



# Higgins Lake Property Owners Association<sup>SM</sup>

PO Box 55 211 N. Main Street Roscommon, MI 48653

Website: [hlpoa.org](http://hlpoa.org) email: [hlpoa0@gmail.com](mailto: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  
December 19, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes  
ZOOM Virtual Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Charlene Cornell at 9:00 AM.

**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:** Charlene wished everyone a Merry Christmas! Charlene also reminded Board members to pay their 2023 membership dues if they have not already renewed.

**November Minutes:** John addressed a correction in the Riparian portion of the Minutes. With this change, John moved to approve the November 21, 2022, Minutes, seconded by Becky. Motion passed.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Secretary/Office:** Herb stated that we received a notice from the CRAF Center - Roscommon Area Recreation Authority (RARA), that our rent will increase \$50.00 per month for 2023. Herb moved to sign the 2023 lease agreement, seconded by Bruce. Motion passed.

Herb also shared that the kitchen remodel here has been completed and we can use the front door again.

**Treasurer's Report:** The financials through November 30, 2022, were presented.

Regarding the 2023 preliminary budget, Bruce thanked committee chairpersons for providing projected 2023 income and expenses for the budget. Bruce then reviewed significant categories in the draft budget, reminding everyone that once the December 2022, financials are completed, he will make changes to the budget based on the full year results and send out the revised budget for review and subsequent approval at the January 2023 Board meeting.

**Membership/Communication:** Wayne thanked the volunteers that participated in the recent membership envelope stuffing: Susan Brooks, Bob, Herb, Phil Czech, Charlene, and Becky. Wayne then shared that we have 131 members to-date. Last, Wayne stated that we will have the directory advertiser forms soon for the January mailing.

Becky said she is aiming for the end of January to complete the Winter Newsletter and asked the Board for articles by January 15<sup>th</sup>. Becky also shared that with Fred's help, many articles and reports have been added to

*Dedicated to preserving the quality and beauty of Higgins Lake*

our website, particularly on pharmaceuticals and a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) report on fish population.

**Riparian Committee:** Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS) issued their 2022 study of Higgins Lake for review. John is working with them to cross check their measurements of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and Starry Stonewort (SSW) with the Higgins Lake Foundation (HLF) Diver Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH) boat harvesting reports for 2022. Dr. Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones hopes their Global Positioning System (GPS) scientist will complete the work in the next few weeks.

Charlene added that she, along with others, will be meeting with Jennifer on either January 24<sup>th</sup> or January 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss this study.

**Environmental Committee:** Fred reported the following:

**2020 DNR Fisheries Division Study on Higgins Lake Just Published:** Mark Tonello, the DNR's Fishery Management Biologist, has completed and published his report on Higgins Lake. His support for the sewer system is strong, and shown perhaps most emphatically in this paragraph quoted from his report:

“Nutrient enrichment has been a very hot topic among the Higgins Lake community in recent years, although it has been a documented, ongoing problem for decades (King et al. 1991; Minnerick 2001; Martin et al. 2014; Jermalowicz-Jones 2020). There is no doubt that nutrient enrichment of Higgins Lake is occurring, and that a significant amount of the nutrients come from septic system effluent leaching into the lake through the groundwater. If the nutrient enrichment continues at this pace, much of the deeper areas of the lake will become hypoxic, and therefore unusable for fishes. In other words, within a few decades, it could become impossible for species like Lake Trout, Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Lake Whitefish, Rainbow Smelt, and Cisco to thrive or perhaps even survive, in the deeper parts of Higgins Lake (Dr. Mark Luttenton, Grand Valley State University, personal communication). In addition, algal blooms could continue to get worse in Higgins Lake, potentially including blooms that are toxic to humans and their pets. The warmer water temperatures seen in recent years (attributed to climate change) may also serve to exacerbate algae bloom issues. Jermalowicz-Jones recommended the installation of a lake-wide sewer system to reduce nutrient inputs into the lake (2020). We agree with that recommendation, and therefore, we wholeheartedly support the efforts of the Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority (GLUA) to install a sanitary sewer system in the Higgins Lake watershed.”

This just completed report is now on our website. You can read it at [HLPOA.Org](http://HLPOA.Org) / President's Corner.

