

Approved 8-13-26



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**Houghton Lake Improvement Board
Regular Meeting
July 9, 2026**

Call to Order by Chair Diane Randall at 7:00 pm.

The members present were Lynn Baese, Diane Randall, Mike Surprenant, Darlene Sensor, Jim Mikolaizik and Norm Fullmer.

Rebecca Ragen was absent.

Three members of the public were present.

Public comment was heard by Craig Cotterman and Dave Bisbee

Motion by Lynn Baese and supported by Darlene Sensor to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2026 meeting. All members present voting in the affirmative the motion carried.

Motion by Darlene Sensor and supported by Mike Surprenant to approve the agenda as presented. All members present voting in the affirmative the motion carried.

Motion by Lynn Baese and supported by Jim Mikolaizik to accept the following treasurer's report. Account balances as of 7-9-26 were \$8,689.86 in the checking account, \$283,700.11 in the money market account and \$750,681.80 in the Michigan Class account for a total of \$1,043,071.87. Expenses year to date total \$331,620.09 All members present voting in the affirmative the motion carried.

Representatives from EGLE, Little River Band, PLM, RLS, and the HLIB met on Tuesday July 7, 2026 to examine the condition of the Middle Grounds. PLM has requested a permit from EGLE to treat this area. EGLE was asked to make a determination by 7-9-26 for review at the next HLIB board meeting. Areas previously treated for milfoil were visited to determine the effectiveness of the treatment. Significant die back was observed.

RLS-PLM Report-Dr Jennifer Jermolowicz and Mike Soloman addressed the board stating that a bumper crop of milfoil exists on the lake this year. With the heavy ice cover the germination of curly leaf pond weed was late allowing the milfoil to germinate first allowing for the rapid expansion of milfoil. Since the Middle Grounds was unable to be treated last year, the milfoil has become more wide spread. In addition, an area in the main body south of Long Point has a large area of infestation.

Mike Solomon reported the survey conducted last year by the Little River Band would not be shared with the HLIB. It is unknown if a survey by the LRB will be conducted this year.

A permit was approved by EGLE for treatment of the Middle Grounds with similar conditions that were required in past years. When PLM and RLS were asked if EGLE had been fair in their permit the answer was yes. Milfoil is still in a viable state where treatment will be effective.

A second EutroSorbG treatment for algae in the canals is scheduled for late July.

Motion by Lynn Baese and supported by Mike Suprenant to approve treatment of the Middle Grounds in the amount of \$413,192.00 with treatment to take place the week of July 20. All members present voting in the affirmative the motion carried.

Motion by Diane Randall and supported by Lynn Baese to amend the 2026-27 budget line item 735 (PLM) from \$400,000 to \$750,000 to cover the cost of Middle Grounds treatment as well as future treatments. All members voting in the affirmative the motion carried.

The board discussed the option of contracting with PLM to mechanically harvest some areas of the south shore to prevent the accumulation of vegetation along the shoreline. The initial thought was that just floating vegetation would be harvested. The board was advised that the equipment used cuts a depth of four feet thus cutting live plants. No action was taken on this matter.

Lynn Baese and Mike Suprenant volunteered to survey the shoreline for the presence of Cladophora again this year.

Public comments were heard from Craig Cotterman, Dave Bisbe.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next Meeting
August 13, 2026
Markey Township Hall

Respectfully submitted.
Norm Fullmer
Secretary-Treasurer