



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

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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  
March 20, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes  
Zoom Virtual Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Charlene Cornell at 9:03 A.M.

**Board Members Present:** Charlene Cornell, Greg Semack, Bruce Carleton, Herb Weatherly, Bob McKellar, John Ogren, Fred Swinehart, Becky Gibson, Curt DeVoe, Jack Cornell, and Wayne Brooks.

**Agenda:** No changes.

**President's Comments:** None.

**March Minutes:** February 20, 2023, Minutes were accepted as written.

**Committee Reports:**

**Secretary/Office:** None.

**Treasurer's Report:** The February 28, 2023, financials were presented, Bruce stated there was nothing out of the ordinary and there were no questions.

**Membership & Communication:** Wayne stated we have 389 members to-date vs 391 one year ago. Wayne also reported that the directory sales are strong, and we have exceeded the budgeted amount of \$6,000.00.

Becky asked that articles for the Spring newsletter be forwarded to her by April 10<sup>th</sup>. The annual meeting date and election committee information will be included.

**Riparian Committee:** John reported that he is working on forms for data collection at the three DNR access sites for the summer and will be seeking volunteers nearer the time. He also reported that the Riparian Committee members will do a photographic road end survey in June after all or most of the road end docks are in place.

Charlene, Greg, Fred, and John met on March 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss next steps with the RLS (Restorative Lake Sciences) lake study. That meeting was followed up by a telephone meeting between Charlene and Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones. RLS continue to believe that their data collection process was accurate but have not provided explanations of possible reasons for the order of magnitude reduction in SSW (Starry Stonewort) and EWF (Eurasian Water Milfoil). RLS is currently waiting for the DASH boat harvest reports from HLF and MTT to be published on the EGLE web site before incorporating information from those sources into their final report. RLS

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expressed a willingness to check some locations this summer at their expense to validate their data collection process. Charlene will have a follow-up telephone meeting with RLS in a week or two.

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

**Proposed New Regulations for PFAS Chemicals in Drinking Water**

The Federal EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency) has completed environmental studies indicating that no amount of some PFAS (perfluoroalkyl substances) chemicals is safe for human consumption in drinking water. In particular, no amount of PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonic acid) and PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) above the currently detectable limits of 4 PPT (parts per trillion) is allowable. Both of these chemicals have been shown to be highly carcinogenic at extremely low exposures. None of the many other PFAS chemicals are considered safe but are not specifically addressed in this proposed regulation.

The new regulation is directed to the discharge of treated water from waste treatment facilities. Technical solutions to removing these chemicals from such concentrated waste treatment streams have been developed, but they would be impractically expensive for treating distributed waste streams, such as in a distributed septic system environment.

PFAS chemicals are present in Higgins Lake. They have been shown to bio accumulate in locally caught rainbow smelt to a level that EGLE (MI Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy) has recommended their safe ingestion to only a few servings per month. It is expected that ongoing tests of pike, trout and perch will also lead to recommended limitations for their consumption as well.

This recent proposed EPA regulation and the existing EGLE recommendation have potentially significant impact on some drinking water wells the Higgins Lake Watershed. Because PFAS chemicals are found in Higgins Lake, and because Higgins Lake is fed by ground water from the local watershed, it follows that drinking water wells that access this ground water will also be contaminated by PFAS chemicals.

Testing for PFAS chemicals is complicated and quite expensive. Only a few laboratories in Michigan are certified to perform these analyses. However, the presence of ANY level of nitrates or nitrites in drinking water, even if below the maximum EGLE allowed safe level, indicates contamination by septic effluents in the ground water. These chemicals are like the “canaries in the coal mine” and warn of impending danger. In cooperation with the Central Michigan District Health Department, we are planning to select a cohort of proven nitrate or nitrite contaminated drinking water wells in the Higgins Lake Watershed for PFAS testing to verify this connection. (Each test from one of these certified labs costs between \$300 and \$400 depending on which one does the work.)

**PAC:** Greg shared that the recent PAC solicitation, for financial support, was generously received by our members.

Greg then spoke of the county government, where there has been much discussion about the lake dams. The county commissioners intend to create a special assessment district for Houghton Lake, Higgins Lake, and St. Helen, prior to determining their respective needs. Greg will address this at the county meeting next week during public comments. Greg also encouraged the Board members to attend these meetings, either in person or via Zoom, where public comments can be made.

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Regarding the CHILL (Citizens for Higgins Lake Legal Levels) lawsuit about the lake level, Greg informed us that it has been returned to the trial court by the appellate court to be heard. No date is yet known.

Last, Greg stated that the new PAC account has been set up at a bank in Midland.

**HLSIO:** Greg said the committee has a scheduled meeting next week. Research projects for this summer will be discussed.

Greg stated that a potential praziquantel research project once again has been rejected by the DNR (Department of Natural Resources).

Greg shared that they are still in the process of being able to accept donations via PayPal and hope to have it operational this Spring.

Regarding Canada geese, nest destruction will continue in 2023.

Regarding Mergansers, we will not be allowed by the DNR to relocate ducks this summer due to the lingering Avian Flu.

