



Higgins Lake Property Owners Association

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President:	Brad Gibson	<u>Directors:</u>	Bob Hoffman
Vice President:	Charlene Cornell	David Batchelor	Bob McKellar
Secretary:	Herb Weatherly	Bill Case	Jim Vondale
Treasurer:	Chuck Brick (Interim)	Ken Dennings	Dianne Wagner

Environmental Policy

Mission:

The mission of the Higgins Lake Property Owners Association is to protect, preserve and enhance the quality of Higgins Lake and its surrounding watershed. Towards this end a survey was sent to the Membership in October 2014. Lake level, swimmers itch and septic systems were high priorities. The Environmental Committee has specifically identified nutrient levels, invasive species and toxic pollutants as being of high concern to water quality and the future health of the lake.

Purpose:

The purpose of the policy is to provide transparent guiding principles on issues that affect the environment, to facilitate coordination with other committees, to guide decision making and to serve as a basis for building and strengthening partnerships to protect the lake.

Application:

The HLPOA will apply this policy when addressing issues brought forth by the Membership, in situations involving decision making by governmental agencies and in working with the Membership, the public, other associations and organizations to protect and improve the environmental health of Higgins Lake.

Effect:

The Environmental Policy set forth below having been developed by the Environmental Committee and approved by the board of directors shall take immediate effect upon ratification by a majority vote of the Membership at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Once approved, the policy will remain in effect until such time as it is amended, modified or rescinded by the Membership.

Policy:

It shall be the environmental policy of the Higgins Lake Property Owners Association to:

1. Support maintaining the legal lake level established in 1926 as amended in 1982.

Dedicated to preserving the quality and beauty of Higgins Lake

2. Support a comprehensive, science-based lake wide program to better understand and control swimmers itch. Nothing in the policy shall be construed to limit such a program to one entity or effort. Rather the policy shall be used to establish partnerships and coordinate programs towards a common goal.

3. Support efforts to reduce nutrient levels in Higgins Lake, including: the proper and frequent servicing and maintenance of septic systems, the use of phosphate free detergents, the preservation and restoration of shrubs and trees along the shoreline to utilize nutrients and reduce sedimentation, minimizing the use of lawn fertilizers near the lake and promoting green belts around the lake.

4. Support sustainable development and land use practices, including: sound watershed management planning, the conservation of land around the lake and in the watershed, the preservation of old growth trees and plantings of trees that benefit wildlife, zoning regulations to maintain property values and ensure building densities which do not exceed the environments capability to assimilate.

5. Support efforts to reduce the impact of toxic substances in the lake, including: reducing hydrocarbon emissions from watercraft, reducing or eliminating the nearshore or in-the-water application of pesticides, herbicides and chemicals that are persistent and or become concentrated in the food chain (bioaccumulation).

6. The HLPOA does not support any activity that is unlawful or any regulated activity which is conducted without the necessary local, state and federal permits or that is conducted in violation of such permits.

This Policy was approved by a vote of the Members at the July 16, 2016 Annual Meeting.

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