



Higgins Lake Property Owners AssociationSM

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Higgins Lake Property Owners Association

Board Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2026

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

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

Agenda: No changes.

President's Comments: Charlene thanked Board members for their ongoing help throughout the year:

- John's scheduling Goose Busters for upcoming nest & egg destruction
- Becky over-seeing the collection and compilation of articles for the Spring newsletter
- Wayne and Patty's exorbitant time and efforts for the new website and composition of a fabulous flyer recently mailed to prospects
- Greg's SAD (Special Assessment District) updates and letters

These are just some of our recent accomplishments and Charlene noted that summer activities are in the works...Thank you Board members!

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

Committee Reports:

Secretary/Office: None.

Treasurer's Report: The March financials were presented and there were no questions. Bruce stated that he is in contact with our CPA firm regarding the compilation for 2025, along with expecting an estimate for payroll tax filing.

Membership & Communication: Wayne stated we have 436 members, while budgeted for 456. A second mailing was sent out last week to 1,450 riparians. Wayne thanked Patty for creating an informative flyer that was included to increase membership. Thank you Wayne and Patty for all your efforts! Wayne then reviewed

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

the member directory sales, which exceeded last year's. This income covers the directory cost. Lastly, Wayne said that the new website is nearly completed.

Riparian Committee: John reported the following:

- **Goose Egg and Nest Destruction:** Our application for a permit for Goose Nest/Egg Destruction permit was approved on March 23 and Chris Compton of Goose Busters will be doing the work this month. Our plan to involve Mike Purkey in the project was not possible because of Goose Buster insurance issues. We will try to resolve that for next year.
- **Roscommon County Safety Meeting:** The meeting is scheduled for May 14, as a Zoom meeting. Agenda items are Marine Patrol update, status of Central Dispatch planning for July 4th weekend and STR (short-term rentals) ordinance updates. Suggestions for other agenda items are still welcome.
- **AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Data Collection Project for 2026:** The project will continue into 2026 with HLF (Higgins Lake Foundation) staffing interviews at the South State Park boat wash and HLPOA staffing interviews at the West Access and doing the parked trailer surveys. At the West Access, the goal is 500 interviews which will probably require 9-12 shifts on ten busy Saturday or Sunday mornings. We will need two or three volunteers for this project, and all suggestions will be appreciated.
- **Road End Checks:** Committee members will do a survey of all 80 plus road end this spring for missing or damaged signs and to check for the presence of road end docks.

Environmental Committee: Fred reported the following:

Cut River Flow Rates and Water Quality Analyses for 2026

The YTD monthly flow rates and analysis for the Cut River will be completed in April. The Cut is flooded and the Creeks are running over their banks. So, flow measurements are awaiting safer levels to be measured. However, water quality samples are being taken. As expected in high water events, total coliforms and phosphorous are high. Data results will be posted and updated monthly for the current year on the HLPOA.Org website.

Underwater Video and Environmental Survey Project

A group of HLF and HLPOA members is working to organize and produce a public outreach study concerning the environmental condition of Higgins Lake from the perspective of the "Bottom Up".

The overall program consists of three initiatives:

- **Shoreline under water** — where divers won't go...too shallow. This was originally about the snails (stagnicola et al)....but anything near shore. We'd use clearview buckets and take pictures. Current "team" tbd
- **Depth Underwater (maybe not full depth)** — Diver pictures using go pro. Likely focused on 80' and under. Going deeper requires more from divers....more air, more recovery time...but delivers less in some ways....less video, less coverage, etc.
- **Sediment Analysis** — Ponar pull information. Focused on similar pathways to the divers and shoreline efforts. Going deeper impacts this as well...length of line, type of system, etc. (if go deep, need a better winch and more line...which will increase costs and require more sophisticated implementation). For shallow areas a hand crank might be fine.

The program is planned to begin in late May and continue through the summer months on a schedule yet to be determined. If interest develops, annual repetition is a possibility to build a historical record.

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

Status as of April 20, 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, nor collaborative, communications between and among these agencies....which also creates challenges and reduces clarity.

- Merganser Removal Status — We are actively working with Fish & Wildlife Service, having filed FWS permit 3-200-13. Additionally, we have been in touch with the USDA Wildlife services and in communications with MI DNR. We should be getting confirmation soon if we hope to remove any Mergansers this spring.

• Goose Nest and Egg Destruction: As previously mentioned, John Ogren applied for a permit on January 26 for HLPOA. Goose Busters has begun their efforts on Higgins Lake with the first of two trips being completed. Details have not been shared at this time. HLPOA newsletter will include a request to members to report any nests they would like removed.

• Communications – The website is now fully under HLSIO control and operating correctly. A new logo and slogan have been developed for HLSIO that will be used on our website and external communications:

o Slogan – *Sound Science, Summer Fun*

- Fundraising Dinner, set for Thursday August 13, 2026 – No Change since November. Witt's Barn with music by Derek Boik.

PAC: Greg reported the following:

Gerrish township

- Mostly routine business. Some requests for road speed changes, appointments to Zoning board (Steve Trudeau)

Lyon township

- On April 29th there will be a hearing on STR and a Fertilizer ordinance that will only apply to lakefront owners.
- The board voted Wednesday to approve the "Chicken Ordinance"
- The summer concert series is being finalized again for this season
- Compost pile is now open 7 days a week (since the ice storm) and is now accepting branches over 3 inches in diameter

County

- The Russo recall petition has been approved.
- The Russo trial date now set for May 15th
- Roscommon County lake levels are all high right now. Higgins Lake is nearly 8 inches above Legal level. Lake St Helen is about 22, Houghton Lake is about 24 inches above their legal levels.
- HLAB Will meet on May 5th, in person only, Wayne will attend on behalf of HLPOA.

Other items

- Shannon Lott has been helpful, dealing with Randy DeJong (SIS), about the HLSIO request for depredation permit and PQ application. Unfortunately, we are being stopped by USFWS (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) and USDA. Shannon had a conversation last week with USFWS and said that if they grant a permit, MIDNR will allow PQ.
- Phil Ellison will file an amicus brief on behalf of our case, for a Michigan Supreme Court case with a similar SAD in Birmingham. There will be no charge for this filing.

Ongoing Business: Charlene noted that committee reports are due this Wednesday for the 2026 Member Directory. Regarding the annual meeting, bios are needed for those whose terms expire this year. With the revamping of our new website, it was suggested to have those involved speak at the annual meeting. Charlene and Becky will meet with the RAM (Ralph A. MacMullan) personnel to schedule IT assistance. The proxy was then reviewed. John moved to approve the 2026 proxy today, seconded by Fred. Motion passed. Printed financials will be available at the meeting.

New Business: Charlene reminded everyone of the volunteer opportunity for the AIS landing blitz, which was included in our Spring newsletter. The date chosen is July 11, 2026.

Adjournment: Bruce moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Becky. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:14 A.M.

The next meeting will be May 18, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.