



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: Wayne Brooks, Jack Cornell, Curt DeVoe, Becky Gibson, Bob McKellar, John Ogren, Fred Swinehart

Higgins Lake Property Owners Association Board Meeting Minutes June 21, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Charlene Cornell at 9:04 A.M.

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

Agenda: No changes.

President's Comments: Charlene thanked John for organizing the Goose Busters roundup and removal program on June 10, 2021.

May Minutes: The May 17, 2021, Minutes were accepted as written.

Committee Reports:

Secretary/Office: None.

Treasurer's Report: The financials through May 31, 2021, were presented.

Membership/Communication: Wayne reported that we have 507 members vs our budget of 520. Wayne noted the completion of the 2021 Member Directories, and they should be ready later this week for mailing.

Becky stated that recent postings were added to our website regarding lake level and environmental charts. Also, Becky said that Houghton Lake advertises on TV about the environment and asked if this could be a possibility for us to pursue for PR.

Riparian Committee: John updated the board on the following matters from the meeting notes:

- PA 56 signs have been installed in Gerrish Township at the request of Chief Hill at Kelly Beach, Hitchcock, Maplehurst, Reaves Forest, Henry, W. Burch, and St. Lawrence road-ends. The installations were supervised by Lt. Patchin and were double faced.
- Undersheriff, Ben Lowe, and Lyon Township Clerk, Doug Schnell, will select locations for Lyon Township.
- John moved and Bruce seconded that HLPOA purchase PA 56 tags from Dealer Supply at a cost not to exceed \$1,000 for donation to the Gerrish Township Police. The motion was unanimously approved.

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Chief Hill will distribute the tags to the Roscommon County Marine Patrol and the Police Department for placement on boats illegally moored overnight.

- Lyon Township will hold off on any action related to short term rentals pending the current legislation under consideration in Lansing.

Environmental Committee: Fred reported on the following topics.

Dewey Road Culvert Replacement and Big Creek Remediation: The replacement of the perched culvert on Dewey Road that currently blocks free passage of aquatic species up and down Big Creek is proceeding according to schedule. Roger Saxton of the Roscommon County Road Commission has submitted firm quote for a total project cost of \$31,060.63. This will be the value of the contract between Huron Pines and the Road Commission. This excludes the project management costs (Huron Pines staff time), which is an additional \$6,500. Therefore, the real cost of the project is approximately \$37,560. About half of that project management cost has already been expended during the planning phase.

The EGLE permit has just been issued, and the Morley Foundation has just sent a check to Huron Pines for \$7,500 covering the balance of the project's costs. Huron Pines expects to sign the contract with the Road Commission right away, and the project is expected to complete yet this summer.

Jack stated that the Land Conservancy will help fund the erosion issues at Big Creek and Camp Curnalia.

Macro Invertebrate Baseline Survey of Big Creek and The Cut: For environmental work in Big Creek, we are included in the MiCorps/Streams Quality Assurance Project Plan, QAPP, which is administered by the Muskegon Watershed Alliance Council. This gives us access to some funding and some expert advice and guidance in our work. Our primary contact there is PatriciaJarrett@Ferris.Edu

Melanie Brown will be leading our efforts to identify bottom dwelling macro invertebrate species and to assess their populations, which are indicative for the health of these two waterway environments. She has attended a "hands on training session" June 5th sponsored by MiCorps and given by Cindy Fitzwilliam Heck, a biology professor from Ferris University. The training was held at the Marshall Memorial Park in Newago. The fieldwork was done in Brooks Creek, a small tributary of the Muskegon River.

A second follow-up training was held June 19th in Newago at the Ed Henning Park. Melanie and Fred participated in this training and will apply the lessons to Big Creek and the Cut River. We also worked in Brooks Creek on this occasion.

2021 Water Quality Sampling and Analysis of Near Shore Waters: We are in our fourth year of sampling and analyzing the near shore waters of our lake for chemical and biological contamination. The first cycle of 2021 was completed in May and the report is up on our website. The second of five cycles of testing were done this past week, 06/17, to assess the condition of the lake after Memorial Day and prior to the big July Fourth weekend. Student participation will be sought as soon as Covid-19 Restrictions are relaxed. The approval for 12- to 15-year-old vaccination recipients encourages us to believe that wide student participation will be possible later this summer.

