



# 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)

Phone: (989) 275-9181

Higgins Lake Property Owners Association

Board Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Charlene Cornell at 9:02 A.M.

**Board Members Present:** Charlene Cornell, Greg Semack, Bruce Carleton, Dennis Corte, Curt DeVoe, John Ogren, and Fred Swinehart. Becky Gibson, Patty Dennis, Herb Weatherly, and Wayne Brooks were absent.

**Agenda:** No changes.

**President's Comments:** Charlene shared that she was invited to attend last week's HLF (Higgins Lake Foundation) Board meeting, to give an overview of the HLPOA and what we do.

**September Minutes:** The September 17, 2025, Minutes were accepted as written.

**Committee Reports:**

**Secretary/Office:** None.

**Treasurer's Report:** The September 30, 2025, third-quarter financial statements were presented. Bruce noted that these figures do not include PayPal transactions, which have not yet been deposited into our bank accounts. Looking at our environmental expenses, we are significantly under budget due mainly to the High School water sampling program being discontinued for this year. Bruce stated that we will be receiving a refund from GLUA representing a portion of our contribution to the discontinued sewer project. Finally, it was pointed out that we show a positive budget variance year-to-date, and it's likely we will maintain this through the end of the year.

**Membership & Communication:** Charlene stated that the directory advertising forms are completed and asked everyone to alert us to any businesses that might be interested. Also, website revisions continue to be updated.

**Riparian Committee:** John reported the following:

**Roscommon County Safety Meeting, September 25:** HLPOA meeting participants were Charlene, Greg and John. We will comment on highlights and take questions.

**President:** Charlene Cornell, **Vice Pres:** Greg Semack, **Secretary:** Herb Weatherly, **Treasurer:** Bruce Carleton  
**Directors:** Wayne Brooks, Dennis Corte, Patty Dennis, Curt DeVoe, Becky Gibson, John Ogren, Fred Swinehart

*90 Years dedicated to preserving the quality and beauty of Higgins Lake*

Preparation for DNR Meeting on November 4. This will be a joint virtual meeting with HLPOA and HLF. The summer AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) data collection will be discussed and our recommendations for DNR operations at the State Parks and West Access.

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

**Health of Higgins Lake Initiative – HOHL**

This effort continues with essentially all members of the Environmental Committee taking an active part.

**GIS (Geographical Information System) Layered Mapping of Septic Systems and Wells**

This project slowed somewhat over the summer, due to the usual activities of family and guests of the volunteers. However, some funds became available to CMDHD (Central MI Division of the Health Department) for hiring of personnel from Fetch GIS to help continue the work. These funds disappeared on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The HLPOA volunteers are now moving ahead more actively. The present estimate is that for properties in Gerrish Township, for which documentation is available, the mapping will be complete within a few weeks.

The next phase of the work will then move to complete the mapping of documented sites in Lyon Township. The volunteers will continue their effort, but in order to engage the same Fetch GIS contractors to speed the effort, Taylor Irwin, Environmental Health Director of CMDHD, estimates that CMDHD will require about \$12,500 additional funding will be required.

Taylor presented the project to the Higgins Lake Foundation Board on 10/16/2025. Her request was for \$4,000 of support. She pointed out that the solicitation strategy was to gain support from other local organizations to broaden the sense of commitment from a wider population base. Shortly after that meeting, I received from Nancy Lamb a text from which I quote:

"Fred - the HLF approved \$4,000 for the mapping project, as presented by Taylor. Additionally, please feel free to come back to HLF if for some reason you do not meet your funding goal, for future funding consideration if necessary. Thank You!"

With this support, CMDHD will proceed to issue initial purchase orders to Fetch GIS for consulting services right away.

Taylor is willing to meet with other supporting organizations to continue to familiarize the public and to solicit funds in support of taking this effort to a timely completion.

**Biological and Chemical Analysis and Flow Rate in The Cut River**

On October 15th John Davis, John Barta and Fred Swinehart measured the flow rate and recorded it as 16.5 cfs. This is similar to the 16,6 cfs, measured right after the rocks were replaced under the spillway at the dam in late August. The analysis of the water is below: (cfu = colony forming units per 100 ml.)

