



HLPOA™
MISSION, PURPOSE,
PRINCIPLES AND
ORGANIZATION

CURRENT AND FUTURE
ACTIONS
August 2017

HLPOA Mission, Purpose, Principles and Organization

- ▶ The HLPOA Mission is to “Protect, preserve and enhance the quality of Higgins Lake and its surrounding watershed.” Our Corporate Purpose is to “Promote the general welfare of the owners of property on the shores of Higgins Lake.”
- ▶ The HLPOA remains true to its Mission and Corporate Purpose, identifying and addressing priority issues important to HLPOA members through surveys, frequent Newsletter communications and establishing committees that include HLPOA Board and non-Board members.
- ▶ The HLPOA is guided by sound science and is data-driven.
- ▶ The HLPOA adopted a written Conflict of Interest Policy in 2015 that is signed annually by each HLPOA Board member.
- ▶ The HLPOA publishes its Minutes and Financial Reports Monthly on the HLPOA website. The HLPOA finances are carefully reviewed annually by an independent, professional accounting firm and a report on our finances is provided to members.
- ▶ The HLPOA represents the interests of lakefront property owners who care about Higgins Lake and want to see it preserved for future generations.
- ▶ The HLPOA Board listens to its members and brings important issues to the membership for direction in the form of Resolutions. The HLPOA supports its Resolutions including Legal Lake Level and Elimination of Copper Sulfate Use.
- ▶ The new HLPOA Board led the successful effort to make major revisions to the HLPOA bylaws in 2015 to make the organization member-driven, transparent, accountable, representative and responsive to the needs of HLPOA members.
- ▶ The HLPOA works through its Committees that focus on actions that benefit the lake and lakefront property owners.
- ▶ The HLPOA is recognized for its leadership and collaboration by lake associations throughout the state on key issues like swimmer’s itch, the environment and riparian rights. We recognize that working together with other organizations and lake associations on key issues maximizes our effectiveness.

HLPOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- ▶ Charlene Cornell (President)
- ▶ Brad Gibson (Vice President)
- ▶ Herb Weatherly (Secretary)
- ▶ Chuck Brick (Treasurer)
- ▶ Wayne Brooks
- ▶ Mike Burnside
- ▶ Bob Hoffman
- ▶ Bob McKellar
- ▶ Fred Swinehart
- ▶ Jim Vondale
- ▶ Dianne Wagner

HLPOA COMMITTEES

- ▶ EXECUTIVE
- ▶ ENVIRONMENTAL
- ▶ RIPARIAN
- ▶ SWIMMER'S ITCH
- ▶ HIGGINS LAKE POLITICAL ACTION
- ▶ LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS
- ▶ ELECTIONS
- ▶ FINANCE
- ▶ COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- ▶ Members-Charlene Cornell (President), Brad Gibson (Vice President), Herb Weatherly (Secretary), Chuck Brick (Treasurer).
- ▶ Under the HLPOA bylaws, the Executive Committee is made up of the Officers of the Board.
- ▶ The Executive Committee functions as an advisory body to the Board of Directors and President with the authority to act for and on behalf of the Board between regular meetings of the Board.
- ▶ The Executive Committee has such additional specific powers and duties as may be from time to time delegated by resolution of the Board of Directors (no such delegation has occurred by this Board.)
- ▶ The HLPOA bylaws also place certain specified limitations on the powers of the Executive Committee.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

- ▶ Members-Fred Swinehart (Chair), Wayne Brooks, Bob McKellar, Dianne Wagner, Herb Weatherly, John Ogren, Kevin Kessler.
- ▶ Mission-Serving under the direction of the HLPOA Board, act as a point of contact for HLPOA members and other interested parties. Act as a coordinating group to approve dedicated funds for various programs to maintain or improve water quality and associated environmental factors affecting Higgins Lake.
- ▶ The Committee is actively recruiting volunteers to work with the Committee and add to the Committee's knowledge base and diversity.
- ▶ The Committee is working to define a base line assessment plan for Higgins Lake, evaluating methodology, cost and timing for projects to be approved by the HLPOA Board.
- ▶ There are currently no comprehensive scientific studies available regarding the near shore waters and lake bottom environment, and only anecdotal evidence concerning member's observations about changes in the lake through the years. The Committee believes it is essential to obtain a current scientifically valid baseline to effectively guide and measure future actions to improve the near shore environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE (cont.)

