



# Higgins Lake Property Owners Association<sup>SM</sup>

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**President:** Charlene Cornell, **Vice Pres:** Greg Semack, **Secretary:** Herb Weatherly, **Treasurer:** Bruce Carleton  
**Directors:** Wayne Brooks, Brad Gibson, Mark Lutz, Bob McKellar, John Ogren, Fred Swinehart, Jim Vondale

Higgins Lake Property Owners Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
August 20, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Charlene Cornell at 9:00 A.M.

**Agenda:** No changes.

**Board Members Present:** Charlene Cornell, Mark Lutz, Wayne Brooks, Bruce Carleton, John Ogren, Greg Semack, Bob McKellar, Herb Weatherly and Jim Vondale. Brad Gibson was present by phone. Fred Swinehart was absent.

**President's Comments:** Per HLPOA Bylaws, election of the Board of Directors was held. A motion was made by Wayne to elect Charlene Cornell President, Greg Semack Vice-President, Herb Weatherly Secretary and Bruce Carleton Treasurer. This motion was seconded by Bruce. All ayes, no opposition, motion passed.

Charlene then thanked Greg and Wayne for their help in researching the Starry Stonewort (SSW) situation, which will be discussed under new business.

Last, Charlene acknowledged the Board members that attended the Riparian Rights meeting on August 18, 2018 (Charlene, Jim, Brad, Mark, Greg and Wayne) and thanked them for their participation. Fifty-eight HLPOA members attended the meeting. Also, a special thank-you to Susan Semack for her volunteering to check-in the attendees.

**Minutes:** Herb moved to accept the July 16, 2018 Minutes as written, which was seconded by Wayne. All ayes, no opposition, motion passed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Secretary/Office:** Herb Congratulated Greg on becoming part of the planning committee for Gerrish Township.

Herb then discussed the request from Chuck Brick to have a blank HLPOA letterhead for use on website communications received from Board members. Herb explained that Chuck is continuing to assist us on website postings. Herb then moved to provide our letterhead to Chuck, which was seconded by Bruce. All ayes, no opposition, motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** The financials through July 31, 2018 were presented.

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Regarding the North State Park boat wash contract, Greg reported that he had another meeting with Anna Sylvester of the DNR, where he presented a modified contract to her. Greg noted that we are still operating under the terms of the past contract. There was further discussion and John suggested to table this topic for the next meeting.

Greg stated that he had found another company for our website maintenance, as the past company had stopped performing maintenance updates. The new company will also post Facebook announcements automatically.

Greg is currently looking for a new company to handle our accounting needs.

Last, Greg said he had received a third invoice from the Raven Analytical Lab, for the water sampling program being performed by the high school students. The first two invoices were paid by the grant from the HLF and the remainder will be paid from our environmental fund.

**Membership and Communication Committee:** Greg noted that our membership count was at 506 prior to the Riparian Rights meeting on August 18, 2018. Three additional memberships were received at this meeting, bringing our membership count to 509.

Wayne stated that additional member directories had been ordered.

Wayne then shared that we have a new editor for our newsletters, member Karen Cornell, and thanked her for volunteering for this project. Wayne reviewed topics for the fall newsletter: Starry Stonewort, Goose Busters, the water sampling program, the August 18 Riparian Rights meeting, and the boat speed and sound issues. Board members were assigned to write these articles, which are due September 4, 2018.

Last, Wayne suggested an early email blast next year to HLPOA members, regarding a reminder for our annual meeting date.

**Riparian Committee:** Jim stated that the Riparian Committee will be updating the Riparian Rights document with additional topics, such as funneling. Mark added that other lakes have more regulations and do not have as many problems.

The board discussed ways to support HLPOA member needs.

Charlene thanked the Board members for their comments and response, regarding Sheriff Stern's request for the HLPOA to purchase a radar gun, for stricter enforcement of the watercraft 55 mph speed law on Higgins lake. Via email, Charlene circulated the following motion:

It is moved that the HLPOA greatly appreciates the cooperation and support from Brian Duncan of the Marine Patrol and Ed Stern, Sheriff of Roscommon County, to increase enforcement of state watercraft speed laws on Higgins lake. The enforcement will enhance the safety of boating on the lake, in recognition of this support, the

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HLPOA agrees to contribute \$1016.00 to the Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol to cover the costs of purchasing a Kustom radar gun.

The motion passed with 10 ayes and 1 nay.

Jim then discussed the request for an extended warranty but said that Brian Duncan felt the 27 months coverage that came with this purchase, was sufficient. The Board members agreed.

**Environmental Committee:** In Fred's absence, Herb said he been requested to make 2 motions of Fred's behalf. The first motion was to continue the water sampling program in 2019, which was seconded by Bruce. All ayes, no opposition, motion passed.

The second motion was to have a similar testing program for algae, again utilizing the high school students, with direction from Professor Rex Lowe. The motion was seconded by Bruce and passed unanimously, subject to details and cost.

Jim then addressed the sale of Virkon Aquatic, as members raised questions, including liability, at the annual meeting. It was agreed HLPOA will not participate in the marketing and sale of Virkon Aquatic.

**PAC:** Charlene noted that we have 5 PAC members and need a PAC Chair. Herb mentioned there is a fall election soon. Jim added that the existing members can hold meetings and elect a new Chair. Jim also added that he recommends that the PAC committee revise the bylaws regarding term limits.

After discussion, a motion was made by Jim to elect Dianne Wagner to the PAC committee, which was seconded by Herb. All ayes, no opposition, motion passed.

