



WaterLines

A publication of the Higgins Lake Property Owners' Association

Winter, 2005

President's Message



by Ken Dennings
HLPOA President

House Bill 4141

In spite of all our efforts the past twelve months and with solid support of several state-wide organizations, we were unable to gain a favorable vote to report HB 4141 out of the House Conservation and Outdoor

Recreation Committee before the legislative session closed in December.

Speaker Rick Johnson even took an unusual action "discharging" HB 4141 from committee for purposes of amending the proposed legislation and gaining passage on the full House floor. While the amendment passed which disallowed the "obstruction of ingress and egress to the water in any manner" as a substitute for the original HB 4141 which specifically "prohibited sunbathing, picnicking and lounging" at road ends, it became evident there were insufficient votes to pass the HB 4141 (H6) by the full House before adjournment.

We now focus on the new legislative session where Representative John Stakoe, as one of his early priorities, is committed to introducing legislation (see copy in this issue of *WaterLines*) identical to HB 4141(H6). With some three dozen newly-elected House members starting their first term, every effort must be made to educate this group about the growing problem with privatization of public access sites at inland lakes throughout our state.

Contrary to what was reported in the local newspaper, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources remains firmly behind passage of HB 4141(H6), as does the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Michigan Townships Association and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Our new House Speaker, Representative Craig DeRoche, has yet to formally announce his committee structures and leadership appointments. We will be working very closely with our lobbyist and members of the House committee who receive our proposed road end legislation.

Lyon Township Ordinance # 53

Lyon Township adopted Ordinance #53 last October which, in part, creates a three member committee to examine each road end within the township to determine the types of activities permitted . . . including the seasonal mooring of watercraft and placement of boat hoists.

Concurrent with passage of the ordinance, Lyon filed suit against the HLPOA. Therefore, the legality of this "Lateral Road Ordinance" will be tested in Roscommon Circuit Court in the coming months by the HLPOA.

The position of the HLPOA is that Lyon Township can certainly pass an ordinance dealing with activities at lateral road ends within its political jurisdiction . . . but it cannot permit those activities (such as seasonal mooring of watercraft, placement of hoists and obstruction of ingress and egress to the lake surface) that have been determined to be in conflict with the dedication language of the governing plat. This specific issue has already been adjudicated in *Jacobs v Lyon Township*. Once again, the HLPOA must defend against attempted "impingement" by local authorities who refuse to recognize the previously worded expressions of our Michigan courts.

Townline Road Ramp/Dredging Project

The HLPOA is currently engaged in negotiations with Lyon Township and representatives from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) under a "contested case" pleading filed with the MDEQ opposing the issuance of a work permit issued last May for ramp construction and dredging at the terminus of Townline Road.

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President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

While the DEQ agreed with the HLPOA's position on environmental concerns and disallowed the 100 feet of channel dredging originally proposed in the application, a concrete ramp 18 by 48 feet and a dock 4 by 18 feet was ultimately approved at the location.

The HLPOA was joined in our objections by adjacent riparian owners and both subdivision associations (Shoppenagon's Lodge and Huntington Shores) that border Townline Road. Townline is a section road and serves as the political dividing line between Lyon and Gerrish Townships. Therefore, our continuing concerns with respect to potential maintenance and operation of this ramp would likely have impact on adjacent riparian owners in both townships.

HLPOA initiates strategic planning

The HLPOA is recognized as a "leading edge" lake association throughout the riparian communities of this state. We led the fight against privatization of public road ends . . . both in the courts and the state legislature. We were the first lake association to challenge funneling and won at the Supreme Court level. More recently, we were the first riparian association to create and register as an independent Political Action Committee. In other words the HLPOA, since its inception in 1935, has been extremely "active" in representing its riparian membership . . . but this degree of commitment requires both financial and personal involvement from within the organization.

With the pending "term limit" loss of two board members and my departure from the board in July because of family commitments, the HLPOA leadership has initiated a strategic plan to conduct an extensive review of our goals and objectives as well as our organizational structure. This process will also take into consideration recent inactivity of the Higgins Lake Advisory Committee and its inability to carry out certain responsibilities assigned under the 2002 Higgins Lake Watershed Management Plan, the development of which HLPOA representatives willingly participated and supported.

