

Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 7:16 AM
To: James Deamud <deamud@hlmich.net>
Subject: Lake levels and Lake Stocking

I have been living in houghton lake for 20 years. Slowly but surely I have watched our lake fall victim to careless management and just a lack of effort to preserve this beautiful resource of our community. What do you think draws visitors to our county? It is not our lavish restaurants and shopping malls! It's our lakes! Why is the lake level so low? Why is the board not fixing the dam? This is not a time to drag feet get on it. If funding is an issue this money needs to be found some how through the community. Please do what you were appointed to and take care of our lake.

Another note, the DNR hasn't done a thing for fish stocking and we can not rely on them. If someone went around and took donations from businesses and volunteers every year we could do our own stock in a way. Anything will help! Our walleye are disappearing and the fishing is no longer sustainable for how many fisherman we have taking fish out. Rules and regulations should be put in place for houghton lake regarding our bag limits and sizes! Minnesota and Wisconsin are kicking our butts with conservation efforts and their lakes are amazing fisheries. 13 perch instead of 25 on their lakes as an example.

In all we have a crisis occurring with our lake and if nothing is done we will be sorry. I am assuming you care about this lake and how much it gives to our community and the people that live in it. Please do something to help it and I am willing to do anything I can if needed. You have young, energetic and eager members of this community who plan on making their lives here that take this issue very seriously!

Sincerely,
Brett

Sent from my iPhone

From: "James Deamud" <deamud@hlmich.net>
To: "Brett Jobin" <brettjobs22@gmail.com>
Cc: "Norm Fullmer" <njfullmer@charter.net>, "David Russo" <houghtonlakesteamway@hotmail.com>
Bcc:
Priority: Normal
Date: Wednesday April 14 2021 8:58:34AM
RE: Lake levels and Lake Stocking

Thank you for your letter. I understand the issues you raise, but unfortunately the Houghton Lake Improvement Board (HLIB) is unable to address their solution. HLIB was established in 2001 by resolutions passed by the four townships encompassing Houghton Lake, at that time in response to a developing problem with Eurasian Water Milfoil. Since then we have maintained an active program involving aqueous vegetation, and believe those problems are well in hand.

However, HLIB has no jurisdiction over or responsibility for the lake levels or the Houghton Lake Dam, its operation or its maintenance. Such matters are within the purview of the Roscommon County Board of Commissioners. As to lake level, it has been a problem for as long as I have lived here (46 years) -- it is often too high, causing flooding particularly in the west shore area, or it is too low, like these past few years. But my perception is that these problems are more a matter of precipitation (Mother Nature), rather than "mismanagement" of the dam. The dam, itself, does little to manage lake level, and I understand that the dam structure (referred to as the boards) have been closed since this past February, in an effort to increase the level as much as possible. There is one small part of the dam that is required to be left open to maintain Muskegon River flow to the down river communities, but overall the dam is being used to keep as much water as possible in Houghton Lake.

As to repairs to the dam structure, I recall an article in the Houghton Lake Resorter in the past few weeks talking about the repairs that the Commissioners we making to the dam. So, as nearly I can recall, that issue is also being addressed.

As to fishing those issues are handled through the State of Michigan. Stocking of fish was, many years ago, assisted by the HOUGHTON LAKE ASSOCIATION which had walleye rearing ponds on the west side of the lake, between Old US27 and US 127. Annually they would net the fish fry and release them in the lake. This practice was discontinued by the DNR which then provided some limited planting for a few years after that. The DNR conducts fish surveys to determine the number of species in the lake, and the relative age of the fish in each category, and from that may do some planting. Again, HLIB has no control over that.

If you want more information on fishing, the DNR publishes a weekly Fishing Report for sites around the state, including Houghton Lake. The agency that appears to have control over the fishing issues you raised is DNR - WILDLIFE, and below is a website I found for them:

DNR - Wildlife - Michigan
https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136_79608---,00.html
> [Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife. Managing Michigan's Wildlife. Thoughtful wildlife and habitat management supports Michigan's multi-billion-dollar natural resources economy – including hunting, fishing, camping, trail use and other outdoor recreation.](#)

Sorry I can't be of more help, but hopefully you will be able to get to the right people to get the answers you want.

James R. Deamud, Chairman
Houghton Lake Improvement Board
deamud@hlmich.net

-----Original Message-----
From: Brett Jobin <brettjobs22@gmail.com>