



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 18, 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, Wayne Brooks, Jack Cornell, Curt DeVoe, Becky Gibson, Bob McKellar, John Ogren, and Fred Swinehart.

Agenda: Becky asked to include the Fall Newsletter under the Membership & Communication report. Greg asked to allow time for discussion, prior to Attorney Phil Ellison joining the zoom meeting at 10:00.

President's Comments: Charlene thanked Board members for their correspondence and attendance concerning the SAD hearings. Charlene also thanked John for checking the DNR launch sites every weekend this summer, regarding the possibility of AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) entering and leaving the lake.

August Minutes: The August 21, 2023, Minutes were accepted as written. The July 22, 2023, Annual Minutes were reviewed. With one change, Herb moved to accept them to present at next year's annual meeting for approval, seconded by Bruce. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Secretary/Office: Herb reported there would be a substantial savings to utilize the Roscommon High Schools's contractor for coffee service vs outsourcing for this service at our annual meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The August 31, 2023, financials were presented. There were no questions. Bruce then discussed online payment software options, which were researched by Ric Blamer and Charlene. Jack and Greg will contact similar organizations to assist us in finding an option that could work for us.

Membership & Communication: Wayne said that he and Charlene are meeting with Dealers Supply tomorrow, to review advertising forms that are needed for the 2024 directory advertisers. Wayne also shared that we received 7 new memberships last week, so we now have 505 members. Wayne thanked Charlene for all of her efforts in contacting 2022 members that had not yet renewed this year. Becky is working on our Fall Newsletter and asked that articles be submitted by Friday, August 22nd.

Riparian Committee: John reported the following:

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Data Collection at the DNR Boat Accesses: The data collection was completed on September 3 and a draft report is being reviewed internally and then with HLF (Higgins Lake Foundation). We plan to circulate the report to the DNR before our fall meeting.

Road End Signs: The sign replacement project is complete for the year. We expect feedback from the Sheriff's Department and the Gerrish Township police on any additional replacements based on their experiences this summer season.

RLS Survey Results: RLS (Restorative Lake Sciences) surveyed five locations we selected at their expense to confirm results from their 2022 study. No additional work with RLS is recommended for 2024 and future use of their service will depend on DASH boat harvest reports and other methods of monitoring the potential spread of invasives.

Roscommon County Safety Meeting: The fall meeting will be on Wednesday, September 20 at the HLPOA office. The agenda for the meeting was discussed.

Dam Special Assessment District (SAD): Attorney Phil Ellison joined our meeting via Zoom at 10 AM. He described the legal aspects of the hearing that took place on Friday, 9-15-23. Many people attended the hearing and almost all were in opposition to the creation of the SAD. The hearing ended with the judge confirming the boundaries of the SAD as requested by the County. The HLPOA will file an appeal which will likely be heard in approximately 8 months. It was mentioned that we will continue to communicate the activity of this legal matter to our members for as long as this is ongoing.

Environmental Committee: Fred reported the following:

Support for the Gerrish-Lyon Utility Authority: Considerable effort has been spent in support of Patty Dennis' team's successful effort to secure positive petition signatures from property owners in Lyon Township. The petitions in support were by number 660 in favor and 423 in opposition, a resoundingly victorious vote by any measure.

The resolution to move the sewer project on to the next step by authorizing the GLUA to seek funding for the sewer project will be considered by the Lyon Township board on Friday 22nd of September. Passage is anticipated. However, HLPOA members are encouraged to attend the meeting and voice their support for a favorable outcome.

Near Shore Student Water Quality Sampling and Analysis: The prior sampling and analysis session was completed on August 23rd. The results are posted on our website. The data shows continuing very high phosphorous and generic coliform bacterial levels in the near shore waters. These are very troubling results and indicate continuing high levels of septic effluent intrusion into the lake. The final cycle of sampling sand analysis is scheduled for September 23rd, and those results will be posted on our website as well.

Flow Rate Measurement in The Cut River: Stream flow data has been collected on four different dates. Flow rates are computed from field measurements recorded by students using a spreadsheet application created by student Ben Hornicle, from West Newton Massachusetts.

- On 06/30/2023 the flow rate was determined to be about 40 cu. ft./sec.
- On 07/12/2023 the flow rate was determined to be about 37 cu. ft./sec.
- On 08/04/2023 the flow rate was determined to be about 34 cu. ft./sec.
- On 09/01/2023 the flow rate was determined to be about 31 cu. ft./sec.

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The next flow rate determination is scheduled for late September. These flow rates are well below the recommended 50 cu. ft./ sec. minimum flow from prior fishery-related studies. Cut River flow rate data will be posted on the HLPOA.Org website in the Water Level Data subsection as it is determined.

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 (perfluoroalkyl substances), pharmaceuticals, or synthetic hormone contamination would be desired, please contact HLPOA for further information.

