



Higgins Lake Property Owners AssociationSM

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

Higgins Lake Property Owners Association

Board Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2019

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

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

Agenda: Chuck asked to add the CHLLL to new business.

President's Comments: Charlene welcomed new Board member Becky Gibson. Charlene also thanked Lauren Lutz for her volunteer assistance with a recent mailing.

May Minutes: Chuck asked that a clarification be made under the Membership & Communication committee portion of the May 20, 2019 Minutes. With this change, a motion was made by John to accept the May Minutes, seconded by Herb. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Secretary/Office: None.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce reviewed the receipts and disbursements for May 2019.

Bruce also presented a chart reflecting the balances for our funds (General, Legal & Environmental, plus Savings Account) that covered 2017, 2018 and year-to-date through May 31, 2019.

Bruce added that we received the rent deposit from our previous landlord.

Membership & Communication: Wayne reported that we have 458 members as of June 6, 2019.

Charlene noted that the Member Directories are ready, which she brought today for our bulk mailing after today's meeting.

After discussion, Herb moved to appoint Becky as Co-Chair of the Membership & Communication Committee, seconded by Fred. Motion passed.

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Wayne distributed a sign-in sheet for Board members to add anyone who could volunteer at our annual meeting.

Greg added that we need the involvement of various lake groups and asked for assistance in contacting them.

Riparian Committee: A Riparian Committee meeting with local law enforcement took place on 5-21-19. In attendance was Brian Duncan, head of the Marine Patrol and we discussed his schedule and plans for this season. Due to budget constraints the marine patrol will be limited to mostly weekends with some weekdays (4th of July week) included. In addition to the two boats regularly working on HL there will be two Personal Watercraft working on a supplemental basis. A handful of officers have been trained on the new radar gun and it will be used for speed and noise control.

A pilot project will be put together this summer to remove any permanent anchors that are problematic in repetitive situations. Riparian Committee member Steve Ricketts will help monitor the Lyon township area of the lake and Riparian Committee member Bill Isenstein will help with the Gerrish Township area.

HLPOA members are advised to call Central Dispatch, 989-275-0911, to report complaints of any nature rather than try to intervene themselves, so that law enforcement can compile a record of recurring incidents. This is especially true if drugs or alcohol might be involved. Using this procedure, law enforcement can keep a record of repetitive violations and be able to come up with stronger methods to assign to individual cases that require more attention than others.

Law enforcement stressed the difference in how they can address issues of a statutory nature to those that fall in the category of Common Law. PA 56 is a statutory law and can be enforced by officers immediately. Common Law, including Jacobs case infractions can only be enforced by the court.

Lyon Township will likely be sending out a statement with their June newsletter stating that they enforce the Jacobs law but probably not specifically retracting their earlier statement in order to specifically clarify that picnicking and sunbathing are illegal under common law.

We will next meet with local law enforcement at summer's end to review issues that occurred during the boating season.

Environmental Committee: Fred reported that the student water sampling program is moving right along, with the next cycle to be completed mid-June. We have sufficient funds from John Ogren and the Rotary Club to complete two additional cycles.

Fred shared that last year, he had spoken to Mr. Briggs, of the State Department of Health, about e coli and occurrences of bad pollution. Fred suggested that we add a link about this to our website under "Water Quality".

A discussion was held regarding SSW, where Fred said that there have been several meetings with Dr. Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones, where she proposed to conduct an objective and thorough lake study and prepare a management plan for all riparians to share and use, relative to Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). The cost is \$25,000.00 and quarterly billings are acceptable. The final report would be available in approximately 9 months. Several Board members then made financial commitments to initiate this study: John \$5000.00, Mark \$5000.00, Charlene \$2000.00, Wayne \$1000.00 and Bruce \$2500.00. Thank you HLPOA Board members!

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Fred then moved that the HLPOA sign a \$25,000.00 contract with Restorative Lake Services LLC, to begin immediately, with an environmental base line study of Higgins Lake. The motion was seconded by Chuck. Motion passed.

Greg mentioned it was important to send out a press release about this RLS study and Chuck will follow-up with an article for the Resorter, after conversing with Fred, John, Charlene and Dr. Jenifer Jermalowicz-Jones. Chuck will also research a "Go Fund Me" page.

Charlene reminded everyone of the Landing Blitz on June 29, 2019, from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

PAC: Members of the PAC, Herb Weatherly, Ken Dennings and Greg Semack, along with Charlene Cornell, met with a Jamie Callahan, representative of Senator VanderWall's office at the Roscommon county building on May 24th, but the senator was unable to attend personally because of the emergency legislative session to reform auto insurance. We were able to discuss Invasive Species and HLSIO issues with Jamie who said he would take our comments and forward them to the senator during the following week. This was a very good forum in that only about 10 people attended and I feel we can have some meaningful discussions with the senator if we continue to attend and so does he. I sent a follow up letter to Jamie yesterday asking him again to bring our issues to the senator's attention and giving him details to the situation involving the DNR and their plan to clean up their launch sites.

We also received an inquiry from Representative Daire Rendon last week but return calls went unanswered. We will be contacting her office again in the future to try and bring to her attention issues where we feel she might be able to help us.

HLSIO: We are once again going to work with Dr. Curt Blankespoor and Swimmer's Itch Solutions this summer. He will be working to remove broods and participate in other ways to keep us updated on his progress.

John Ogren is heading up a goose relocation program that will take place tomorrow, 6-11, and is designed to take as many geese off the lake as possible. This was well received last year and John has put a lot of time and effort into this year's organization of the event. Dr. Blankespoor has already done a lake wide bird survey of Higgins Lake primarily looking for Merganser duck broods to remove and which has helped with goose location. Geese can be a carrier of Swimmer's Itch and if left on the lake provide the equivalent of 100 lbs of fertilizer into the lake per goose during the summer season.