Our strategic planning efforts will undoubtedly afford members of the HLPOA an opportunity to step forward and play a more active role in the day to day operations of our organization. I would urge you read the article; "HLPOA Strategic Planning Underway" in this issue of *WaterLines*. Please give very serious consideration to volunteering and becoming more active in the operations of the HLPOA by returning a completed questionnaire in accordance with instructions outlined in the article. We need your involvement to help carry out our mission.

MDNR urged to grant unlimited access

Recently, representatives of the HLPOA participated in discussions with the Gerrish Township Lake Access Committee concerning access at public launch sites on Higgins Lake under control of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR): specifically, those facilities at the north and south state parks and the MDNR west ramp off M-200 in Lyon Township.

Current policy of the DNR is to close these ramps (it usually occurs only on holidays or extremely busy Saturdays/Sundays in July/August) when the DNR parking lots become full. This prevents utilization by members of the public who only want to launch (drop and go) or retrieve their watercraft, but not park vehicles or trailers in assigned parking areas. Generally, these are boaters who own, are visiting, or renting property in the surrounding townships and simply want to launch/retrieve their watercraft and return directly to their residence without taking parking space at the launch sites.

The HLPOA joined the Gerrish Township Lake Access Committee in recommending that all townships (Gerrish, Lyon and Beaver Creek) coordinate efforts to meet with appropriate state officials (including our elected representatives in Lansing) and encourage MDNR management to amend its current policy to allow unlimited "drop and go" access at state-owned launch facilities on Higgins Lake. We believe this would benefit non-riparian boaters in accessing the lake.

Dues are due!

2005 dues are now due! We hope that you will pay promptly so that we are able to fund those projects the HLPOA is committed to for the coming year.

Act now - we need your support!

For Your Information

The HLPOA does not provide its membership list nor does it encourage or promote the use of its published directory for solicitation by any organization or business.

HLPAC Election Report

We, the Higgins Lake Political Action Committee (HLPAC), take this opportunity to thank all HLPOA members who participated in the recent election process. We extend our gratitude to all who made monetary contributions to the HLPAC or to an individual candidate's campaign committee, those who worked on behalf of the endorsed candidates, and all who supported candidates who share our concern for the future of Higgins Lake by casting your vote in the primary and general elections.

As you know, this was our initial election cycle as a PAC. We are very proud of our accomplishments in our very brief history. In a little over one year since the HLPOA formed the PAC, the PAC organized its Board of Directors, filed all necessary paperwork with the state, created a PAC brochure, solicited donations, created and sent a list of questions to candidates, interviewed candidates, met and endorsed candidates, made donations to certain candidate committees, and informed the membership of endorsements.

In fact, we understand that we are the first lake association in our state to form a PAC and other lake associations are modeling our work. They too see the value in being actively involved politically.

We feel that these efforts paid great dividends in the election process. First and foremost, we are recognized as a formidable political group. Both local and state candidates seek our support and communicate with us on issues relevant to our members.

In terms of the November general election, we had mixed results. Not all of the candidates we supported were victorious, but we believe each candidate would tell you their campaign was stronger as a result of our support. Candidates who received HLPAC support and were elected include: Paul Tatro - Lyon Township Supervisor, Greg Gaylor - Gerrish Township Supervisor, Rebecca Ragan - Gerrish Township Treasurer, Norma Boyle - Gerrish Township Clerk, Fred Staley - Roscommon County Sheriff, Julie Dorwinski - Roscommon County Treasurer.

Several of the races were very close, and it is fair to say that our support most likely made the difference in the outcome of the election.

Although it won't be until the summer of 2006 when we have the next set of primary elections, the HLPOA will continue our work in the meantime. We are utilizing our increased political capital with public officials at both the local and state level to see that they form public policies that match our interests. We are doing so by regularly communicating with office holders and working closely with our lobbyist to develop effective political strategies.

We are also recruiting potential political candidates for future elections as well as trying to raise more money to support our PAC in coming elections.

Our PAC's goals range from seeing the passage of appropriate road end law to implementation of sound environmental practices. We see the development of our PAC as a major tool in meeting the long-term mission of maintaining the health and beauty of our precious resource, Higgins Lake.

With your continued support, and the experience gained in our first year of the HLPAC, we firmly believe that our reputation and influence in the electoral process will only gain strength in the coming years. Thank you again for your generous donation of money and time to our evolving political involvement.