## 2025 HLPOA – Cut River Water Test Results

Analyte	units	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	2-Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beach Plate Count (coliform)	cfu/mL	3	141.4	13.4	58.3	38.4	689.3	870.4	674.8	1986.3	549.3	248.1		
Beach Plate Count (E. Coli)	cfu/mL	<1	8.5	4.1	1	<1	10.6	13.5	1	6.3	7.4	39.9		
Phosphorous (Midland)	mg/L	ND	ND	0.03	ND	ND	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.075	0.01	0.04		
Nitrate	mg/L	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Nitrite	mg/L	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
pH				6.79	6.38	7.95	7.02	7.62	7.75	7.25	8.22	6.82		
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L			8.6	8	8	6.2	7.1	7.4	8.7	5.6	6.2		
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L			141	186	155	170	195	194	161	188	191		
Conductivity	(uS)			264	372	312	339	395	390	321	377	397		

Air Temperature \*C  
 Water Temperature \*C

\*mg/L is also known as ppm

### Macro –Invertebrate Surveys

Macro-Invertebrate surveys took place on September 23<sup>rd</sup> for both Big Creek and The Cut River. The data report is in progress at this time.

**HLSIO:** The following was presented by Greg from HLSIO President, Duncan Lawrence:  
 Status as of October 20, 2025

Currently, we are in a holding status as the DNR/USFW (United States Fish & Wildlife) begin considering plans for 2026. We are still optimistic that something can be done. We are taking actions to keep communications open and considering alternative plans, as needed.

- Merganser Relocation Status — We reached out to Shannon Lott, Natural Resource Deputy at Michigan DNR as a follow-up to last month’s meeting. We drafted a document that outlined our recommended process which includes capture, testing for Avian Flu and relocating healthy birds/euthanizing any found infected. Shannon has not taken any action on our proposal as she awaits clarification on budget and staffing but assured us, she has this on her agenda. We will be coordinating another meeting within the next 6 weeks (coordinated by Sam Boumis and including Invasive species as a key topic)
- Snail Testing Results – We approved a second snail infection test to see if our Stagnicola snails are showing an increase in the presence of the cercaria. This was conducted a couple weeks ago. While technically there was an increase (to 3 infected snails from one in July), it is not a significant change.

However, considering the few infected snails we have found over the past few years, it does appear to be trending higher.

- Fundraising Dinner, Tentatively August 13, 2026 – We are tentatively targeting, Thursday August 13, 2026, for next year’s event. We are waiting for confirmation from Witt’s on venue availability. We want to maintain our high standards for the dinner experience.
- 2025 Report – We expect to receive the 2025 Swimmer’s Itch report from SIS (Swimmers Itch Solutions) within the month. There won’t be any surprises from what we’ve shared already.

**PAC:** Greg reported the following:

**HLPAC report 10-20-25**

**Update on lawsuits:** We are still awaiting the appellate court decision on the creation of the Higgins Lake SAD (Special Assessment District). It will be 11 weeks since the hearing date this week. There was an objection filed on September 29<sup>th</sup> to the Assessment Roll and Computation of Costs. This was within the 15-day window allowed by statute. In the filing we were joined by just over 550 individuals who state they support our objection. Gerrish Township also filed an Objection for reason different than ours. Crawford county passed their approval of the Assessment roll and Computation of Costs on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

There is no defined process for as to what happens now with the objections that were filed. We don’t know if the assessment will be allowed to go forward before the objections are heard by the court. The objection order asked the court to set an order of procedure for how the objections will proceed in order to give structure to the process.

**Local Politics**

**Gerrish Township** has hired a new Lieutenant. Jonah Schutte has worked for the GT police department previously and more recently has worked for the Roscommon Sheriff Department.

**Lyon Township** is not supportive of the Health of Higgins Lake initiative. Some Lyon board members have stated that they believe it is just a rehash of GLUA.

**Ongoing Business:** Charlene stated that the county commissioners are forming a SAD (Special Assessment District) advisory committee and need representation from HLF, HLLC (Higgins Lake Land Conservancy), and HLPOA. Charlene suggested that Greg be our contact and he agreed. Charlene also said that citizens can apply by October 31<sup>st</sup>, as they need representation for a full-time resident, along with a summer non-resident.

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

**The next meeting will be November 17, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.**