



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
September 19, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes
ZOOM Virtual Meeting

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

Board Members Present:

Charlene Cornell, Greg Semack, Wayne Brooks, Bob McKellar, Curt DeVoe, John Ogren, Fred Swinehart, Becky Gibson, and Jack Cornell. Bruce Carleton and Herb Weatherly were absent.

Agenda: No changes.

President's Comments: Charlene wished everyone a Happy Fall!

August Minutes: Curt noted 2 changes in the sewer project portion. With these changes, Greg moved to approve the August 15, 2022, Minutes, seconded by John. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Secretary/Office: None.

Treasurer's Report: The financials were presented through August 31, 2022.

Membership/Communication: Becky said the Fall newsletter is nearly completed and she is working on the last 2 articles.

Riparian Committee: John reported the following:

Roscommon County Public Safety Meeting will be tomorrow. Ron Bradley, County Marine Patrol, Ben Lowe, Under Sheriff, Chief Hill, Vance Stringham from Central Dispatch and Bill Carey have confirmed. Hoping that Doug Schnell from Lyon Township will attend, and Mary Beebe will try to send a representative. The enforcement of illegal mooring offshore separated from docks will be an important topic of discussion as well as informal and illegal mooring by riparians. We will also get an update on short term rental ordinances. Notes on the meeting will be circulated to the board in due course.

On PA 56 road end signs, we have eight new locations in Lyon Township to install signs plus one in Gerrish township. Four of the locations need new signposts and Brian Jeske at the Roscommon County Road

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Commission will stake the locations for the new signposts. A contractor will install the new posts this fall and the signs next spring. The new locations are at Elm and DesMoines Avenues in Lyon Township and Columbine in Gerrish Township. East Road in Lyon Township needs a replacement steel post. Other locations are West Road, Taylor Avenue and McKinley, Ray and Charles on Sam-O-Set.

I have continued regular reports to the local Department of Natural Resources (DNR) representatives on the condition of the three boat access points on Higgins Lake. I emailed 12 reports to Josh Pellow and Rachel Roberts between June 20 and September 8. Most of the focus has been on the lagoon at the South State Park regarding boat wash issues, weeds and prop cuttings in the lagoon, weeds on trailers in the parking lot and trailers with weeds arriving or exiting the launch area. Weeds on parked trailers ranged from 15-40% of the trailers and significant measure of prop cuttings in the lagoon. There is usually little or no supervision at the boat launch except for the traffic control during peak periods. The two DNR officers that are tasked to spending an hour each week on enforcement usually spend the same hour at the park. In summary, no effective effort to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

I hope we will get a fall meeting with the local DNR representatives. My personal conclusion is that in terms of AIS protection at the South State Park, the choices are either to remove the lagoon or for the DNR to provide full time supervision of the launch area to inspect arriving and departing boats and trailers. In contrast, the North Stare Park and West boat access points that do not have lagoons have been clean of weeds when inspected.

Environmental Committee: Fred reported the following:

PFAS Presence in Higgins Lake: The Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA) supported a testing of the surface waters of the entire watershed for the presence of PFAS compounds. This effort included several samples collected from Higgins Lake and the Cut River. Dr. Brandon Armstrong of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) sent us this report, which I quote in full:

“We recently completed our Muskegon River watershed PFAS study. Higgins Lake surface water was sampled at the North Towline Road Boat Launch as part of this study. All PFAS, excluding PFOA, were below the laboratory reporting limit (< 2 ppt). PFOA was detected in this sample at 2.1 ng/L (part per trillion, ppt), which meets our water quality value for this particular PFAS. Concentrations of PFOS and PFOA at 2 ppt are what we consider an anthropogenic background concentration, similar to what we are seeing in other water bodies without a significant PFAS source and most likely due to widespread use of PFAS in consumer products. The Cut River/Backus Creek, between Higgins and Houghton, was sampled at Kingston Road. All PFAS analytes were below the laboratory reporting limits (~ 2 ppt) in this surface water sample.

In 2021, we collected rainbow smelt from Higgins Lake. Three composite samples (each sample containing approximately 20 headless and gutted smelt) were sent in for contaminant analyses. PFOS concentrations ranged from 26.9 to 43.4 parts per billion (ppb) in these samples. These concentrations are similar to or less than the PFOS concentrations we are observing in smelt collected across the state including Lake Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Gull Lake (Kalamazoo County). We recently sent in fillets of northern pike, lake trout, and lake herring (cisco) from Higgins Lake for analysis. Those results are expected back in early 2023.

Overall, these data do not suggest that a significant source of PFAS exists to Higgins Lake. If the Higgins Lake Property Owners Association would like EGLE to consider additional sampling, you can submit a [Targeted Monitoring Request](#). These requests are reviewed each year. Requests are selected based on several factors

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including other requests received and funding availability. Please let me know if you have any questions.”
(Emphasis mine).

