



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
March 21, 2022

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

Agenda: No changes.

President's Comments: None.

February Minutes: The February 21, 2022, Minutes were accepted as written.

Committee Reports:

Secretary/Office: None.

Treasurer's Report: The financials through February 28, 2022, were presented, along with the December 31, 2021, Reviewed Financial Statements prepared by Croskey Lanni, PC. A discussion was held about membership payment methods, which Bruce will research. The cost of an audit vs a compilation was discussed, which Bruce will also research.

Membership & Communication: Wayne stated that we sent reminder postcards last week to those members who have not yet renewed. Wayne reported that we now have 391 members vs our goal of 535. The amount of 2023 membership dues was discussed and Wayne will follow-up at the next meeting. Wayne will also be sending email reminders to directory advertisers.

Becky asked members to forward articles for the Spring newsletter by March 28th.

Riparian Committee: John reported on the planned meeting with the DNR and HLF on the subject of Boat Launch Management. The DNR delayed setting the meeting date until after internal meetings on March 28 and April 5. A proposed agenda and outlines of two boat launch management systems has been submitted to Josh Pellow for the meeting. One version of the boat launch management system is a DNR managed system, and the other is a contractor managed system with backing from HLPOA and HLF.

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Summaries of DASH boat harvesting summaries for 2021 and 2020 were also submitted to Josh Pellow to stress the urgency of improvements to the boat launch system.

Environmental Committee: Fred reported the following:

Albemarle Road's Little Creek Culvert Replacement: This collapsed culvert inhibits passage of aquatic species less than 100' upstream from the lake. Estimated costs would be around \$40,000 total. A grant of \$10,000 funding from the Walters Family Foundation has been secured by Huron Pines. Lyon Township will also authorize \$10,000 toward the project. HLPOA has authorized a commitment of up to \$7,500 to Huron Pines. We are approaching the same partners that allowed completion of the Dewey Road culvert project in 2021 and encouraging their support as well. This project is already planned for next summer's Roscommon County Road Commission activity. EGLE permits have been secured.

Water Quality Sampling and Analysis of Near Shore Waters: The Michigan Lakes and Streams Association has asked to highlight this program with a feature article in their Riparian magazine. We are very pleased to have been so recognized and will work on an article with them.

Blue Green and Brown Algae Blooms in the Lake: We have completed our fourth year of student sampling and analyzing the near shore waters of our lake for chemical and biological contamination. One outstanding observation based on this data is that our lake experiences a generalized coliform bacterial bloom each summer as a reaction to nutrient loading in the lake. Anecdotal observations show a similar increase in brown and blue green algal blooms near shore each summer. We have begun a literature search focused on the impacts of zebra and quagga mussels on this problem. Understanding and setting up a program to quantify these blooms is a high priority for 2022

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.

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 reported that the Scofes and Associates lobbying firm has been focused on finding funds for the sewer project. Meetings with legislators that were set up by Scofes were recently conducted. HLPOA board members and members of the GLUA met recently with Senator Bumstead and Senator VanderWall and with the staff of Representative Annette Glenn (Midland area). We expect to be talking to representative Glenn at a later date.

There is a group that may attempt to recall the current Lyon Township Board. It appears as though their concern with the current board centers around the sewer project.

The water level appeal was recently decided in favor of the Plaintiff. The case is now to be heard in the circuit court.

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HLSIO: Greg reported that HLSIO expected Curt Blankespoor would be presenting the research we funded last summer at the MLSA spring conference. The MLSA told him last Sunday that he had been removed from the agenda.

We expect to have the fund-raising dinner once again in August and board member Neal Cooley is already making early arrangements. We also expect to be relocating Canada Geese again this summer and Board member John Ogren has already been in contact with the removal contractor.

Ongoing Business: Curt DeVoe reported on the sewer project. Through HLPOA's lobbyist, Greg Semack has arranged several meetings with Michigan legislators and the Governor's office to discuss funding and Michigan EGLE priority for the project. The principal potential source of funding is the Clean Water Act State Revolving Loan Fund for wastewater projects, which may result in funding most of the cost and may also allow forgiveness (i.e., conversion of a loan to a grant) of a substantial portion of the SRF loan, significantly reducing the cost to affected property owners. In order to try to incorporate actual and potential funding sources and also resolve confusion and uncertainty, GLUA submitted its initial Special Assessment District (SAD) and sewer plan to both townships. Gerrish Township board members voted to reject that plan (as expected) and asked GLUA to revise the boundary and plan and come back to the township with a revised plan. As of this meeting, Lyon Township had not acted on the proposed plan but is expected to reject it and request a revised plan, like Gerrish Township. GLUA's revised plan is expected to include a slightly reduced SAD area, a slightly lower total cost, and information concerning whatever funding can be secured or reasonably predicted as of the time of the submittal of the revised plan. Several deadlines in both the SRF funding and Public Act 188 process are expected to hit in the next several months. Curt, Greg, and Charlene will continue to monitor closely and participate in calls and meetings with GLUA, HLF, and other stakeholders. HLPOA will continue to promote approval of the project, including a more focused campaign to explain the benefits of a sewer versus the existing septic systems, with additional focus on drinking water.