HLSIO: Greg reported the following:

HLSIO met on 9-11-23. Preliminary results from this summer's research project will be available shortly. Samples were excellent and solid results will be coming. Our focus will now be on working to gather support for our communication with the DNR about next season and we intend to talk about the lack of evidence of Mergansers being infected with avian flu and the impact suspending relocation has had economically and as a health issue. Crystal lake had an explosion in cases this summer and many were severe. We expect next summer to have more cases than in the past 5 or six years, but not as bad as was seen at Crystal because we had a fewer amount of birds on the lake. Curt Blankespoor and Randy DeLong, of SIS (Swimmer's Itch Solutions), will contribute to our cause by offering scientific support for our claims. We expect to make website additions and subtractions as a year-end update.

HLPAC: Greg met with Senator Hoitenga on Wednesday to talk about the HLSIO relocation suspension and the potential of the sewer project coming back on. She said she will help with both by contacting the DNR and by supporting our search for funding from various places. This search will also involve our lobbyist. I talked again with Senator Hoitenga and with representative Borton on Friday night at a political dinner. Dave Hall and Greg will try to set up a lunch appointment in the next few weeks to discuss our issues. Crystal Lake will also be contacting their senator and representative as part of our process.

We would recommend that we suggest in an upcoming email that people who can vote in Roscommon should try to register. Next fall elections will be important and voting for candidates to replace certain county commissioners will be a target for us.

Ongoing Business: Regarding the sewer project, Charlene stated that Lyon Township has over 50% positive petitions.

Adjournment: Curt moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bruce. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:19 A.M.

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

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Higgins Lake Property Owners Association
September 30, 2023
Statement of Income

INCOME:	<u>Members @</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u> <u>Fav/(Unfav)</u>
Members' Dues	505 \$	\$ 58,030	\$ 59,800	\$ (1,770)
Directory Advertisements		\$ 10,060	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,060
Map/Stationery Sales		\$ -	\$ 200	\$ (200)
Legal Fund Contrib's (Restricted)		\$ 11,295	\$ 3,500	\$ 7,795
Environmental Fund Contrib's - (Restricted)		\$ 10,175	\$ 25,000	\$ (14,825)
General/Lobbyist Fund Contrib's (Non-Restricted)		\$ 5,601	\$ 6,000	\$ (399)
Fundraiser Income		\$ 4,492	\$ -	\$ 4,492
Interest/Miscellaneous Income		\$ 811	\$ 25	\$ 786
TOTAL INCOME		<u>\$ 100,464</u>	<u>\$ 100,525</u>	<u>\$ (61)</u>
 EXPENSES:				
Contract Services				
Accounting Fees		\$ 4,095	\$ 4,500	\$ 405
Legal Expenses		\$ 1,808	\$ 2,000	\$ 192
Lobbyist		\$ 8,000	\$ 25,500	\$ 17,500
		<u>\$ 13,903</u>	<u>\$ 32,000</u>	<u>\$ 18,097</u>
Facilities and Equipment				
Property Insurance		\$ -		\$ -
Office Rent		\$ 2,250	\$ 3,000	\$ 750
		<u>\$ 2,250</u>	<u>\$ 3,000</u>	<u>\$ 750</u>
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
		<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
Misc Expense				
Marine Patrol Support& Rosc Foundation		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -
		<u>\$ 2,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Operating Expenses				
Bank Service Charges		\$ 36	\$ -	\$ (36)
Subscriptions, Books, Advertising		\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
Insurance		\$ 432	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,018
Postage, Mailing Service		\$ 1,964	\$ 1,800	\$ (164)
Printing and Copying		\$ 4,858	\$ 7,500	\$ 2,642
Supplies		\$ 1,228	\$ 2,000	\$ 772
Miscellaneous		\$ 125	\$ -	\$ (125)
Telephone and Internet		\$ 1,697	\$ 2,400	\$ 703
Web Site Maintenance		\$ 300	\$ 750	\$ 450
		<u>\$ 10,640</u>	<u>\$ 16,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,360</u>
Payroll Expenses				
Salaries and Wages		\$ 9,084	\$ 13,250	\$ 4,166
Payroll Taxes		\$ 699	\$ 1,000	\$ 301
Workers Comp		\$ 22	\$ 35	\$ 13
		<u>\$ 9,805</u>	<u>\$ 14,285</u>	<u>\$ 4,480</u>
Travel and Meetings				
Conferernces, Conventions, Meetings		\$ 859	\$ 500	\$ (359)
				\$ -
Other				
Environmental Expenses		\$ 15,910	\$ 30,000	\$ 14,090
990 Taxes		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Michigan Sales & Use Tax		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		<u>\$ 15,910</u>	<u>\$ 30,000</u>	<u>\$ 14,090</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE		<u>\$ 55,367</u>	<u>\$ 98,785</u>	<u>\$ 43,418</u>
NET INCOME		<u>\$ 45,097</u>	<u>\$ 1,740</u>	<u>\$ 43,357</u>

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

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 110,518
Accounts Receivable	<u>\$ -</u>
Total Current Assets	110,518
Other Assets	
Rent Security Deposit	-
Prepaid Expense	1,000
Restricted Cash	<u>20,195</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>21,195</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 131,713</u></u>

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ -
Accrued Payroll and Withholdings Payable	457
Accrued Expenses	-
Unearned Revenue	<u>-</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>457</u>
Total Liabilities	457

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted :	
Unrestricted	111,071
Temporarily Restricted	20,185
Permanently Restricted	<u>-</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>131,256</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 131,713</u></u>

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