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The attached chart from the averaged data of the first three years of near shore testing shows a very troubling rise in both the total and escherichia coliform bacterial populations in the lake. The effects of more and more nutrient loading in the lake from septic system leaching and other pollution sources in our watershed are certainly creating this very serious decrease in Higgins Lake water quality.

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
T-Coliform, MPN	47.3	279	553
E-Coliform, MPN	3	5.4	24

Determination of Extent and Nature of Micro-plastic Contamination: The project from 2020 was quantitatively compromised due to an unfortunate error in samples zebra mussel storage conditions. However, some additional mussels were collected and processed, showing some remaining plastic residues. The students took some photo micrographs, using equipment purchased for their use by the HLPOA, and qualitatively proved the existence of micro plastic contamination in the lake. Somewhat surprisingly, the presence of fibrous plastic material, such as might arise from dryer lint exhaust, exceeded that of microspheres, which were commonly found in cosmetics before there were declared illegal some years ago. The zebra mussel sample collection will be repeated this summer for a more complete student analysis. A report will be placed on the HLPOA website.

Other Possible Project Activity: Some additional programs are being added for consideration this summer. The list shown below is possible depending on available funding, volunteer participation and covid-19 restriction limitations.

1. Health Department Survey of Big Creek
2. In-stream habitat improvements for Big Creek
3. Base line study of algal presence in the lake.
4. A "Trash Bash" MRWA sponsored event in the fall.

Historical Environmental Report Re-Discovered: A comprehensive environmental survey from 1969 was found in the files of Melanie Brown's father-in-law. The primary author walked around the entire lakeshore, taking note of every creek and drain that flowed into the lake. He references Big Creek as a "small trout stream", which indeed it was back in those days. We are working to upgrade its appearance and eventually place it on our website for its historical interest.

Election Committee: For the annual meeting, Bob reviewed the election process for the HLPOA Director candidates. Herb nominated Jack for a 3-year term, seconded by Bruce. Motion passed.

PAC: In statewide news, both the state house and senate have bills that will likely call for making the banning of short-term rentals by local municipalities illegal. That said, it will likely yet be possible for local municipalities to be able to regulate them. This is an important issue for us, has been discussed in Riparian Committee meetings with local law enforcement and will likely be an evolving situation this year.

In local politics, Fred Koenigbauer has resigned as the supervisor in Lyon Township. His replacement will be appointed by the Lyon township board in the near future.

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The sewer project continues to go forward. Representatives of the sewer authority attended a meeting at a municipality near Kalamazoo where a system similar to the one we are seeking has been working for many years. They found that the area is very happy with the system, and it has been very reliable and effective. Dave Udy has been pursuing grants and other various funding alternatives to help offset final costs. John Lindley is helping Dave with possibilities involving the state.

Part of the recent money coming into the state from the federal government has been earmarked for improvement at Michigan state parks although none is expected to be used for water related projects. All the funding is to be used to improve land-based facilities within the parks.

HLSIO: Greg reported that although reports of SI were still few that there have been some and that is not unexpected even though we have had no brood sightings yet this summer. There are still infected snails in the lake from migratory birds and that is the likely cause. Curt Blankespoor was at Higgins Lake on June 8th conducting a bird survey but found no merganser broods on the lake. He was expected to be at Higgins Lake Wednesday (6-23) to remove a brood, but it turned out that the ducks that were sighted were not mergansers.

Our goose relocation program took place on June 10th. We trapped and relocated 31 geese and may try to have the contractor back one more time before the end of the relocation period on July 3rd. There were reports of more geese on the lake immediately after the relocation took place, but we have not seen them recently so maybe they have moved on.

We have been in contact with a person who lives near Lake Leelanau and has been developing a cream to use for SI prevention but as yet he has not gotten approval for its use.

Other lakes that will be doing trapping and relocating this year are Black, Douglas, Crystal, and Larks. Other than Crystal, the other lakes are fairly new to this program.

The HLSIO will be holding their fundraising dinner again this summer after not being able to do so last year. The event will take place on August 12th and will once again be hosted by Jim and Laura Witt and catered by Fred's. Tickets will soon be available.

Ongoing Business: Charlene reported that the AMVETS pre-trial hearing will be September 16th, followed by a Bench Trial on October 12, 2021. A fund-raising solicitation letter was discussed.

