



Higgins Lake Property Owners AssociationSM

PO Box 55 211 N. Main Street Roscommon, MI 48653

Website: hlpoa.org email: hlpoa0@gmail.com

Ph.: (989) 275-9181 Fax: (989) 275-9182

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

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Board Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Charlene Cornell at 9:01 A.M.

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

Agenda: Herb asked to add the election of officers under new business. Chuck asked to add legal affairs postings under ongoing business. John asked to add a boat census under new business.

President's Comments: Charlene thanked Herb, John, Fred and Jim Craig for assisting her at the Boat Landing Blitz on June 29, 2019. Charlene than thanked John for the excellent job over-seeing the Goose Busters program. In regard to the annual meeting, Charlene thanked Mark for the dress rehearsal idea and thanked Chuck for his assistance with the slide presentation.

June Minutes: John moved to accept the June 10, 2019 Minutes as written, seconded by Bob. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Secretary/Office: None.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce reviewed the Statement of Financial Position, with a comparison of June 30, 2018 to June 30, 2019. He noted that net assets are up \$15,000.00 and cash is up \$5,000.00.

Membership and Communication: Wayne reported that as of today we have 487 members, matching the count of one year ago.

John suggested we send a communication to our members regarding the Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS) Study and the Board agreed.

Mark was asked to get a current list of new homeowners. Mark added that we should look at a new approach in reaching them. Greg stated a PR campaign, stressing our individuality, could get our messages out to attract new members to our association. Mark stated we should stress the riparians investment here of their property value. Bob voiced an idea to have a professional marketing team to establish a PR marketing program for us,

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with Becky adding that riparians need to be educated about our concerns. Mark will follow-up to pursue a PR marketing group.

Wayne suggested a press release about our contracting with RLS for a lake study, asking riparians to contribute and the Board agreed. Becky added that we could then have monthly email blasts to our members with RLS study updates.

Riparian Committee:

We are continuing to review potential illegally anchored boats. These are being reported and we will be evaluating to determine if there are permanent anchors that are being used by non riparians. We may need to have removed as they are considered abandoned property.

Since the last board meeting, Greg visited a member about a road end problem in order to help with the issue and confirm that they were aware of the proper procedure to handle illegal road end activity. He also visited a member to in order to understand problems they are experiencing with shoreline erosion.

Greg spoke to another member who had questions about parking on the roadside area of highway 27. It appears to be related to unusual 4th of July West Launch overflow, but we talked about options that the member might want to consider.

We continue to correspond to the Roscommon Sheriff and Gerrish Township police about riparian issues and they have been very responsive to our inquiries.

In general, we seemed to have less people upset about riparian issues this year than last year, at least at this time of the season. We had considered another general meeting, but we don't think it warrants doing that currently.

Biggest problem on the horizon is mooring on riparian bottomlands, sometimes in groups. There are currently no specific laws against this practice and the prosecutor's office does not think they are in position to act against this type of activity. We will continue to pursue options to help riparians who are experiencing a problem with this activity.

Lyon Township printed a statement in June saying that there will be no overnight mooring allowed and that PA 56 and the Jacobs ruling is current law. They never specifically retracted the incorrect statement about picnicking and sunbathing that was issued in December.

It was moved and approved that going forward, John Ogren will become the new head of the Riparian committee. He has been very involved as a member and is well informed of the issues and activity of the committee.

Environmental Committee: Wayne discussed an environmental issue on the west side of the lake around Big Creek. He said there are copious amounts of wood (bark & twigs) in the lake. A neighbor called the township, the DNR, the DEQ and the Road Commission. The environmental committee will continue to monitor this situation.

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PAC: Very happy to report that communication with Senator VanderWall's office has resulted in him making an onsite visit to the DNR launch sites and brought him to speak at our annual meeting. We have plans to continue to communicate with him and are encouraged that he seems very attuned to lake issues.

HLSIO: Brood removal is underway. One removed thus far, possible 2 or three more. One sighted near Clare St is definitely Merganser. One brood sighted near Detroit point, probably mallard. One sighted near Cut River not totally defined but possible. Next removal is to be Thursday.

Fund raising dinner at Witt's barn is being planned. Neal Cooley has picked a date, August 29, and lined up donations from his suppliers for the event. Working continues on this and tickets should be available shortly for sale.

MISIP – Many lakes having many more merganser broods than we have at Higgins Lake. One reason might be the proximity of relocation sites for other lakes. Funding for another \$250,000 appropriation is very much in doubt right now. We're hopeful that we may be funded for at least one more year.

Goose relocation program was extremely successful. This year's program was run by John Ogren and we removed 45 geese in total on two dates. Many thanks to John for implementing a very organized and efficient plan, utilizing the help of many HLPOA members.

Ongoing Business: Chuck inquired if we should post updates on our website, regarding the legal affairs we are involved with. Charlene will contact Bill Carey for his legal recommendation.

New Business: Chuck reported that only one person attended the Open House on June 29, 2019, adding that it was a good suggestion to research a PR marketing group.

Several Board members received positive feedback regarding our Annual Meeting on July 13, 2019. The guest speakers, Senator Curt VanderWall, Limnologist Dr. Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones, Dr. Curt Blankespoor and attorney Bill Carey were a great addition to the meeting!

Bob said that at the annual meeting we elected the 3-year incumbents (Wayne, Bruce, Chuck and Herb), and today we needed to cover the election of officers. A motion was made by Bob to re-elect Charlene as President, Greg as Vice-President, Bruce as Treasurer and Herb as Secretary, all for a one-year term. The motion was seconded by John. Motion passed.

Charlene asked if we should conduct another lake level survey with our members. Bruce said we would get different answers in the summer vs the fall. Herb felt we should stay neutral now. John stated that the RLS study will include erosional effects and suggested we wait until the study is completed. Chuck added that he has tracked erosional information and will share it with Dr. Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones.

Herb would like to send a thank-you letter to the Roscommon Elementary School, specifically thanking the custodian, Calvin Witherspoon, for all his efforts and cooperation. The Board agreed and the letter will be signed by both Charlene and Herb.

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Chuck asked if we would ever consider opening our Annual Meetings to the public, as they were in the past, which could attract new riparian property owners as future members. Charlene said we would need to check our bylaws to see if it states the meetings are for members only.

John suggested to conduct an annual boat census on Higgins Lake, asking if there is a legal limit and are too many boats already? This could include count, the type of boats and the permanent position of the boats. John added that we could perform the survey and add the boat launch facilities. Bruce added that there is a law with a limitation of how many boats there can be. Bob stated that the DNR has a formula for boat capacity. Becky suggested that conducting a drone survey would be a possibility. Herb said a census was done over the 4th of July weekend about 10 – 12 years ago. Charlene stated that Ric Blamer, approximately 4 – 5 years ago, did a census via airplane, which was recorded on a CD and she will look for this information.

Bob reported that at the annual meeting, he had asked for volunteers to become at-large members of the Elections Committee. Two members showed interest and Bob will contact them and report at the next Board meeting.

Adjournment: Bruce moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chuck. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:58 A.M.

The next meeting will be August 19, 2019 at 9:00 A.M.