Regarding the annual meeting, the ballot and proxy forms have been completed. The terms for 4 Board members are expiring and Charlene thanked these members for agreeing to continue for an additional 3 years. Herb added that the paperwork has been submitted to the Roscommon Elementary School to secure the July 16th date at their gymnasium.

Adjournment: Curt moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bruce. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:01 A.M.

The next meeting will be April 18, 2022, at 9:00 A.M.

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**HIGGINS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
MARCH 31, 2022**

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 119,252
Accounts Receivable	<u>\$ -</u>
Total Current Assets	119,252
Other Assets	
Rent Security Deposit	400
Prepaid Expense	-
Restricted Cash	<u>18,619</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>19,019</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 138,271</u></u>

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ -
Accrued Payroll and Withholdings Payable	571
Accrued Expenses	-
Unearned Revenue	<u>-</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>571</u>
Total Liabilities	571

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted :	
Unrestricted	119,081
Temporarily Restricted	18,619
Permanently Restricted	<u>-</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>137,700</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 138,271</u></u>

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Higgins Lake Property Owners Association

March 31, 2022

Statement of Income

Preliminary

					Variance	
INCOME:	Members @		Actual	Budget	Fav/(Unfav)	
Members' Dues	417	\$	100	\$ 41,700	\$ 53,500	\$ (11,800)
Directory Advertisements				\$ 4,175	\$ 7,500	\$ (3,325)
Map/Stationery Sales				\$ 200	\$ 3,000	\$ (2,800)
Legal Fund Contrib's (Restricted)				\$ 1,685	\$ 5,000	\$ (3,315)
Environmental Fund Contrib's - (Restricted)				\$ 9,085	\$ 34,000	\$ (24,915)
General/Lobbyist Fund Contrib's (Non-Restricted)				\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000	\$ (2,500)
Interest/Miscellaneous Income				\$ 6	\$ -	\$ 6
TOTAL INCOME				\$ 59,351	\$ 108,000	\$ (48,649)
EXPENSES:						
Contract Services						
Accounting Fees				\$ 895	\$ 5,200	\$ 4,305
Legal Expenses				\$ 1,029	\$ 4,500	\$ 3,471
Lobbyist				\$ 2,500	\$ 21,000	\$ 18,500
				\$ 4,424	\$ 30,700	\$ 26,276
Facilities and Equipment						
Property Insurance				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Office Rent				\$ 400	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,000
				\$ 400	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,000
Memberships						
Huron Pines				\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
Chamber of Commerce					\$ 150	\$ 150
Mi Lakes and Streams				\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
Michigan Riparian				\$ -	\$ 84	\$ 84
Muskegon Watershed				\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ -
Mi Waterfront Alliance				\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
				\$ 30	\$ 964	\$ 934
Misc Expense						
Marine Patrol Support & Rosc Foundation				\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
				\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Operating Expenses						
Bank Service Charges				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subscriptions, Books, Advertising				\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
Insurance				\$ -	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200
Postage, Mailing Service				\$ 296	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,004
Printing and Copying				\$ 1,054	\$ 4,800	\$ 3,746
Supplies				\$ -	\$ 1,900	\$ 1,900
Telephone and Internet				\$ 534	\$ 2,300	\$ 1,766
Web Site Maintenance				\$ 198	\$ 500	\$ 302
				\$ 2,082	\$ 13,100	\$ 11,018
Payroll Expenses						
Salaries and Wages				\$ 2,934	\$ 13,000	\$ 10,066
Payroll Taxes				\$ 266	\$ 975	\$ 709
Workers Comp				\$ 7	\$ 35	\$ 28
				\$ 3,207	\$ 14,010	\$ 10,803
Travel and Meetings						
Conferernces, Conventions, Meetings				\$ -	\$ 700	\$ 700
						\$ -
Other						
Environmental Expenses				\$ 197	\$ 43,000	\$ 42,803
990 Taxes				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Michigan Sales & Use Tax				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
				\$ 197	\$ 43,000	\$ 42,803
TOTAL EXPENSE				\$ 10,340	\$ 105,874	\$ 95,534
NET INCOME				\$ 49,011	\$ 2,126	\$ (46,885)

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