HLPOA PAC Committee

Pat Springstead, Chair
Brad Gibson, Vice Chair
Stan Cooke, Treasurer
Kathryn Bangs, Secretary
Bill Case
Ken Dennings
Edward Trautz



Established
July 15, 1935

Water Lines is published by the
Higgins Lake Property Owners Association
P.O. Box 173, Higgins Lake, MI 48627.
*Dedicated to preserving the quality
and beauty of Higgins Lake.*

Visit HLPOA online at
www.hlpoa.org

Higgins Lake Property Owners' Association Board of Directors

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Proposed Road End Legislation

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act" (MCL 324.101 to 324.90106) by adding section 30111a.

The people of the state of Michigan enact:

Sec. 30111a.

(1) Beginning September 15, 2006, a public road under the jurisdiction of a local unit of government that terminates at and provides access to an inland lake or stream shall not be used for any of the following, unless a recorded deed, recorded easement, or other recorded dedication provides otherwise:

(a) construction, installation, or maintenance of boat hoists on the road or in the adjacent waters.

(b) construction, installation, or maintenance of a seasonal dock larger than 4 feet wide or 25 feet long unless the purpose of the dock is to aid in the public access and the construction, installation, or maintenance of the seasonal dock is authorized by this part and the local unit

of government. A dock that is smaller than 4 feet wide and 25 feet long for the purpose of aiding in public access may be constructed, installed, or maintained unless otherwise prohibited by this part or the local unit of government.

(c) obstructing ingress or egress to the water in any manner.

(d) mooring or docking an unoccupied vessel at any time between midnight and sunrise on bottomland directly offshore from the public road.

(2) A person who violates subsection (1) is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00 for each day of violation. A peace officer may issue an appearance ticket as described and authorized by sections 9C to 9G of Chapter IV of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1927 PA 175, MCL 764.9C to 764.9G, to a person who is in violation of this section.

(3) This section does not prohibit a local unit of government, or other person, from applying for a permit under section 30104.

(4) This section does not alter the rights of the public to use lawfully accessible inland lakes and streams in a manner authorized by law.

Higgins Lake Aquatic Data

9,831 Acre Lake
(1 acre = 43,560 square feet)
428,238,360 square feet

1 inch of water = 35,686.530 cubic feet
(1 cubic foot = 7.4805 gallons)

thus

1 inch of surface water = 266,953,088 gallons

HIGGINS LAKE DAM FLOW

3 inch head = 34 cubic feet per second*

2,937,600 cubic feet per day or
21,947,716 gallons per day

thus

12.1 days to remove 1 inch of water

*Dam flow data taken from 1995 Ayres, Lewis, Norris & May, Inc. engineering report titled "Higgins Lake Outlet Study" on file at the Roscommon County Commissioners' Office.

Member volunteers needed
HLPOA Strategic Planning Underway

For the past few months the HLPOA Board has been discussing goals and objectives as well as the possibility of re-structuring our organization. One main objective is getting the general membership, consisting of nearly 800 families, more involved in the work of HLPOA through its various committees, for example the Higgins Lake Political Action Committee (HLPAC) which was formed in 2003. We know there are a lot of members who have a wide variety of skills and backgrounds that could assist us in fulfilling our mission of protecting, preserving and enhancing the quality of Higgins Lake and its surrounding watershed.

Our review process has included selective review of other northern lake associations in the state. We believe a greater number of our members working on projects will identify future leaders and enable our organization to grow and function more efficiently and, perhaps more importantly, allow us to broaden the scope of activities in keeping with our mission statement.

Board members are needed to serve on the HLPOA Board of Directors. This involves a commitment of at least one meeting a month and includes active committee participation in addressing specific areas or issues.

Our non-profit Association would like to get more involved with water quality and environmental issues. HLPOA volunteers already lay and maintain benthic barriers at various locations on the lake bottom to control Eurasian water milfoil. And last year we spearheaded a campaign to obtain and plant milfoil weevils for the first time in Higgins Lake.

Other activities may include distribution of invasive species information to visiting boaters, supplemental testing of water quality, doing surveys and educational programs, controlling non-source pollution into the lake, monitoring lake levels, and supporting the boat noise abatement project. Playing a more active role in other watershed projects similar to those identified in the 2002 Higgins Lake Watershed Management Plan is also a future goal.