So, pending the results of the fish file data, we don't envision further PFAS testing at this time.

HLPOA Note:

PFAS – PerfluoroAlkyl Substances

PFOA – PerfluoroOctanoic Acid

PFOS – PerfluoroOctane Sulfate

Macro Invertebrate Survey in Big Creek and the Cut: Melanie Brown and her crew of HLPOA volunteers repeated the macro-invertebrate survey of 2021 in late August 2022. They followed the strict collection and identification protocols established by the MRWA and the EGLE Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP). These surveys provide the most accurate estimates of the health of aquatic environments and would indicate any degradation therein by comparing year over year results. In fact, a notable negative change in the water quality indicators was observed. I quote from Melanie's conclusions in the 2022 report, which is posted in full on our website:

“Water Quality Changes: We will need one more year of invertebrate sampling before we can have enough data from this study to provide some confidence on whether our water quality is changing for the Cut River and Big Creek. Visually, with the extra algal growth in the Cut River in combination with the reduced rating for water quality based on invertebrate sampling, there appears to be a change in the stream habitat from 2021 to 2022. We will continue to monitor the Big Creek and the Cut River and compare results from previous years to determine if there is a trend in water quality change”. (Emphasis mine.)

Trash Bash Weekend: The “Trash Bash” event sponsored by the MRWA, led this year by Charlene Cornell and Becky Gibson, took place in late August. Five volunteers and one student took part, and approximately 10 full bags of trash were collected from the beaches around the South State Park and the west side of the lower lake basin. It would seem a larger effort around the entire lake might be justified as a goal for next year.

Human Sourced Pharmaceutical Pollution: Professor Joan Rose of Michigan State University has responded to our request for assistance in assessing the extent of human sourced pharmaceutical pollution in the lake. We have been referred to the laboratory of Dr. Hui Li at MSU. They have the capability to analyze for these compounds from samples we would be able to collect and send to their laboratory. We are working to set up a sampling and analysis cycle to be completed in the next few weeks before the effects of the high summer population diminishes. The estimated cost for a complete near shore survey would be about \$1,500.

Micro-plastics Pollution Study: After a two-year hiatus due to covid-19, we will attempt to repeat our sampling and evaluation of zebra mussels collected micro-plastic contamination in the waters of Higgins Lake. HLPOA Volunteers, students, and teachers at the Roscommon Area Public High School will work together on this project this fall. Results will be presented on our website when complete.

PAC: Greg reported that Lyon Township has 4 candidates that will run against the Current Lyon Township Board members subject to recall. The HLPAC has interviewed both candidates for Lyon Township supervisor, Harry Johnson and Larry Maduri and will have a summary of the interviews to send to our members in a couple weeks. There was a recount of the County Commissioner District 2 election, and the result is that Eric Ostergren added 2 votes and was named the winner by a total of 5 votes. An email endorsing Mary Beebe as prosecutor has been

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sent to our members. We received four comments and Greg talked to each person to give them more insight into the HLPAC's position.

HLSIO: The annual HLSIO dinner was held on August 18th and was very well attended. We once again want to thank the Witt's for the use of their property and Fred's of Roscommon for their wonderful catering. And we want to thank all who attended as this is the major fund-raising event for the HLSIO and largely funds all the work we do each year to keep Swimmer's Itch (SI) at a minimum. Continued support of our HLPOA members is the mechanism that keeps the Higgins Lake community free from the numerous amount of cases that had been reported yearly in the past.

The research project that we sponsored this season obtained data about where and how frequently Swimmer's Itch (SI) occurs on our lake. We will continue collecting this data next season to increase our information base. The results showed that SI cases were minimum and there was no one spot where the incident of SI seemed to be more prevalent than others.

We will be talking soon to the DNR about next year and asking their evaluation of the Avain Flu and its' potential impact on next summer. Hopefully we will once again be allowed the alternative to relocate mergansers and Canada geese. Migration is already underway, and many members have reported seeing mergansers recently on the lake. These are likely not to stay long and should have minimum impact on late fall cases and those again in early spring.

Elections Committee: Bob stated that member Phil Czech would like to join the Elections Committee. Bob moved to approve this nomination, seconded by Greg. Motion passed.

Ongoing Business: Curt sensed that the sewer project is in a holding pattern and a meeting with Dave Udy will be scheduled. Curt added that it remains crucial to have additional support petitions filed. Becky said that a grass roots sewer support group continues to visit riparian and lakefront owners. They have contacted those in Lyon Township and will be contacting those in Gerrish Township. Charlene shared that anyone could join Patty Davis and the sewer support team via Zoom on Tuesday evenings.