The annual meeting was discussed, and Greg will follow-up with a date to review the process with the Board members. A meeting with speaker Dr. Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones is scheduled for June 30th, to review lake management topics for this meeting.

Charlene reminded volunteers of the Landing Blitz on July 1st at the North State Park, from 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Adjournment: Herb moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Greg. The meeting adjourned at 11:31 A.M.

The next meeting will be July 19, 2021, at 9:00

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**HIGGINS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JUNE 30, 2021**

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 91,822
Accounts Receivable	<u>\$ -</u>
Total Current Assets	91,822
Other Assets	
Rent Security Deposit	200
Prepaid Expense	-
Restricted Cash	<u>17,445</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>17,645</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 109,467</u></u>

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ -
Accrued Payroll and Withholdings Payable	747
Accrued Expenses	-
Unearned Revenue	<u>-</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>747</u>
Total Liabilities	747

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted :	
Unrestricted	91,275
Temporarily Restricted	17,445
Permanently Restricted	<u>-</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>108,720</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 109,467</u></u>

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Higgins Lake Property Owners Association

June 30, 2021

Statement of Income

					Variance	
INCOME:	Members @		Actual	Budget	Fav/(Unfav)	
Members' Dues	512	\$	100	\$ 51,200	\$ 52,000	\$ (800)
Directory Advertisements				\$ 7,575	\$ 7,000	\$ 575
Map Sales				\$ 1,600	\$ 700	\$ 900
Legal Fund Contrib's (Restricted)				\$ 2,105	\$ 2,000	\$ 105
Environmental Fund Contrib's - (Restricted)				\$ 5,365	\$ 32,500	\$ (27,135)
General/Lobbyist Fund Contrib's (Non-Restricted)				\$ 2,455	\$ 3,500	\$ (1,045)
Interest/Miscellaneous Income				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL INCOME				\$ 70,300	\$ 97,700	\$ (27,400)
EXPENSES:						
Contract Services						
Accounting Fees				\$ 4,000	\$ 5,500	\$ 1,500
Legal Expenses				\$ 444	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,556
Lobbyist - PAA				\$ 6,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 6,000
				\$ 10,444	\$ 22,500	\$ 12,056
Facilities and Equipment						
Property Insurance				\$ -		
Office Rent				\$ 1,200	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,200
				\$ 1,200	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,200
Memberships						
Huron Pines				\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -
Chamber of Commerce				\$ 50	\$ -	\$ (50)
Mi Lakes and Streams				\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
Michigan Riparian				\$ -	\$ 60	\$ 60
Muskegon Watershed				\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ -
Mi Waterfront Alliance				\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -
				\$ 280	\$ 790	\$ 510
Misc Expense						
Miscellaneous				\$ 25	\$ -	\$ (25)
Marine Patrol Support& Rosc Foundation				\$ -	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100
				\$ 25	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,075
Operating Expenses						
Bank Service Charges				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subscriptions, Books, Advertising				\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
Insurance				\$ 435	\$ 1,200	\$ 765
Postage, Mailing Service				\$ 1,428	\$ 1,900	\$ 472
Printing and Copying				\$ 4,010	\$ 4,500	\$ 490
Supplies				\$ 1,159	\$ 900	\$ (259)
Telephone and Internet				\$ 1,087	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,313
Web Site Maintenance				\$ 348	\$ 500	\$ 152
				\$ 8,467	\$ 11,500	\$ 3,033
Payroll Expenses						
Salaries and Wages				\$ 5,341	\$ 12,000	\$ 6,659
Payroll Taxes				\$ 452	\$ 900	\$ 448
Workers Comp				\$ 13	\$ 50	\$ 37
				\$ 5,806	\$ 12,950	\$ 7,144
Travel and Meetings						
Conferernces, Conventions, Meetings				\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Other						
Environmental Expenses				\$ 2,961	\$ 37,500	\$ 34,539
990 Taxes				\$ -	\$ 300	\$ 300
Michigan Sales & Use Tax				\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
				\$ 2,961	\$ 37,900	\$ 34,939
TOTAL EXPENSE				\$ 29,183	\$ 90,140	\$ 60,957
						\$ -
NET INCOME				\$ 41,117	\$ 7,560	\$ 33,557

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