



# 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

April 6, 2023, Emergency Board Meeting via Zoom

The meeting was called order by President Charlene Cornell at 2:02 PM.

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

Charlene said she had called this meeting for the one reason to discuss and decide what action we needed to take concerning the County Commissioner's starting to form a Special Assessment District and possibly change the level of Higgins Lake.

Bruce said the previous Board had hired the attorney and started the procedure. Greg said he had investigated this, and this attorney has done this at other lakes and has sold the Commissioners on doing all three lakes at once. He thinks she is motivated by big fees.

Curt asked what law she is working under. Charlene said she found out that the attorney is using Section 307 of the Environmental Protection Law. She said we need to try and change the minds of some of the Commissioners about continuing on this path.

After much discussion the following actions were agreed to;

A. Charlene will ask Attorney Bill Carey to write a letter to the Commissioners that will give them reason to delay this action on Higgins Lake.

B. We will encourage our members to write letters to the Commissioners (with copies to the HLPOA) and attend their meeting to make statements that they want this process to establish a Special Assessment District stopped or at least slowed down so it can be thought out more clearly as we don't think it is all necessary.

Greg asked for help in these areas:

1. Calling other lakes or counties with dams and asking questions about their dam operation, maintenance, and financing. And I would like to know if they have SADs that pay for this, or SADs that pay for other projects. I can provide a list of questions. Curt has volunteered to take Mullet, Burt, Lake Leelanau and Crooked. I would like someone (or multiple people) to take Glen, Walloon, Isabella, Torch, Charlevoix, Hubbard or any other with which they may have a connection. Many of these may have a drain commissioner in the oversight capacity. Not all may have dams, but if they do, this information would be very important.
2. Looking into alternative funding available to the county like grants, selling bonds, etc.

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

3. Following up with commissioners to get specific questions answered or to see if suggestions are being pursued.
4. Listing with contact information, Higgins Lake associations and board members. Examples: Pine Bluff Assoc, Almeda Beach Assoc, Supreme View, Camp Curnalia, Hillcrest, Huntington Shores, Lakeside, Cottage Grove, Pinewoods, Kennedy Beach, etc. I know there are more that I don't know about or that I haven't listed here. I'm looking to put communication together with these other Higgins Lake groups.

A motion to adjourn was made by Greg and supported by Herb and was passed at 3:17 P.M.