Maintaining open communication with our members and the local community is of utmost importance. In the area of public relations/communications and membership, this group would assist the Association in the development and distribution of educational materials, news articles, newsletter publication, member directory publication and recruitment and education of new members.

Help is also needed for the maintenance of the HLPOA website www.hlpoa.org <<http://www.hlpoa.org/>>, that received over 4,700 hits last year. Information constantly needs to be updated on a timely basis so that our members

can stay informed of activities and events while away from the lake.

On the political side, the HLPAC will incur vacancies and need volunteers for appointment from our membership. Obviously, we would like to see more members actively involved during both primary and general elections. Our committee efforts definitely made a difference in this past year's election results. The HLPAC keeps informed by interviewing potential candidates and then develops strategies to assist in providing support to those individuals who share a vision compatible with the mission of the HLPOA at the state, county and local levels of government.

We need your participation as we develop plans and look to the future of this organization. If you would like to help, please complete the volunteer form and return it by February 28 to:

HLPOA
P.O. Box 173
Higgins Lake, MI 48627

***The future of our lake
is in your hands.***

The Higgins Lake Property Owners' Association's goal is the preservation and improvement of Higgins Lake and its watershed for quality use by future generations. Working in cooperation with federal, state and local government entities, educational institutions, foundations and conservancies, the Higgins Lake Property Owners' Association has contributed financial and human resources to fulfillment of this goal.

The HLPOA board of directors wishes to thank our loyal members for your support, not only for belonging, but also for your extremely generous donations.

Now is the time to continue that loyalty by filling out the enclosed green membership envelope, placing your \$50.00 check made out to the HLPOA inside, and mailing it as soon as possible.

We also encourage you to fill out and return the enclosed HLPOA volunteer form in order to share your time and talents within the organization.

We thank you for your continuing support.

Yes, I would like to help HLPOA in the following area(s):

(Please check those that apply)

• **Election/Appointment as Board member**

1. ___ HLPOA - Higgins Lake Property Owners' Association

2. ___ HLPAC - Higgins Lake Political Action Committee

• **Appointment to Specific Committee**

1. ___ Public Relations

7. ___ EWM Control Project

2. ___ Legal or Legislative

a. ___ Certified SCUBA diver

3. ___ Finance

b. ___ Deck hand support

4. ___ Communications

c. ___ Use of pontoon boat

5. ___ Membership

8. ___ Other

(please indicate area of interest below)

6. ___ Water Quality/Environmental

(8.) _____

Please explain any special skills/talents:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

E mail _____

Please return this form to: HLPOA, P.O. Box 173, Higgins Lake, MI 48627

Thank you for your support. We will be in contact with you.

HLPOA Board of Directors



HLPOA Legal Update

by William L. Carey
Counsel to HLPOA

Consolidated Cases (Road-Ends)

A series of cases involving various lakefront subdivisions in Gerrish Township have been decided at the appellate court level. The cases include subdivisions in Triangle Park, Old Point Comfort, Lyon Manor Subdivision, Shoppenagon's Lodge Subdivision, Whittington Park, Sovereign Park, Honolulu Beach, Evergreen Park, Almeda Beach, and Highland Subdivision. In all of the cases, the trial court has determined that the original developers of the plats did not intend for the road ends to be used as parks and mini-marinas. The trial court had entered court orders which determine that road-end use does not include the right to moor boats, maintain hoists or wet anchors, sunbathe, picnic, or lounge.

A decision of the Court of Appeals was issued on January 17, 2003. The Court of Appeals has upheld the legal principles first declared in the matter of *Jacobs v Lyon Township*. The Michigan Court of Appeals has held that the public roads in the subdivisions mentioned in the preceding paragraph may not be used as mini marinas and lakeside parks. The decision of the Court of Appeals is a published decision.

The application for leave was considered by the Michigan Supreme Court on March 4, 2003. The Michigan Supreme Court has issued an opinion denying the application for leave. The appellants (backlot interests) requested that the Michigan Supreme Court reconsider its decision denying the application for leave. A decision on the motion for reconsideration was issued the last week of December, 2003. The motion was denied. The denial of the motion for reconsideration brings finality to the decisions. Each of the subdivisions named above, and each of the roads contained within the subdivisions, have now been declared by the appellate courts of the State of Michigan to not be available for boat mooring, hoist maintenance, wet anchors, sunbathing, picnicking, or lounging.

