



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
June 19, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes
Zoom Virtual Meeting

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, Curt DeVoe, Becky Gibson, Jack Cornell, John Ogren, Fred Swinehart, were present. Bob McKellar was absent.

Agenda: No Changes

President's Comments: Charlene thanked Fred for assisting with the Healthy Higgins Day event and also thanked Becky and Greg for attending.

Minutes: The May 15, 2023, Minutes were accepted as written.

Committee Reports:

Secretary/Office: None.

Treasurer's Report: The May 31, 2023, financials were presented. There were no questions. Bruce stated that next month's June 30, 2023, second quarter results will then be posted on our website. Bruce also shared that Huntington Bank recently sent a notice that Zelle would now be offered by the bank for both individuals and small businesses. Zelle is a payment system that allows money to be transferred directly from one bank account to another. It is a nation-wide system available at over 1700 banks, and it appears that the HLPOA would qualify to open a small business account to accept payments directly from members and contributors through the Zelle system. The Board members agreed that Bruce should further investigate the program for potential HLPOA enrollment and use.

Membership & Communication: Wayne reminded everyone to contact 2022 members that have not yet renewed, from the list he sent last week.

Becky stated she has sent several email blasts to our members, as well as updating several items on our website.

Riparian Committee: John reported the following:

Roscommon County Safety Meeting: The meeting was held on May 23. Notes on the meeting have been circulated to HLPOA board members. An action item from the notes is the reduced funding of the Marine Patrol.

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John moved to make a \$1000.00 contribution to the Roscommon County Marine Patrol, seconded by Fred. Motion passed.

Restorative Lake Sciences 2022 Study: The final report has been issued and is now posted on our website under Environment, Water Quality, Restorative Lake Sciences. The report shows a significant reduction in Eurasia Water Milfoil (4.0 acres vs 21.1 in 2019) and that Starry Stonewort is being held in check (2.2 acres vs 2.5 in 2019). Restorative Lake Science agreed to do additional testing later this summer at their expense at five sites on the lake for further confirmation of their methodology. The locations are in water depth of less than 10-feet in which HLF harvested both EWM and SSW in 2022.

Road End Survey Project:

- All road ends on the lake were visited and notes taken of signage, presence of road end docks and whether the road end was in active use for launching boats. None of the road ends appeared to be in active use except Maplehurst, Hitchcock, Kelly Avenue, Gerrish Township Marina and Old Point Comfort in Gerrish Township and N. Townline Road and B&B Marina in Lyon Township. Next step is to do some research on frequency of use and AIS risks at these seven sites.
- Identified some repair work needed on Jacob's public notice signs and posts. Will replace signs and posts at Columbine Lane and St. Lawrence Avenue in Gerrish Township and Thorpe Avenue in Lyon Township along with signs only at Minnehaha Street and Harriots Avenue. Overall, the signs and posts were in better shape than expected.

Data Collection at DNR Boat Accesses: Data collection is underway at all three locations as a joint project with HLF. So far, we have done trial runs to ensure that the data can be collected without delaying the boat launching process. HLF will have two part-time workers collect the information at the South State Park and we will arrange to cover North and West.

Environmental Committee: Fred reported the following:

Individual members contributed a lot of individual activity in support of Higgins Lake at the County Commissioners meetings. However, the Macro Invertebrate Survey and the launch of the sixth year of Roscommon Area High School Students Sampling and Analyzing the near shore waters of the lake are the highlights of the past month.

The low light was the massive bloom of Floating Algae Blobs in the lake and in the cut that were observed in May. This is the first time any of us have observed such a large event following the spring thaw. Something has drastically changed in the fundamental behavior of the lake, and it is clearly related to a sudden increase in highly available nutrients for algae to feed upon.

In my opinion, 2023 appears to be the year marking Higgins Lake degrading from an Oligotrophic state to a Mesotrophic state, at least insofar as the near shore waters are concerned. This is the first time any of us have

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seen such massive evidence of nutrient overload in Higgins Lake and the Cut.



Macro invertebrate Surveys: Melanie Brown and her committee of volunteers did the Spring Macro Invertebrate survey in Big Creek May 18th and the Cut River May 19th. The data is being analyzed and will be posted soon on the website. Especially troubling was the huge amount of Floating Algae Blob material that was hung up on the bushes along the Cut as the high water from spring receded.