- ▶ The Committee supports the legal lake levels established by the Roscommon County Circuit Court in 1926 and 1982 and is working with the Higgins Lake Land Conservancy (HLLC) and Higgins Lake Environmental and Economic Coalition (HLEEC) to counter any actions taken to remove the Cut River Dam or change those legal lake levels in any manner. The Committee's support for the current legal lake levels is based on the Dam Resolution passed at the July 2013 annual meeting by HLPOA members, the Environmental Committee Policy passed at the 2016 annual meeting by HLPOA members and it is consistent with sound science and data to protect the health of Higgins Lake.
- ▶ The Committee encourages and supports the efforts of the HLSIO, Swimmer's Itch Solutions LLC and the Michigan Swimmer's Itch Partnership (MISIP) to significantly reduce swimmer's itch. The Committee's support is based on the Environmental Committee Policy passed at the July 2015 annual meeting by HLPOA members.
- ▶ The Committee is developing informational programs and communications, such as HLPOA's four environmental pamphlets, that will help Higgins Lake riparians take necessary and appropriate actions such as environmentally sustainable landscaping, proper septic maintenance and effective erosion remediation that will benefit the lake in areas under their own personal control.
- ▶ The Committee is assisting, developing relationships and communicating with other organizations and lake associations to accelerate HLPOA's efforts to protect, preserve and enhance the quality of Higgins Lake and its surrounding watershed.

RIPARIAN COMMITTEE

- ▶ Members-Jim Vondale (Chair), Charlene Cornell (ex-officio), Brad Gibson, Wayne Brooks, Bob Hoffman, Chuck Brick, Marge Kik, Steve Rickets, Tom Hoffmeyer, Nick Dewey, Greg Douglas, Greg Semack, Fred Koenigbauer, Tim Caldwell.
- ▶ Mission-Under the direction of the HLPOA Board, act as a contact point and resource on the wide range of riparian issues affecting Higgins Lake.
- ▶ The Committee worked with the West Shore Association in 2015 to successfully oppose a new marina at the West Launch.
- ▶ The Committee is working with the Northwest Shore Association to oppose a major new marina at AMVETS lodge on the west shore of the lake.
- ▶ The Committee developed and presented an HLPOA Marina Policy that was adopted by members at the July 2017 annual meeting. The Marina Policy will guide the HLPOA Board's future actions regarding marinas. The Marina Policy is posted on hlpoa.org.
- ▶ The Committee helps HLPOA members with riparian issues such as illegal mooring and road end violations.

RIPARIAN COMMITTEE (cont.)

- ▶ The Committee is forming a coalition with Houghton Lake and Lake St. Helen to work together to address riparian rights in Roscommon County.
- ▶ The Committee is developing a new HLPOA web page, which is an easy to use riparian rights resource. It will include case law, statutes and ordinances, which establish riparian rules. It will explain how and where to report riparian violations like illegal mooring and illegal use of road ends, what information to provide when reporting violations, etc.
- ▶ The Committee is working to educate members and the community to clarify current riparian rules, strengthen existing riparian rules, strengthen riparian protections and promote timely and effective enforcement of riparian rules.
- ▶ The Committee works closely with HLPOA counsel, Bill Carey, the most experienced and knowledgeable riparian rights attorney in the state of Michigan, who successfully handled the landmark Jacobs case.
- ▶ The Committee is working together with the Environmental Committee and meeting with the Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department (DNRPRD) to address a range of important issues related to DNR facilities on Higgins Lake that affect riparians including invasive species protection, boat launch management, boat load, etc. (The HLPOA presentation to the DNRPRD has been posted on hlpoa.org.)

SWIMMER'S ITCH (SI) COMMITTEE

- ▶ Members-Dianne Wagner (Chair), Jim Vondale, Charlene Cornell (ex-officio), Brad Gibson.
- ▶ Mission-Lead and support effective actions to address the serious problem of swimmer's itch on Higgins Lake.
- ▶ The new HLPOA Board conducted a survey as soon as it was seated in 2014 and identified swimmer's itch as the number one issue important to HLPOA members.
- ▶ The HLPOA Board listened to members and promptly identified the most experienced and effective team of experts to fight swimmer's itch on Higgins Lake (SICON LLC.)
- ▶ The HLPOA led the formation of the Higgins Lake Swimmer's Itch Organization (HLSIO) which has been supported by hundreds in the Higgins Lake Community to professionally manage and fund the successful swimmer's itch efforts on Higgins Lake.
- ▶ The HLPOA provided the initial funding to ensure the success of HLSIO.
- ▶ The leadership of the HLPOA led to the successful reduction of swimmer's itch in Higgins Lake by more than 95% in three years, a close working relationship with the DNR Fish and Wildlife Division and the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the creation of the Michigan Swimmer's Itch Partnership (MISIP) of 24 lakes to work together to advance the state-of-the-art in swimmer's itch control, prevention, research and education.
- ▶ The HLPOA and it's lobby firm, Public Affairs Associates, led the successful effort to obtain the \$500,000 state appropriation over two years to fight swimmer's itch.