The Court of Appeals heard similar arguments involving the subdivisions of Chicago Beach, Woodlawn, Michigan Central Park 1st Addition, and Sylvan Beach on October 21, 2003. A decision was subsequently issued which upheld the legal principles of *Jacobs v Lyon Township*. The October 21, 2003 hearing resulted in a decision identical to the first series of cases reported above. No further appeal is expected on the second round of lake cases.

The process of beginning enforcement of these important Court of Appeals' decisions has begun. HLPOA is fully committed to complete a uniform enforcement of

road end use in each subdivision surrounding Higgins Lake. HLPOA has authorized its legal counsel to begin enforcement proceedings on a road-by-road basis. Each road in each subdivision will be brought before the court, and each violator of the appellate court's order will be the subject of contempt proceedings before the trial court.

Enforcement actions will be both time consuming and cost inefficient. However, HLPOA, through the efforts of its volunteers and board members, will document each violation of the appellate orders and continue prosecution of these violations. Currently the enforcement phase is expected to continue throughout 2005, with the first court date being held on March 4, 2005.

HLPOA v Lyon Township (Townline Road Boat Ramp)

Beginning in 2003 HLPOA has monitored the interest various residents of Lyon and Gerrish Township have expressed toward the construction of boat launch ramps at various road end sites throughout the respective townships. HLPOA promulgated a position statement regarding the construction and use of road end launch sites prior to any applications being submitted for the construction of such ramps. HLPOA does not oppose the installation of launch ramps so long as adequate consideration is given to the environmental impact ramps would have upon Higgins Lake together with the impact any particular launch site has on the adjoining riparian owners. In furtherance of its position, HLPOA commissioned the completion of an environmental assessment which analyzed the potential impact of road end launch sites upon the environmental quality of the lake.

In the spring of 2004 the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality authorized a Lyon Township resident to construct a launch facility at the terminus of Townline Road. The permit was subsequently transferred to Lyon Township who currently holds the application. HLPOA believes that the MDEQ-authorized permit fails to meet common law and statutory standards. Accordingly HLPOA has initiated a two-prong litigation strategy against the maintenance of the ramp. HLPOA has initiated a circuit court action alleging that the proposed maintenance of the ramp, together with its current construction, violates environmental standards and constitutes a nuisance to the adjoining property owners.

In addition to the circuit court lawsuit, HLPOA has also filed a petition for a contested case hearing with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The purpose for the contested case hearing is to seek an administrative review of MDEQ's decision to issue the ramp permit. MDEQ can revoke the permit and require the removal of the ramp or modify the terms and conditions of the permit.

The HLPOA and other interested parties have been involved in significant negotiations with Lyon Township and the DEQ to have the permit modified so that the ramp will not impact the environmental quality of the lake. Additional conditions on the ramp usage will also greatly reduce the “nuisance factor” to adjoining property owners.

Sovereign Park Plat Amendment

A lawsuit seeking to change the dedication language of the plat of Sovereign Park is currently pending before the Roscommon County Circuit Court. The purpose of the lawsuit is to have the judge rewrite the plat dedication language so as to allow for uses of the roads within the plat for boat mooring, sunbathing, picnicking and lounging.

The lawsuit tacitly recognizes that the rule of *Jacobs* precludes using the roads within the plat for boat

mooring, sunbathing, picnicking and lounging. Now the plaintiffs in that lawsuit are asking the judge to change the language so that *Jacobs* cannot apply.

The riparian residents of the plat have filed a uniformed defense to the plat amendment action. There are not any court dates currently set, and discovery in the case is ongoing.

Conclusion

HLPOA will continue its legal endeavors through 2005. Enforcement of the legal decisions obtained by HLPOA will be a legal priority during the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted by:

William L. Carey
Legal Counsel for HLPOA

Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) control efforts continue at Higgins Lake

by Ken Dennings

We’re now entering our third year of effort to eradicate this invasive nuisance plant from our aquatic treasure in Roscommon County. I’ve been asked countless times: Are we making progress? If you measure progress by the number of hours volunteers have recorded installing, removing and cleaning, then reinstalling benthic barrier panels on the lake bottom the past two summers . . . more than at any other inland lake in the state of Michigan . . . and if you consider the efforts of riparian owners to “hand harvest” EWM in shallow water, the answer is a resounding YES! Conversely, if economics is viewed as the measurement, then the amount spent (\$28,000) on control efforts at Higgins Lake falls far short of the \$1.3 million special assessment of property owners at our sister lake to the south.