**Are Pharmaceuticals in Some Higgins Lake Residents' Drinking Water?** We are working on a program to test a number of drinking water wells in the Higgins Lake watershed for pharmaceutical contamination. Steve King, of the Central Michigan District Health Department, has a list of 120 or more wells in the Higgins Lake watershed that have been shown to contain high levels of nitrates. The presumption is that they will likely also show evidence of pharmaceutical contamination if tested. The persons owning these wells must give permission for sampling and testing. Steve has agreed to send letters from the Central Michigan Public Health District to those owning these high nitrate wells seeking volunteers for our testing program this week.

Because of the cost involved, only six wells are expected to be included in the final sample survey. This would be sufficient to prove the connection of septic systems to the ground water supply for these wells in the Higgins Lake watershed. We are seeking financial support and active participation from partners for this important next phase of the study.

*Dedicated to preserving the quality and beauty of Higgins Lake*

**Are Human Sourced Endocrine Disrupters Present in Higgins Lake?** Low levels of the synthetic estrogen (EE2) that is used in human birth control drugs show a serious negative impact on male fertility and lowered resistance to fungal and bacterial illness in some fishes, including rainbow trout. About 90% of this chemical, once ingested by humans, is excreted into their waste streams. In the Higgins Lake watershed, it then goes into septic drain fields. EE2 is very resistant to biological degradation, and so likely passes unaltered into the near shore waters of our lake just as pharmaceuticals do. (cf. Rehberger, Wernicke, Bailey, Bregy et al. 2020.)

We are currently exploring the possibility of working with MSU to do a survey similar to the general pharmaceutical study just completed, but to focus on the presence and the extent of EE2 contamination in Higgins Lake. Further work will be done in 2023 to move forward on this aspect of the problem.

Last, Herb asked to resign from the Environmental Committee and Fred moved to accept his resignation, seconded by John. Motion passed.

**PAC:** Greg reported the following:

Gerrish township is in the process of procuring an AV system so township meeting can be streamed to interested residents. The equipment is expected to be purchase in January.

It has been suggested that the operation of the dam be given to the County Drain Commissioner, but Eric Ostergren is intending that it be his responsibility as it has historically in the past (District 2 Commissioner). New County Commissioners will be seated in January, before their first county meeting.

The sewer project is currently being held up by problems securing the land for the water treatment plant and by the Lyon Township opposition petitions. Until we have these things corrected, we will put the extra fees for lobbying on hold. When the program is clear of these obstacles, we can begin lobbying again. Many new department heads will need to be educated and new goals will need to be reestablished.

We are in the process of transferring our account to a new bank and should have that accomplished soon. Huntington Bank has just been consistently too unreliable and having access to our information has been difficult. Bob McKellar, HLPAC treasurer, is working on this transition.

**HLSIO:** Greg reported the following:

The avian flu is still viable, and we may not be in a position to use relocation again for a second year. We have a meeting with the DNR scheduled for the middle of January to discuss further. There are studies that show the Flu is still around. Migration may be a spreader so the springtime evaluation will likely be when this is decided.

A year end letter is being sent to the HLSIO (Higgins Lake Swimmers Itch Organization) supporters this week via email and we would like it also to be sent immediately after that to the HLPOA membership as we have in the past.

**Ongoing Business:** Regarding the Camp Grayling expansion, Wayne and Charlene will be working on possible correspondence to forward to members and officials.

**New Business:** Herb moved to give our office administrator a bonus. After discussion, the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion passed.

Charlene shared that Greg wrote a SI (Swimmers Itch) article that will appear in the next Michigan Waterfront Alliance newsletter.

*Dedicated to preserving the quality and beauty of Higgins Lake*

**Adjournment:** Herb moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bruce. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

*Dedicated to preserving the quality and beauty of Higgins Lake*

The next meeting will be January 16, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.

