



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

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

Agenda: Bob asked that Greg address the situation of the PAC account at Huntington Bank.

President's Comments: Charlene thanked all Board members for their dedication and tireless hours year-round, for the good of Higgins Lake.

October Minutes: The October 17, 2022, Minutes were accepted as written.

Committee Reports:

Secretary/Office: Herb stated that the conference room has been reserved to stuff envelopes for the membership mailing.

Treasurer's Report: The financials through October 31, 2022, were presented. Bruce added that he will have a preliminary 2023 budget to present at the next meeting, after he reviews the November financials. A final 2023 budget will then be presented for approval in January, after the December direct numbers are completed. Bruce asked Committee Chairs to provide him estimates of 2023 revenues and expenses for their respective areas of responsibility before our next meeting, so he can incorporate that information into our draft budget. Herb noted the possibility that there may not be any marine patrol next year. Herb will contact the sheriff to confirm this and suggested that we possibly donate money to cover marine patrol over the summer holidays.

Membership & Communication: Wayne said we will stuff envelopes on December 1st at 9:30 A.M. Wayne also thanked member Phil Czech for delivering our printing needs from Dealers Supply.

Riparian Committee: John reported the following:

PA 56 Signs: Happy to report that the Roscommon Road Commission approved and staked the four, road end sign location at Elm Avenue, DesMoines Avenue and East Road in Lyon Township and Columbine Lane in Gerrish Township. All four were approved for wooden posts. I contacted Chase Schepke and he agreed to supply and

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install the posts for \$100 each. That work is complete, and we will plan to install the signs at eight locations recommended by the Roscommon Sheriff's department early next spring.

MTT DASH: Their report on DASH boat harvesting this past summer will indicate dense SSW in the lagoon at the South State Park, but with about 30% few bags harvested than in 2021. The West Access had thin SSW and the North State Park had no SSW. I have requested the HLF DASH harvest report information to complete a summary of 2022 and to get an indication of the spread of SSW in the lake.

Little Creek: Fred asked John to investigate closure of the beach area on the south side of Little Creek to boat launching activity. Ownership of the property is undetermined from County maps and the current boat launching activity is damaging and eroding the beach area.

Environmental Committee: Fred reported the following:

Human Sourced Pharmaceutical Pollution from Septic Systems: The Michigan State University laboratory run by Professor Hui Li reported the results of the sampling survey completed in late September from six near shore sites around the lake. Prescription pharmaceuticals were found in every sample. These results were shared with Steve King of the Central Michigan District Health Department we quote his comments below:

*"Since Higgins Lake is predominantly spring fed, the presence of pharmaceuticals in the lake water reinforces the connection that onsite sewage disposal has with groundwater and the lake. I would suspect that drinking water wells with detectable nitrates would have a similar mix of pharmaceuticals from upstream sources should the wells get tested. Just as we did not know if pharmaceuticals would be found in the lake, we don't know of any impacts to drinking water. **This should be the next area to look at to see what residents might be potentially exposed to through consumption of groundwater.**"*

Steve King RS

Director of Environmental Health

Central Michigan District Health Department

The noted MSU Professor Joan Rose reviewed these results and comments. She was most supportive of Steve's observations and recommendations. Her comments are quoted below:

"Hello Everyone

Very good report. The results are very telling. Both Pharmaceuticals and nutrients can have a long life and this shows that over time with too many septic tanks in a watershed you are eventually going to see these contaminants in drinking water and recreational waters.

If we need to do source tracking in the ground water/wells let us know.

The state lab net work has the capacity to do microbial source tracking.

Joan B. Rose

Homer Nowlin Chair in Water Research

Dept of Fisheries and Wildlife

480 Wilson Road

Natural Resources Building, Room 13

Michigan State University"

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After discussion about how pharmaceuticals may impact Higgins Lake, Fred moved to pay \$2,417.00 to Professor Li's Michigan State University's laboratory, for an analysis of pharmaceutical compounds in the near shores of Higgins Lake. The motion was seconded by Bruce. Motion passed.

HLSIO: Greg stated that the Avian Flu will most likely be around this upcoming season and further meetings will be held with the DNR about relocation efforts. Greg also said that the research project will continue, where Swimmers Itch (SI) was studied where people swim, to determine if there are any "hot spots" in Higgins Lake. Last, there is conversation about treating parasite infestation with chemicals.

Ongoing Business: Regarding the sewer project, Greg heard that the start-up cost may be assessed differently, such as lakefront vs off-lake. Greg added that it is difficult for PAC to have conversations with legislators, when we do not have a project moving forward. Also, Greg stated that more information should be available at our next meeting, while GLUA and local officials have changed after the elections. Greg also stated that Benzie and Leelanau Counties have a much stricter septic ordinance. Last, Curt noted that the state has not yet purchased a site for the wastewater plant.

A discussion was held about the Camp Grayling expansion, looking at an option to mail a letter on our stance to both the governor and to Dan Eichinger, Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The HLPOA Board will further review this matter and discuss it at the next meeting.

New Business: Greg reported on the County Commissioners discussion of the lake level.

Adjournment: Herb moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bruce. The meeting adjourned at 10:36 A.M.