

HLPOA email Blast 4.10.23 Special Assessment District mtg 4.14.23

Dear HLPOA member and those renewing soon,

As our members become more aware of Roscommon County's effort to create a Special Assessment District (SAD) that encumbers anyone with lakefront property, we are hearing from many who are writing to the Roscommon County Commissioners or intend to appear at the 10:00 am meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 or attend by Zoom. This is all very encouraging. The HLPOA Board feels as though public input can make a difference.

It has now been brought to our attention that there will be a second Roscommon County Commissioner Board meeting this week. A Special Meeting for the purpose of discussion about the Higgins Lake dam and SAD will be held at 10:00 am at the Roscommon County Commissioner Room on Friday, April 14, 2023. You can also attend this meeting in person or via Zoom (link is below).

This entire action has been initiated due to a resolution passed by the former Roscommon County Commissioner Board in their last meeting together on December 21, 2022. There are three new County Commissioners who never voted for this action in December and two holdover County Commissioners who we feel want to do the right thing for Roscommon County. The HLPOA feels as though this new Board should review the steps that have thus far been taken and those meant to be upcoming, in order to determine for themselves if the Resolution action from December 21, 2022 should be halted.

The formation of a SAD for Higgins Lake is being moved forward without knowing what the problems are that need to be remedied. Nor is it known what the maintenance costs or repair fees to the Higgins Lake dam might even be. We feel these questions need to be answered before any such SAD be proposed. And since the SAD will be in place in perpetuity, it seems as though it must be carefully considered, not rushed into place because of an action created largely by Board members who are no longer accountable.

Here are some of the questions that we feel need to be answered.

- What has the county spent in the last five years to repair the dam?
- Has the county considered other methods of acquiring funding for dam repair such as grants or bond sales?
- How would the proposed SAD be managed; by whom and ensuring reasonable costs in the future?
- What are the details of apportionment (assessed costs) for the proposed SAD?
- Why did the county not consider more than one law firm to assist with this project and who decided that this firm's fees were appropriate?
- Will the attorney fees be rolled into the debt of the new SAD?
- The SAD brochure states that the dam is no longer feasible or sustainable and that the county alone can no longer pay for (this). Where is the assessment that proves this claim this?

We are therefore asking again that all interested parties contact the County Commissioners to make their views heard. Ask the Commissioners to reevaluate the project and STOP THE SPECIAL TAX on Higgins Lake property owners.

Please include all County Commissioners in any email and we would like to ask that copies of these emails be sent to the HLPOA office (hlpoa0@gmail.com), so we can identify concerns voiced by our members.

If you can attend the county meetings in person that would be a very important statement. If you can attend via Zoom that would be significant also. To attend by Zoom go to this internet address and select "Click Here To Join Meeting".

<http://www.roscommoncounty.net/202/Board-of-Commissioners>

Your participation is extremely important if we are to STOP THIS FOREVER TAX from being assessed.

Your HLPOA Board

To contact the commissioners via email, use these addresses:

District 1 David Russo, Chair russod@roscommoncounty.net

District 2 Eric Ostergren ostergrene@roscommoncounty.net

District 3 Rex Wolfson wolfsonr@roscommoncounty.net

District 4 Marc Milburn milburnm@roscommoncounty.net

District 5 Darlene Sensor sensord@roscommoncounty.net