Student Testing of Near Shore Waters: The 2023 program for the lake has begun. As in previous years, financial support from the Higgins Lake Foundation, Roscommon Rotary, Raven Laboratory and HLPOA member John Ogren have been generously provided. The first cycle of testing was completed in late May, having been somewhat delayed by the late arrival of spring. The results are now posted on our website. The next cycle of testing is scheduled for June 21st.

Testing of Drinking Water Wells: We are still encouraging any of our members who have older wells, or wells with depths less than 100', to have their wells tested for nitrate or nitrite contamination. If ANY level of these ions is detected, and if further testing for "live forever" chemicals, like PFAS, pharmaceuticals, or synthetic hormone contamination would be desired, please contact HLPOA for further information.

When discussing the need to test more wells, it was noted that we need to continue to emphasize the need for a sewer system. A sewer system is the solution to prevent the intrusion of "forever chemicals" like PFAS (perfluoroalkyl substances), pharmaceutical and personal care products, synthetic estrogen from birth control pills and any number of pathological viruses which are not biologically degraded by septic system treatment into drinking water wells.

HLSIO: Greg reported the following:

The HLSIO board met on 6-7-23. Swimmers Itch Solutions will be on our lake within the next month to do a bird survey. If they find any common mergansers, they will attempt to capture them to use for the Parasite Gestation Study. If they find no broods on Higgins Lake, they will attempt to capture the birds they need on Crystal Lake.

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We have contacted our State Senator Michelle Hoytenga about the relocation suspension for the past two years. We are hoping that the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) will allow relocation again starting next year as it is very important to continue our program.

The PayPal donation method is now up and running and we will monitor that and let the HLPOA Board know how that works out. HLSIO board member Melanie Brown has made website changes, adding information about last year's research, this year's research and our year-end 2022 letter to our supporters.

Our water study project needs more volunteers to record their time and location in the water this summer. This will help us find out more about potential Higgins Lake Hot Spots. There have not been a lot of reported cases, which is good, but if there are any, we want to look for a pattern to see if there are any things, we can learn from that.

We have our HLSIO fundraising dinner plans finalized and will be holding the event on August 17th at Jim and Laura Witt's barn again, catered by Fred's. Tickets will be available soon and we will begin selling them once they are in hand. In the past Members of the HLPOA board have done a great job getting the news out and helping to distribute the tickets and we are very appreciative of that. We hope tickets sales this year are also handled with that same help from the board. We intend this year to donate two tickets to the HLF auction held on a date close to but prior to the fundraiser dinner.

On a sad note, long time HLSIO Board member and major contributor since the inception of HLSIO, Neal Cooley, died in a car accident on Jun 10th. He will be missed, not just for his HLSIO involvement, but for his engagement in other Higgins Lake Community activities.

HL PAC: Greg reported the following:

There has been much activity regarding the proposed Special Assessment District. Many of our members have responded to our information and emailed the county commissioners expressing their opposition to the SAD. That said, the process is still grinding forward. Here are some key things that have recently surfaced.

At the last County Commissioner Meeting, even after repeatedly saying that the county had no intention of seeking a change in the legal level of the lake, there was not a second to the motion to state that position in writing. Supposedly this will be revisited at the next meeting.

There appears to be some question as to whether the costs of the legal fees and engineering fees can be immediately rolled into the SAD. One of the commissioners believes that without a need and a project cost this isn't allowed. But attorney Hissong said to the commissioner in private conversation that this is not her understanding as per the language of the county resolution. This will continue to be investigated.

It has been suggested that we should have our own engineering studies done to determine what costs may be required to maintain the dam and make a case that there is no need for a SAD for the lake level control structure. We do know that the dam was inspected in late 2022 and that the report stated that the dam was in good to excellent condition and no repair recommendations were listed.

Thus far, for Higgins Lake, the county has spent \$89,000 in legal and engineering fees for this activity. County controller Jodi Valentino estimated it would end up being \$120,000 to \$150,000 before it is over. That might be conservative. At Houghton Lake they have already spent \$269,000, and they aren't close to being done.

Both Gerrish and Lyon Township are considering resolutions in opposition to the SAD. They will be voting on whether to utilize these at upcoming meetings in the near future.

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Ongoing Business: Regarding the sewer system, Charlene reported that Lyon Township has slightly over 41% positive petitions, while over 50% is needed for moving the project forward. Fred added that Bill Lamb is the GLUA (Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority) point person for fund-raising foundations, and where EGLE (Department of Environment Great Lakes & Energy) permits are needed for the proposed property for the waste treatment site.

