an interim board member. It is my understanding most of these former board members remain active in Higgins Lake issues serving the area residents. Clearly some of these former board members don't see eye to eye with the current board as to the direction of the HLPOA. However my expression of appreciation is sincere.

We, as a board, have been so busy with the transition since we took office in October. Now that things have settled down somewhat we will be working to improve communication with our members. We have certainly been transparent, but we must increase the frequency and mechanism we share information with all of you. You can expect monthly emails like this from me and regular updates via email and social media. We have established a Facebook page. "Like" Higgins Lake Property Owners Association on Facebook to receive updates. We will be adding additional social media outlets soon. As always we will be adding new items to our website at www.hlpoa.org. You can always call or email one of the board members or Ashley, the HLPOA Administrative Assistant, at the HLPOA office. The phone number is 989-275-9181.

As you stated via the winter survey, swimmer's itch is the major concern facing everyone living on and using the lake. As of this date the HLSIO is short of their financial goal to fund the swimmer's itch effort

by SICON. Tax deductible donations can be sent to Higgins Lake Swimmer's Itch Organization, PO Box Drawer 665, Grayling, MI 49738. If you haven't donated to this important effort, please consider doing so. Another way to support the organization is to attend their fundraising dinner event August 27, at Jim and Laura Witt's property on East Higgins Lake Drive. More details of the event will be shared shortly, but be sure to save the date! Additionally, the Higgins Lake Foundation is holding its annual Awareness Day and cocktail party this Saturday August 1. If you have yet to purchase a ticket yet you can get one at the door. The event will start at 3:00 PM at the Ralph MacMullan Center at the north end of the lake. I hope to see you at both events.

Although it started slowly it is turning out to be a wonderful summer on Higgins Lake. I hope you and your families are getting time to enjoy our precious resource.

As always, in the best interest of our wonderful lake,

Brad