**HLSIO:** Jim stated that 3 individuals are being trained by Dr. Blankespoor this summer to conduct trap and relocation of common mergansers beginning next summer. Chuck Schepke, the chemistry teacher at Roscommon High School, is one of the trainees. The cost of training is being split between both Higgins and Crystal lakes. The cost for brood removal in the future using these teachers is estimated to be \$1000.00 per brood, which is a substantial decrease in cost. Jim added that that there is one issue, as these individuals are not permitted to do banding. Therefore, an option will be to have Curt Blankespoor will work with them, to assist in this area.

Jim then addressed fall research/hunting and the pyrotechnic harassment programs. Volunteers will needed to hunt various species of ducks that will be temporarily handed over to Dr. Blankespoor for necropsies and the HLSIO will purchase pistols and ammunition for the pyrotechnic harassment program.

Last, Jim discussed that he will be moving, and Greg agreed to attend the next HLSIO meeting with Jim.

**Ongoing Business:** Regarding the North State Park boat wash, Greg stated that employees had quit and there were no signs or anyone there to re-direct traffic, adding that basically, there was no activity. Greg will be attending a meeting tomorrow with the DASH boat task force, as we need communication about their activity.

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Greg then stated that the DNR has a waterless boat wash under consideration, which utilizes compressed air. It is not here yet and was originally designed for boats coming out of the water, which is more effective in some ways.

Jim stated that we are waiting for our attorney, Bill Carey, to file the AMVETS law suit. The final draft is being reviewed.

**New Business:** The Board had a discussion regarding the annual meeting. Herb stated that we need to invest in a quality microphone and Charlene suggested we have a rehearsal the week prior to the meeting.

Charlene then reviewed the bylaws and responsibilities of the Board members, in respect to committee involvement. Herb mentioned that he could use assistance in attending government meetings. Kathleen was asked to forward a committee list to the Board members, for their review. At the next meeting, Charlene will recap the committees and Board members participation.

Regarding the Starry Stonewort problem, Charlene again thanked Greg and Wayne for reporting this to the Board. A discussion was held regarding this issue and what actions to take with the DNR and HLF, along with a notification to the HLPOA members.

A discussion was then held regarding lake levels. Jim reported that many riparians have stated they are negatively impacted by the low water levels this summer. The board discussed potential options to address the issue and plans to work with the Higgins Lake Conservancy.

**Adjournment:** Bruce moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Herb. All ayes, no opposition, motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

**The next monthly Board meeting will be September 17, 2018 at 9:00 A.M.**

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**HIGGINS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AUGUST 31, 2018**

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 33,684
Accounts Receivable	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>33,684</b>

**Other Assets**

Prepaid Rent	-
Restricted Cash	<u>10,386</u>
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b><u>10,386</u></b>

<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u><u>\$ 44,070</u></u></b>
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**LIABILITIES**

**Current Liabilities**

Accounts Payable	\$ -
Accrued Payroll and Withholdings Payable	437
Accrued Expenses	450
Prepaid Membership Dues	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>887</u>

<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>887</b>
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**NET ASSETS**

Unrestricted :

Unrestricted	41,066
Temporarily Restricted	2,117
Permanently Restricted	-
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>43,183</u>

<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b><u><u>\$ 44,070</u></u></b>
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**Higgins Lake Property Owners Association**  
**8 Months Ending August 31, 2018**

	Members	Dues	Temporarily			Annual Budget	Variance Fav/(Unfav)
			Unrestricted	Restricted	Total		
<b>REVENUES:</b>						500 Members	
Membership Dues	509	\$ 90	\$ 45,810	\$ -	\$ 45,810	\$ 45,000	\$ 810
Legal Fund			\$ -	\$ 310	\$ 310	\$ 1,900	\$ (1,590)
AmVets Fund				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other (Gen'l/Lobbyist Fund)			\$ 785	\$ -	\$ 785	\$ 8,500	\$ (7,715)
Directory Advertising			\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,425	\$ 1,575
Environmental Fund			\$ -	\$ 6,400	\$ 6,400	\$ 1,900	\$ 4,500
Investment Income			\$ 30	\$ -	\$ 30	\$ -	\$ 30
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>			<b>\$ 54,625</b>	<b>\$ 6,710</b>	<b>\$ 61,335</b>	<b>\$ 63,725</b>	<b>\$ (2,390)</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>							
Lobbyist			\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000	\$ 12,000	\$ (4,000)
Legal Fees Paid			\$ 410	\$ -	\$ 410	\$ -	\$ 410
Satisfaction of Legal Costs			\$ -	\$ 821	\$ 821	\$ 4,500	\$ (3,679)
Payroll			\$ 8,248	\$ -	\$ 8,248	\$ 11,130	\$ (2,882)
Office			\$ 4,418	\$ -	\$ 4,418	\$ 9,710	\$ (5,292)
Other Administrative			\$ 12,168	\$ -	\$ 12,169	\$ 9,725	\$ 2,444
Satisfaction of Environmental Costs			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ (4,000)
Organizational Support			\$ 700	\$ -	\$ 700	\$ 2,650	\$ (1,950)
Miscellaneous Expense			\$ 2,585	\$ -	\$ 2,585	\$ 2,185	\$ 400
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>			<b>\$ 36,529</b>	<b>\$ 821</b>	<b>\$ 37,351</b>	<b>\$ 55,900</b>	<b>\$ (18,549)</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>			<b>\$ 18,096</b>	<b>\$ 5,889</b>	<b>\$ 23,984</b>	<b>\$ 7,825</b>	<b>\$ 16,159</b>