Regarding the lake level, Greg said it has been suggested at the County Commissioners Board meeting to have the language changed of the lake level court order, so it is less specific. Greg added there is a CHLLL (Citizens for Higgins Lake Legal Levels) hearing that begins July 20th. Also, Becky has added updates on the lake level on our website.

For the annual meeting, Herb will inquire as to what time we can set up the prior day, July 21st. Also, the Board members reviewed both the annual meeting cover letter and agenda for the packet that will be forwarded to our members this week. Last, Charlene said we should arrive at the school at 7:30 A.M., the day of the annual meeting.

For the *Sips, Chips & Dips* Fundraiser on July 6, lake signage and a reminder email blast were discussed.

Herb moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Greg. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

The next meeting will be July 17, 2023 at 9:00 am

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**HIGGINS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JUNE 30, 2023**

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 114,600
Accounts Receivable	<u>\$ -</u>
Total Current Assets	114,600
Other Assets	
Rent Security Deposit	-
Prepaid Expense	-
Restricted Cash	<u>9,018</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>9,018</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 123,618</u></u>

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ -
Accrued Payroll and Withholdings Payable	417
Accrued Expenses	-
Unearned Revenue	<u>-</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>417</u>
Total Liabilities	417

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted :	
Unrestricted	114,183
Temporarily Restricted	9,018
Permanently Restricted	<u>-</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>123,201</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 123,618</u></u>

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Higgins Lake Property Owners Association

June 30, 2023

Statement of Income

INCOME:	Members @		Actual	Budget	Variance	
					Fav/(Unfav)	
Members' Dues	474	\$	115	\$ 54,465	\$ 59,800	\$ (5,335)
Directory Advertisements				\$ 9,165	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,165
Map/Stationery Sales				\$ -	\$ 200	\$ (200)
Legal Fund Contrib's (Restricted)				\$ 1,880	\$ 3,500	\$ (1,620)
Environmental Fund Contrib's - (Restricted)				\$ 6,175	\$ 25,000	\$ (18,825)
General/Lobbyist Fund Contrib's (Non-Restricted)				\$ 4,216	\$ 6,000	\$ (1,784)
Fundraiser Income				\$ 1,703	\$ -	\$ 1,703
Interest/Miscellaneous Income				\$ 288	\$ 25	\$ 263
TOTAL INCOME				\$ 77,892	\$ 100,525	\$ (22,633)
EXPENSES:						
Contract Services						
Accounting Fees				\$ 3,200	\$ 4,500	\$ 1,300
Legal Expenses				\$ 1,659	\$ 2,000	\$ 341
Lobbyist				\$ 6,000	\$ 25,500	\$ 19,500
				\$ 10,859	\$ 32,000	\$ 21,141
Facilities and Equipment						
Property Insurance				\$ -		\$ -
Office Rent				\$ 1,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,500
				\$ 1,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,500
Memberships						
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
Misc Expense						
Marine Patrol Support& Rosc Foundation				\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -
				\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -
Operating Expenses						
Bank Service Charges				\$ 25	\$ -	\$ (25)
Subscriptions, Books, Advertising				\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
Insurance				\$ 432	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,018
Postage, Mailing Service				\$ 1,710	\$ 1,800	\$ 90
Printing and Copying				\$ 4,858	\$ 7,500	\$ 2,642
Supplies				\$ 876	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,124
Miscellaneous				\$ 125	\$ -	\$ (125)
Telephone and Internet				\$ 1,163	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,237
Web Site Maintenance				\$ 150	\$ 750	\$ 600
				\$ 9,339	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,661
Payroll Expenses						
Salaries and Wages				\$ 5,916	\$ 13,250	\$ 7,334
Payroll Taxes				\$ 453	\$ 1,000	\$ 547
Workers Comp				\$ 14	\$ 35	\$ 21
				\$ 6,383	\$ 14,285	\$ 7,902
Travel and Meetings						
Conferernces, Conventions, Meetings				\$ 459	\$ 500	\$ 41
						\$ -
Other						
Environmental Expenses				\$ 10,310	\$ 30,000	\$ 19,690
990 Taxes				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Michigan Sales & Use Tax				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
				\$ 10,310	\$ 30,000	\$ 19,690
TOTAL EXPENSE				\$ 40,850	\$ 98,785	\$ 57,935
NET INCOME				\$ 37,042	\$ 1,740	\$ 35,302

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