The July 16, 2022, Annual Minutes were reviewed, and John made 1 correction. With this correction, the Annual Minutes are ready to be presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

New Business: Charlene discussed an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant possibly, available through (EGLE). As the HLPOA is a 501(c)(4) organization, we are not eligible, but could apply through the Higgins Lake Land Conservancy (HLLC). Charlene attended the webinar and found some deterrents. Fred asked if the South State Park could apply? John will discuss this at the next meeting with them. Becky asked if campers' boats could moor in the lagoon overnight. John will also discuss this topic.

Regarding wake boats, Charlene shared those guidelines, received from the Michigan Lakes & Streams Association (MLSA), will be printed in our Fall newsletter.

Adjournment: Bob moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Becky. The meeting adjourned at 10:21 A.M.

The next meeting will be October 17, 2022, at 9:00 A.M.

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Higgins Lake Property Owners Association
September 30, 2022
Statement of Income
Preliminary

INCOME:	Members @	Actual	Budget	Variance Fav/(Unfav)
Members' Dues	519	\$ 51,900	\$ 53,500	\$ (1,600)
Directory Advertisements		\$ 7,425	\$ 7,500	\$ (75)
Map/Stationery Sales		\$ 315	\$ 3,000	\$ (2,685)
Legal Fund Contrib's (Restricted)		\$ 1,955	\$ 5,000	\$ (3,045)
Environmental Fund Contrib's - (Restricted)		\$ 19,720	\$ 34,000	\$ (14,280)
General/Lobbyist Fund Contrib's (Non-Restricted)		\$ 4,050	\$ 5,000	\$ (950)
Interest/Miscellaneous Income		\$ 20	\$ -	\$ 20
TOTAL INCOME	100	\$ 85,385	\$ 108,000	\$ (22,615)
 EXPENSES:				
Contract Services				
Accounting Fees		\$ 5,095	\$ 5,200	\$ 105
Legal Expenses		\$ 1,029	\$ 4,500	\$ 3,471
Lobbyist		\$ 22,500	\$ 21,000	\$ (1,500)
		\$ 28,624	\$ 30,700	\$ 2,076
Facilities and Equipment				
Property Insurance		\$ -		\$ -
Office Rent		\$ 1,600	\$ 2,400	\$ 800
		\$ 1,600	\$ 2,400	\$ 800
Memberships				
Huron Pines		\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -
Chamber of Commerce		\$ 50	\$ 150	\$ 100
Mi Lakes and Streams		\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
Michigan Riparian		\$ -	\$ 84	\$ 84
Muskegon Watershed		\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ -
Mi Waterfront Alliance		\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -
		\$ 280	\$ 964	\$ 684
Misc Expense				
Marine Patrol Support & Rosc Foundation		\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
		\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Operating Expenses				
Bank Service Charges		\$ 320	\$ -	\$ (320)
Subscriptions, Books, Advertising		\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
Insurance		\$ 435	\$ 1,200	\$ 765
Postage, Mailing Service		\$ 1,165	\$ 2,300	\$ 1,135
Printing and Copying		\$ 5,460	\$ 4,800	\$ (660)
Supplies		\$ 1,312	\$ 1,900	\$ 588
Telephone and Internet		\$ 1,665	\$ 2,300	\$ 635
Web Site Maintenance		\$ 498	\$ 500	\$ 2
		\$ 10,855	\$ 13,100	\$ 2,245
Payroll Expenses				
Salaries and Wages		\$ 8,868	\$ 13,000	\$ 4,132
Payroll Taxes		\$ 724	\$ 975	\$ 251
Workers Comp		\$ 21	\$ 35	\$ 14
		\$ 9,613	\$ 14,010	\$ 4,397
Travel and Meetings				
Conferernces, Conventions, Meetings		\$ 875	\$ 700	\$ (175)
				\$ -
Other				
Environmental Expenses		\$ 16,609	\$ 43,000	\$ 26,391
990 Taxes		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Michigan Sales & Use Tax		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ 16,609	\$ 43,000	\$ 26,391
TOTAL EXPENSE		\$ 68,456	\$ 105,874	\$ 37,418
NET INCOME		\$ 16,929	\$ 2,126	\$ (14,803)

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**HIGGINS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 92,696
Accounts Receivable	<u>\$ -</u>
Total Current Assets	92,696
 Other Assets	
Rent Security Deposit	400
Prepaid Expense	-
Restricted Cash	<u>13,114</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>13,514</u>
 Total Assets	 <u><u>\$ 106,210</u></u>

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ -
Accrued Payroll and Withholdings Payable	596
Accrued Expenses	-
Unearned Revenue	<u>-</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>596</u>
 Total Liabilities	 596

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted :	
Unrestricted	92,500
Temporarily Restricted	13,114
Permanently Restricted	<u>-</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>105,614</u>
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	 <u><u>\$ 106,210</u></u>

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