Brood removal for northern Michigan MISIP lakes has begun. Dr. Blankespoor predicts 4 Merganser Duck broods for us this summer. The goal is to get them off the lake before the ducklings are 4 weeks old. New this year to MISIP will be mandatory banding and tagging of captured ducks that are being relocated. Most of the ducks we relocate from Higgins Lake will go to Tawas at a Lake Huron site.

Ongoing Business: Charlene reported that AMVETS lawsuit is currently in discovery, exchange of interrogatories and answers stage. The next round will be depositions.

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In regard to our open house on June 29, 2019, Chuck brought poster boards for the various presentations to be displayed. Chuck added that member Linda Brick has prepared a reminder of the open house to be published in the June 27 issue of the Resorter.

New Business: The Board signed the Conflict of Interest policy, which will be updated on our website.

Greg reviewed an email from Gerrish Township, where they want to expand their marina.

Herb said that the HLPOA Friend of The Lake plaque was ready, and he will pick it up.

The Citizens for Higgins Lake Legal Levels (CHLLL) lawsuit filed against Roscommon County, in regard to legal lake levels on Higgins Lake, was discussed. HLPOA members have asked our stance on this matter. Charlene reported that she had met with our attorney, Bill Carey, where he offered options for the HLPOA. One option is to file as an interested party (cost \$300.00), where we have the opportunity to be engaged. After discussion, Charlene moved that the HLPOA inform Bill Carey that we will participate as an interested party in the CHLLL lawsuit, by filing a Motion to Intervene, seconded by Fred. Six ayes, 1 nay, 1 abstain, motion passed. Board members added that we should alert our members of this action.

Adjournment: Herb moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chuck. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:09 P.M.

The next meeting will be July 15, 2019 at 9:00 A.M.

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**HIGGINS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

	JUNE 30,2018	JUNE 30,2019
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 42,596	\$ 47,878
Accounts Receivable		
Total Current Assets	\$ 42,596	\$ 47,878.00
Other Assets		
Rent Security Deposit		200
Prepaid Expense		-
Restricted Cash	12,969	23,024
Total Other Assets	12,969	23,224
Total Assets	\$ 55,565	\$ 71,102
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
Accrued Payroll and Withholdings Payable	538	1,029
Accrued Expenses	450	-
Prepaid Membership Dues		
Total Current Liabilities	988	1,029
Total Liabilities	\$ 988	\$ 1,029
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted :		
Unrestricted	52,460	61,443
Temporarily Restricted	2,117	8,630
Permanently Restricted		
Total Net Assets	54,577	70,073
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 55,565	\$ 71,102

Higgins Lake Property Owners Association

June 30, 2019

Statement of Income

INCOME:	Members @	Actual	Budget	Variance Fav/(Unfav)
Members' Dues	481 \$	90 \$ 43,245	\$ 47,250	\$ (4,005)
Directory Advertisements		\$ 8,471	\$ 9,100	\$ (629)
Legal Fund Contrib's (Restricted)		\$ 540	\$ 3,000	\$ (2,460)
Environmental Fund Contrib's - (Restricted)		\$ 16,360	\$ 14,000	\$ 2,360
General/Lobbyist Fund Contrib's (Non-Restricted)		\$ 2,184	\$ 5,000	\$ (2,816)
Interest/Miscellaneous Income		\$ 36	\$ -	\$ 36
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 70,836	\$ 78,350	\$ (7,514)
EXPENSES:				
Contract Services				
Accounting Fees		\$ 5,300	\$ 5,000	\$ (300)
Legal Expenses		\$ 1,442	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,558
Lobbyist - PAA		\$ 6,000	\$ 16,500	\$ 10,500
		\$ 12,742	\$ 29,500	\$ 16,758
Facilities and Equipment				
Equip Rental and Maintenance		\$ -		
Property Insurance		\$ -		
Office Rent		\$ 2,010	\$ 2,400	\$ 390
Utilities		\$ 181	\$ -	\$ (181)
		\$ 2,191	\$ 2,400	\$ 209
Memberships				
Huron Pines		\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
Mi Lakes and Streams		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Mi Waterfront Alliance		\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -
		\$ 100	\$ 200	\$ 100
Misc Expense				
Marine Patrol Support		\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
		\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Operating Expenses				
Bank Service Charges		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subscriptions, Books		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Insurance		\$ 447	\$ 1,000	\$ 553
Postage, Mailing Service		\$ 866	\$ 2,200	\$ 1,334
Printing and Copying		\$ 2,850	\$ 2,500	\$ (350)
Supplies		\$ 1,138	\$ 500	\$ (638)
Telephone and Internet		\$ 1,082	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,318
Web Site Maintenance		\$ 237	\$ 425	\$ 188
		\$ 6,620	\$ 9,025	\$ 2,405
Payroll Expenses				
Salaries and Wages		\$ 5,387	\$ 12,500	\$ 7,113
Payroll Taxes		\$ 456	\$ 1,100	\$ 644
Workers Comp		\$ 11	\$ 50	\$ 39
		\$ 5,854	\$ 13,650	\$ 7,796
Travel and Meetings				
Conferernces, Conventions, Meetings		\$ 214	\$ 1,100	\$ 886
Other				
Environmental Expenses		\$ 2,500	\$ 14,500	\$ 12,000
Michigan Sales & Use Tax		\$ 294	\$ -	\$ (294)
TOTAL EXPENSE		\$ 30,515	\$ 71,375	\$ 40,860
				\$ -
NET INCOME		\$ 40,321	\$ 6,975	\$ 33,346