HIGGINS LAKE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (HLPAC)

- ▶ Members-Brad Gibson (Chair), Chuck Brick (Treasurer), Bob McKellar, Ken Dennings, Sue Gelderbloom, Herb Weatherly.
- ▶ The HLPAC was established by the HLPOA in 2003.
- ▶ The purpose of the HLPAC is to maximize HLPOA member influence in decisions made by local, county and state elected officials that impact the quality of life for HLPOA members.
- ▶ The HLPAC established the legal mechanism for HLPOA members to make political contributions allowed by law.
- ▶ Each election season the HLPAC screens local, county and state political candidates and shares its recommendations with HLPOA members.
- ▶ Financial contributions to recommended candidates are provided by the HLPAC as allowed by law.
- ▶ The HLPAC works with the respected and influential Lansing lobbying firm, Public Affairs Associates (PAA), to protect the interests of HLPOA members. PAA and HLPOA led the successful effort to obtain \$500,000 from the state of Michigan to fight swimmer's itch.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS COMMITTEE

- ▶ Members-Herb Weatherly (Chair), Dianne Wagner, Chuck Brick, Mike Burnside.
- ▶ The Committee keeps the HLPOA Board informed of the activities and direction being taken by our local and county government boards.
- ▶ Committee members attend local and county government board meetings and work sessions.
- ▶ Committee members focus on information that is relevant to the interests of HLPOA members as riparian property owners. This information is communicated directly to the HLPOA Board and HLPOA members as appropriate.
- ▶ Committee members communicate with local government leaders to further the interests of HLPOA members.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

- ▶ Members-Bob McKellar (Chair), Bob Hoffman.
- ▶ The new bylaws of the HLPOA passed by members at the July 2015 annual meeting eliminated the former Board-controlled Nominating Committee and created the Elections Committee to ensure open, representative and fair elections for HLPOA members.
- ▶ The Elections Committee is a cornerstone of the new Board's focus on transparency.
- ▶ The Elections Committee solicits applicants in good standing from the entire HLPOA membership who are interested in running for a seat on the HLPOA Board.
- ▶ The Elections Committee establishes procedures that include written notice of Board openings to all HLPOA members, the submission of bios from candidates and distribution of those bios to HLPOA members in advance of the election, design of the election ballot, fair and open voting procedures and a clear notice of the terms of office for HLPOA Board members.
- ▶ The new HLPOA bylaws also ensure that nominations from the floor will be available for each election.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- ▶ Members-Chuck Brick (Treasurer/Chair), Herb Weatherly, Bob McKellar.
- ▶ The integrity, accuracy and accountability of HLPOA finances is fundamental to the HLPOA board and its members.
- ▶ The Finance Committee provides oversight and guidance on all financial processes and operations of the Office of Treasurer.
- ▶ The new bylaws require a yearly review of HLPOA finances by an independent, professional accounting firm. A higher level audit can be requested either by the Board or members.
- ▶ HLPOA finances are carefully scrutinized each year by the CPA firm of Robert F. Murray and Associates. The firm also prepares our quarterly and annual state and federal filings to ensure accuracy.
- ▶ The law firm Dykema Gosset PLC prepares the HLPAC quarterly State Bureau of Elections reports.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- ▶ Members- Wayne Brooks (Chair), Dianne Wagner, Chuck Brick, Charlene Cornell (ex-officio), Sally Voorheis, Linda Brick, Roger Spalding, Jenny Walter, Ric Blamer, Mike Burnside.
- ▶ The goal of the Committee is to ensure frequent and open communications between HLPOA members and the Board through member letter communications, the HLPOA website, quarterly Newsletters, and email communications of important and time sensitive information.
- ▶ The Committee develops communications and programs to maintain and expand HLPOA membership.
- ▶ The HLPOA quarterly Newsletter has become a regular and reliable source of information important to members.
- ▶ The Committee maintains and updates the HLPOA website, hlpoa.org, using VIP Marketing.
- ▶ The Committee prepares the HLPOA Directory which is distributed annually. The HLPOA Directory advertising is a significant revenue source to support programs that benefit HLPOA members.
- ▶ The Committee ensures that the HLPOA maintains accurate records of members and manages the yearly solicitation for membership.