**Election Committee:** Bob reported that 4 Board members are up for re-election: Charlene, Becky, Greg, and Fred. He asked that they let him know if they are willing to run again.

**Ongoing Business:** Regarding the sewer project, Charlene said that there was not a GLUA (Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority) meeting recently and the next meeting is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Charlene then stated that there is nothing to report about the Camp Grayling expansion, and it is in the hands of the DNR (Department of Natural Resources).

Charlene shared that we will have a fundraiser *for the love of the lake*, called "Sips, Chips, & Dips" on July 6<sup>th</sup>. A location will be determined.

**New Business:** The Board determined that our annual meeting date will be July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Charlene suggested that a committee be formed to determine the format and location.

Charlene then gave us a FYI on upcoming events:

1. The Landing Blitz is June 29<sup>th</sup> – July 9<sup>th</sup>. Charlene asked for volunteers. Thank you, Bob, and Herb!
2. The Healthy Higgins Fare is June 10<sup>th</sup>, where HLPOA will set up an educational display table. Volunteers needed.
3. The HLF (Higgins Lake Foundation) Plant/Greenbelt seminar is at the library on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:00.

**Adjournment:** Herb moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Greg. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:17 A.M.

**The next meeting will be April 17, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.**

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Higgins Lake Property Owners Association

March 31, 2023

Statement of Income

Preliminary

					Variance	
INCOME:	Members @		Actual	Budget	Fav/(Unfav)	
Members' Dues	406	\$	115	\$ 46,645	\$ 59,800	\$ (13,155)
Directory Advertisements				\$ 8,365	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,365
Map/Stationery Sales				\$ -	\$ 200	\$ (200)
Legal Fund Contrib's (Restricted)				\$ 1,280	\$ 3,500	\$ (2,220)
Environmental Fund Contrib's - (Restricted)				\$ 4,520	\$ 25,000	\$ (20,480)
General/Lobbyist Fund Contrib's (Non-Restricted)				\$ 2,941	\$ 6,000	\$ (3,059)
Interest/Miscellaneous Income				\$ 7	\$ 25	\$ (18)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>				<b>\$ 63,758</b>	<b>\$ 100,525</b>	<b>\$ (36,767)</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>						
<b>Contract Services</b>						
Accounting Fees				\$ -	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Legal Expenses				\$ 459	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,541
Lobbyist				\$ 3,000	\$ 25,500	\$ 22,500
				\$ 3,459	\$ 32,000	\$ 28,541
<b>Facilities and Equipment</b>						
Property Insurance				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Office Rent				\$ 750	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,250
				\$ 750	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,250
<b>Memberships</b>						
Huron Pines				\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
Chamber of Commerce					\$ 50	\$ 50
Rosc Co Comm Fndation					\$ 100	\$ 100
Mi Lakes and Streams				\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
Michigan Riparian				\$ -	\$ 85	\$ 85
Muskegon Watershed				\$ -	\$ 65	\$ 65
Mi Waterfront Alliance				\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
				\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
<b>Misc Expense</b>						
Marine Patrol Support& Rosc Foundation				\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
				\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
<b>Operating Expenses</b>						
Bank Service Charges				\$ 20	\$ -	\$ (20)
Subscriptions, Books, Advertising				\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
Insurance				\$ -	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,450
Postage, Mailing Service				\$ 134	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,666
Printing and Copying				\$ -	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
Supplies				\$ 14	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,986
Computer Repairs				\$ 125	\$ -	\$ (125)
Telephone and Internet				\$ 534	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,866
Web Site Maintenance				\$ -	\$ 750	\$ 750
				\$ 827	\$ 16,000	\$ 15,173
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>						
Salaries and Wages				\$ 2,959	\$ 13,250	\$ 10,291
Payroll Taxes				\$ 226	\$ 1,000	\$ 774
Workers Comp				\$ 7	\$ 35	\$ 28
				\$ 3,192	\$ 14,285	\$ 11,093
<b>Travel and Meetings</b>						
Confernces, Conventions, Meetings				\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
						\$ -
<b>Other</b>						
Environmental Expenses				\$ 4,500	\$ 30,000	\$ 25,500
990 Taxes				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Michigan Sales & Use Tax				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
				\$ 4,500	\$ 30,000	\$ 25,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>				<b>\$ 12,728</b>	<b>\$ 98,785</b>	<b>\$ 86,057</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>				<b>\$ 51,030</b>	<b>\$ 1,740</b>	<b>\$ 49,290</b>

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**HIGGINS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**MARCH 31, 2023**  
**Preliminary**  
**ASSETS**

<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 124,927
Accounts Receivable	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	124,927
<b>Other Assets</b>	
Rent Security Deposit	200
Prepaid Expense	-
Restricted Cash	<u>12,672</u>
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<u>12,872</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><u>\$ 137,799</u></u>

**LIABILITIES**

<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$ -
Accrued Payroll and Withholdings Payable	410
Accrued Expenses	-
Unearned Revenue	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>410</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	410

**NET ASSETS**

Unrestricted :	
Unrestricted	124,717
Temporarily Restricted	12,672
Permanently Restricted	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>137,389</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<u><u>\$ 137,799</u></u>

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