**HIGGINS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**DECEMBER 30, 2022**  
**Preliminary**  
**ASSETS**

<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 95,007
Accounts Receivable	\$ -
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>95,007</u>
<b>Other Assets</b>	
Rent Security Deposit	200
Prepaid Expense	-
Restricted Cash	11,830
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<u>12,030</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>\$ 107,037</u>

**LIABILITIES**

<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$ -
Accrued Payroll and Withholdings Payable	598
Accrued Expenses	-
Unearned Revenue	20,080
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>20,678</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	20,678

**NET ASSETS**

Unrestricted :	
Unrestricted	74,529
Temporarily Restricted	11,830
Permanently Restricted	-
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>86,359</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<u>\$ 107,037</u>

*Dedicated to preserving the quality and beauty of Higgins Lake*

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

<b>INCOME:</b>	<b>Members @</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Variance Fav/(Unfav)</b>
Members' Dues	522    \$	100    \$ 52,200	\$ 53,500	\$ (1,300)
Directory Advertisements		\$ 7,425	\$ 7,500	\$ (75)
Map/Stationery Sales		\$ 315	\$ 3,000	\$ (2,685)
Legal Fund Contrib's (Restricted)		\$ 3,015	\$ 5,000	\$ (1,985)
Environmental Fund Contrib's - (Restricted)		\$ 24,655	\$ 34,000	\$ (9,345)
General/Lobbyist Fund Contrib's (Non-Restricted)		\$ 6,250	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,250
Interest/Miscellaneous Income		\$ 25	\$ -	\$ 25
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$ 93,885</b>	<b>\$ 108,000</b>	<b>\$ (14,115)</b>
 <b>EXPENSES:</b>				
<b>Contract Services</b>				
Accounting Fees		\$ 5,095	\$ 5,200	\$ 105
Legal Expenses		\$ 1,481	\$ 4,500	\$ 3,019
Lobbyist		\$ 28,500	\$ 21,000	\$ (7,500)
		<u>\$ 35,076</u>	<u>\$ 30,700</u>	<u>\$ (4,376)</u>
<b>Facilities and Equipment</b>				
Property Insurance		\$ -		\$ -
Office Rent		\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400	\$ -
		<u>\$ 2,400</u>	<u>\$ 2,400</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>Memberships</b>				
Huron Pines		\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -
Chamber of Commerce		\$ 50	\$ 150	\$ 100
Rosc County Comm Foundation		\$ 100	\$ -	\$ (100)
Mi Lakes and Streams		\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -
Michigan Riparian		\$ 84	\$ 84	\$ -
Muskegon Watershed		\$ 60	\$ 30	\$ (30)
Mi Waterfront Alliance		\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -
		<u>\$ 994</u>	<u>\$ 964</u>	<u>\$ (30)</u>
<b>Misc Expense</b>				
Marine Patrol Support& Rosc Foundation		\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
		<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Bank Service Charges		\$ 320	\$ -	\$ (320)
Subscriptions, Books, Advertising		\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
Insurance		\$ 1,269	\$ 1,200	\$ (69)
Postage, Mailing Service		\$ 1,693	\$ 2,300	\$ 607
Printing and Copying		\$ 6,770	\$ 4,800	\$ (1,970)
Supplies		\$ 1,797	\$ 1,900	\$ 103
Telephone and Internet		\$ 2,273	\$ 2,300	\$ 27
Web Site Maintenance		\$ 698	\$ 500	\$ (198)
		<u>\$ 14,820</u>	<u>\$ 13,100</u>	<u>\$ (1,720)</u>
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>				
Salaries and Wages		\$ 12,131	\$ 13,000	\$ 869
Payroll Taxes		\$ 951	\$ 975	\$ 24
Workers Comp		\$ 28	\$ 35	\$ 7
		<u>\$ 13,110</u>	<u>\$ 14,010</u>	<u>\$ 900</u>
<b>Travel and Meetings</b>				
Confernces, Conventions, Meetings		\$ 875	\$ 700	\$ (175)
				\$ -
<b>Other</b>				
Environmental Expenses		\$ 21,436	\$ 43,000	\$ 21,564
Little Creek Culvert Project		\$ 7,500	\$ -	\$ (7,500)
Michigan Sales & Use Tax		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		<u>\$ 28,936</u>	<u>\$ 43,000</u>	<u>\$ 14,064</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>		<b>\$ 96,211</b>	<b>\$ 105,874</b>	<b>\$ 9,663</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<b>\$ (2,326)</b>	<b>\$ 2,126</b>	<b>\$ 4,452</b>

*Dedicated to preserving the quality and beauty of Higgins Lake*