



Higgins Lake Property Owners AssociationSM

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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

January 17, 2022

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, Bob McKellar, Curt DeVoe, John Ogren, Fred Swinehart, Becky Gibson, and Jack Cornell.

Agenda: No changes.

President's Comments: None.

December Minutes: The December 20,2021, Minutes were accepted as written.

Committee Reports:

Secretary/Office: None.

Treasurer's Report: The financials through December 31, 2021, were presented. Bruce then reviewed the 2022 preliminary budget. After discussion, Bruce will revise the environmental revenue and expenses, in regard to the RLS Lake study. With these revisions, John moved to approve the 2022 budget, seconded by Fred. Motion passed.

A discussion was held about the cost of membership dues.

Membership & Communication: Wayne shared that we have 287 members, of which 29 are new members. Wayne reported that they are working on completing the Winter newsletter. Last, Wayne added that the mailing for the directory advertisers will be mailed this week.

Riparian Committee: John stated that at the November 10,2021 meeting with the DNR and EGLE representatives, it was agreed to schedule a follow up meeting specifically on concerns about the Higgins Lake DNR boat launch practices. In preparation for that meeting, John reviewed a conceptual Boat Launch Management Plan that is intended to better control invasive species from entering the lake. Improvements to the plan were suggested and will be incorporated as a basis for discussion with the DNR.

Environmental Committee: Fred reported the following:

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Higgins Lake Clean Water Assistance Fund:

The Higgins Lake Foundation generously offered the use of a dormant 501(c)(3) registration that they have kept in reserve for the use of the GLUA. This benevolent fund would support qualified homeowners' connection cost to the proposed sewer system. The GLUA approved the use of this fund at their January 01/10/2022 meeting and are accepting initial commitments from donors. We are working with the HLF and the GLUA to define the operating agreements for this fund. Examples of such agreements from other similar benevolent funds have been forwarded to the team looking at these items.

In-stream Habitat Improvements for Big Creek: We are working with the DNR, EGLE and the Big Creek Lane Association to follow the second recommendation from Mark Tonello of DNR fisheries. This recommendation was for volunteers to hand place in-stream wood and stone structures to enhance the habitat for brook trout. We are preparing a plan for DNR and EGLE review and approval. This would be an activity organized and carried out next summer by volunteers. Some funds for materials may be requested as the plan develops.

Albemarle Road's Little Creek Culvert Replacement: This collapsed culvert inhibits passage of aquatic species less than 100' upstream from the lake. An early estimate indicates the costs would be similar to the Big Creek job, perhaps around \$40,000 total. Partial funding from Huron Pines, Roscommon County, and Lyon Township will be sought. Given the same local organizational support as for the Big Creek project, perhaps contributions of \$7,500 from HLPOA would cover our share of the costs for this project. This project is already planned for next summer's RCRC activity. The EGLE permits have already been secured. Once organizational support is obtained, detailed engineering would begin.

Fred moved to commit \$7,500.00 to Huron Pines for the Albemarle Avenue Culvert replacement, contingent upon completion of the project. The motion was seconded by Bruce. After discussion, the motion was tabled for the next meeting, as Fred will research possible funding by Lyon Township and the County Road Commission.

2021 Water Quality Sampling and Analysis of Near Shore Waters: We have completed our fourth year of student sampling and analyzing the near shore waters of our lake for chemical and biological contamination. A summary report for this data has been posted on our website. The program will continue in 2022.

Other Possible Project Activity: Some additional programs are being considered:

1. A Full Lake Survey by RLS To Assess Changes in AIS Since 2019.
2. A Baseline Study of Algal Presence in the Lake.
3. A Micro-plastics Pollution Study by RAPHs students and HLPOA members.
4. A "Trash Bash" event sponsored by the MRWA

PAC: Greg stated that the committee received 2 proposals from Lobbying firms and they are considering Scofes & Associates Consulting, LLC., to start in February. Greg added that this firm has a background in lake issues and that they had been used by the HLPOA in the past.

HLSIO: Greg shared that at their January 13th meeting, they discussed 2022 plans with Curt Blankenspoor. Greg added that Melanie Brown will work with Curt on details for some research projects. It was also agreed to work with the SIS (Swimmers Itch Solutions) to contract for the removal of broods this year, if any are found. Last, Greg plans to schedule a meeting this Spring with Crystal Lake, to discuss common issues and what may be different from last Fall.

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Ongoing Business: Charlene will contact attorney Bill Carey, to see if all signatures have been received for the Entry of Judgment document.

The sewer project petitions, and possible funding was discussed.

New Business: John asked if the MWA had filed an Amicus Brief, regarding the inadequate performance of the EGLE and DNR.

Adjournment: Bruce moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Greg. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:03 A.M.

The next meeting will be February 21, 2022, at 9:00 A.M.