Realistically, you can’t compare the control efforts at Higgins to those at Houghton Lake, or for that matter, any other inland lake in Michigan. The approach to EWM control is determined by the unique set of circumstances and characteristics associated with the lake in question. Benthic barrier wouldn’t have worked to solve Houghton Lake’s difficulties because of the magnitude of the infestation. Likewise, herbicides are not the answer to our EWM problems . . . except for limited application at the



DNR public launch sites . . . because of the associated volume and depth of water.

The two EWM assessment studies conducted by Huron Pines RC & D in 2002 and 2003 revealed little change in the aggregate amount of milfoil. While certain “pockets” have been reduced in size or eliminated by hand harvesting, benthic barrier treatment and limited application of herbicides, some of the older and larger patches have increased in size with some new sites identified. We

presently have slightly less than 10 acres or approximately 0.1% of the lake bottom where EWM was last identified. Funding provided by the Higgins Lake Foundation will support another “on site” evaluation by Huron Pines personnel this year.

Actually, we have a total of twenty-one barriers currently in place at three locations in the south basin of the lake. The accumulative “impact” is approximately 4,700 sq. ft. of geo-textile fabric blocking the sun’s rays from reaching the EWM plants, thus disrupting the photosynthesis process. The result, after 45 to 60 days, is decay and eventual “death” of the plants covered by the barrier.

Thanks to the efforts of Laurie Smith-Tudor, Greg Douglas, Don Mick, Brian Carson, Bob Blamer, Bill Case, Cal Philips, Dan O’Keefe, Wayne Hall, Art Schauer, Rick Meeks, Todd Craig, Nelson Craig and Don Correll, we worked throughout the summer and into October removing and cleaning the benthic panels, attaching galvanized pipe, and replacing them over selected EWM sites before winter weather arrived. The process will be repeated again this year in July and September/October. Hopefully, qualified SCUBA diver volunteers, “above surface” deck hands and watercraft owners will again step forward to carry out this phase of our control project in 2005. If you were to observe the benthic barrier control process, you would soon discover it is labor intensive. Therefore, we need the continued cooperation of our volunteer HLPOA members and friends to assure another successful season.

In our last issue of *WaterLines* I reported the successful implantation of 10,000 milfoil weevils on July 10th . . . the same day the HLPOA was holding its annual meeting. The greater portion of our control expenditures thus far (\$20,000) has been spent on this biological . . . and

we believe “optimum” . . . long term approach to controlling EWM in Higgins Lake.

On August 28th EnviroScience, Inc. staff, which carried out the initial planting last July, returned to collect sample data for laboratory analysis and to make field observations at the selected stocking sites. Purposely, the two sites were geographically different and in separate basins of the lake. One site, approximately 400 feet from the northern shoreline (off B&B Marine) . . . where in 2002 we were unable keep the benthic barrier cover over the milfoil pocket because of considerable boat traffic . . . received 4,000 weevil eggs/larvae. The other site, a steep drop-off approximately 200 feet from the shoreline (near Flag Point) in the south basin, received the balance of 6,000 eggs/larvae.

The survey data collected by EnviroScience staff indicated that weevil eggs and larvae have developed into adults and have started reproducing. Healthy populations of weevils have been established at both the referenced sites with significant damage to the EWM being reported. Field observations revealed pockets of EWM that had numerous brownish stems and were falling out of the water column.

EnviroScience concluded that Higgins Lake is clearly providing suitable habitat for the weevils, and they are expected to “over-winter” successfully and continue to destroy EWM once the ice vanishes this spring.

It’s of importance to note that EWM remains the dominant plant species, with no indication of native plants found in either of the sites at the time of the August survey. EnviroScience will again conduct field observations and take samples this coming August to determine the degree of success after a full year following weevil implantation. We remain hopeful that future observation will reveal some indication of native plant life returning to the area.



Photos of the ongoing Eurasian water milfoil benthic barrier project.





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Roscommon, MI 48653

 *Many hands make light work* 



The HLPOA could certainly use your help in its many projects to help preserve and protect the quality of Higgins Lake.

Look inside this issue to see how you can volunteer for a “hands-on” experience in furthering our important mission.

Volunteers help transport benthic barrier as part of the EWM control project.

