



Higgins Lake Property Owners AssociationSM

PO Box 55 211 N. Main Street Roscommon, MI 48653

Website: hlpoa.org email: hlpoa0@gmail.com

Phone: (989) 275-9181

Higgins Lake Property Owners Association

Board Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Charlene Cornell at 9:05 A.M.

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

Agenda: No changes.

President's Comments: Charlene welcomed everyone to today's meeting.

February Minutes: The February 16, 2026, Minutes were accepted as written.

Committee Reports:

Secretary/Office: None.

Treasurer's Report: The February financials were presented and there were no questions. Bruce stated that the 1st quarter financials will be posted on our website next month. Bruce then shared that he is working with new personnel with our accounting firm, CBIZ, and they have started preparing our annual compilation.

Membership & Communication: Wayne stated they continue to update the website and progress is being made. Our website coordinator, Alma, has secured our domain name and licensing, which has been paid through 2028.

Wayne shared that we now have 411 members vs our budgeted 460. Second reminders will be sent to both prospects and those members that have not yet renewed this year. We are hopeful to have a QR code to include with these reminders.

Regarding the Spring newsletter, Becky asked that articles be forwarded to her by this Friday and/or by March 30th at the latest. Becky anticipates sending the newsletter out in the 1st week of April.

Riparian Committee: John reported the following:

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

HOHL (Health of Higgins Lake): Working with the AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Subcommittee toward a significant reduction in the risk of new AIS entering Higgins Lake at boat accesses.

Road End Signs: The Riparian Committee will do an inspection of the 80 road ends early in June for any sign replacement needs and identification of other issues.

West Access Data Collection: Still looking for volunteers to help with data collection this summer.

Environmental Committee: Fred reported the following:

Mapping of Documented Septic Systems and Wells in Lyon and Gerrish Townships

HLPOA volunteers continue to assist in this work. Ed Panyard has published an augmented version of a combined septic and wells GIS (Geological Information System) map for Gerrish Township. It includes drinking well locations from the State of Michigan's Wellogis GIS Database. The map's extension to Lyon Township is under discussion.

Using this map and Wellogis's data logging information to begin evaluating the drinking water aquifer structure in certain densely populated Gerrish Township areas is being considered.

Cut River Flow Rates and Water Quality Analyses for 2025

The YTD monthly flow rates and analyses for the Cut River will be completed in March. Results will eventually be posted and maintained for prior years and updated monthly for the current year on the HLPOA.Org website.

Underwater Video and Environmental Survey Project

A group of HLF (Higgins Lake Foundation) and HLPOA members are working to organize and produce an underwater video for public outreach concerning the environmental condition of Higgins Lake from the perspective of the "Bottom Up".

Preliminary estimates of scope and cost for the 2026 summer outreach program and publication are being developed. Detailed plans will be shared with stakeholders in March and April, with field activities expected to commence in May of 2026. Current plan is to complete the 2026 version in late 2026 after September dives and sampling activities are completed.

HLSIO: Greg presented the following from HLSIO President Duncan Lawrence:

Status as of March 16, 2026

We expect to learn soon on our options to control Mergansers this Spring, unfortunately it remains uncertain. We remain in a holding status as the DNR/FWS/USDA finalize plans for 2026. Moreover, there are not seamless communications between and among these agencies.... which also creates a challenge and reduces clarity.

- Merganser Relocation Status — Duncan has been in contact with members of FWS, USDA and MI DNR in the past couple weeks. The good news is that communications are moving forward and all appear motivated to help our situation.
- Goose Nest and Egg Destruction: As previously mentioned, John Ogren applied for a permit on January 26 for HLPOA. Goose Busters will make two trips to Higgins Lake as required by the permit in April. HLSIO will manage the project. Mike Purkey has agreed to work with Goose Busters and follow up after their visits if more nest locations are located. We plan to reach out to HLSIO members and the HLSIO contact list in the spring (or as part of a newsletter) to report any nests they would like removed.

- Communications – We finally gained control of our website from our former webmaster, Desiree Marshall. We have also received a bid for services from Elevate, Alma Blackburn. More information to follow.
- Fundraising Dinner, set for Thursday August 13, 2026 – No Change since November. Witt's Barn with music by Derek Boik.

Regards,

HLSIO Board – *Marty Barta, Melanie Brown, William Carey, Duncan Lawrence, Dale McDonald, John Ogren, Mike Purkey, and Greg Semack*

PAC: Greg reported the following:

HLPAC Report 3-16-26

- Phil Ellison filed our appeal to the appellate court decision of December 15, 2025, with the Michigan Supreme Court.
- Phil met with Judge Bennett to decide how to proceed with the second trial, filed after the assessment began, assumed to take place in May.
- PA 112 appealed to fed appellate court. A newly published decision should positively affect the appeal.

Shannon Lott meeting

- She gave us a boat wash study showing 3M cost.
- Kristen Kosick attended New head of parks and rec
- Potential depredation permit for HLSIO being sought

Higgins Lake Advisory Board

- Meeting held Feb 20
- Next step, the county to seek EGLE meeting

Gerrish Township

- STR ordinance passed at the Feb 10 mtg
- Not to go into effect until 2027, applications for 2027 taken this year
- No more permits after 2029
- 80 licenses will be given for this summer (2026)
- Nothing will be enforced for 2026
- Gerrish Township 2026 / 2027 Budgets were passed at the March 10 meeting
- Gerrish Township Planning Commission working on new township master plan. Survey results sent to everyone on the HLPOA Board

Lyon Township

· Winterfest was a success, even though Health of Higgins Lake was not allowed to have an informational table. supervisor Bertrand did not want any “political” organizations at the Winterfest; grand opening of outdoor ice rink; only two participants competed in the chili cookoff; hoping to open the chili cookoff to all nine of the townships in the county to increase participation; more advertising will be done next year.

- Fire Department/EMS has had 18 runs since 2026 began
- Repairs are needed on fire truck pump - \$3,500
- Annual fire pump test conducted - \$1,200
- Parks & Rec is asking for three grants; one \$200,000 grant that Lyon will have to pay \$50,000 of the \$200,000. This is for upgrades at Sam-O-Set Park; one for \$150,000 that Lyon will pay \$75,000 for an asphalt walking trail and exercise station at path at Park 27; one for security cameras at Phoenix Park to protect the newly donated fish sculpture. Lyon will need to pay anything over \$2,500.
- Lyon Township believes that GFL (waste removal) overcharged the township for a number of years; pursuing legal action against GFL
- There was a motion to increase the newly appointed Ordinance Officer's pay from \$15 to \$17; motion failed but will be discussed at their March meeting
- 2026 / 2027 Budget Review meetings are currently taking place
- A motion by supervisor Bertrand to create a Lyon Township Health and Safety Committee did not get a second.
- Mistake made on assessment notices that were sent out to Lyon Township residents; a decimal point was misplaced, resulting in a difference in money amounts
- There have been discussions about charging to use the compost site and to hire a compost attendant
- There have been discussions regarding Short Term Rentals (STR). Trustee Monet is adamant that STRs cannot operate at all because the MI Supreme Court has already ruled that STRs are a commercial business, which cannot operate in R-1 zoned area. Supervisor Bertrand is opposed to several of the items others on the Board want in an STR ordinance. It is doubtful that an STR ordinance will come into effect in Lyon Township in 2026.

County

- No information about Commissioner Russo resigning. He has been asked but has not complied.
- Commissioner Morley commented to the Gerrish Township Board at their March meeting when asked about the county commissioners removing Russo, "We are not getting into that circus"
- Roscommon County Board intends to seek EGLE approval of new dam.
- Any recall candidates need to have filed everything by July 12, 2026.

Ongoing Business:

Annual Meeting: Charlene asked everyone to mark their calendars with the July 18th date for our annual meeting and July 17th for rehearsal and set-up. Charlene reminded committee chairs that we will need committee reports to be included in our member directory. Bio's are needed for the 4 Board members whose terms are up for renewal: Charlene, Becky, Greg, and Fred. Charlene also asked for ideas on possible guest speakers. With the new and vastly improved website, Charlene suggested we have a ribbon-cutting, where those involved can announce the new features and online payment options.

Adjournment: Becky moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Curt. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:32 A.M.

The next meeting will be April 20, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.