



# THE RIPPLE EFFECT

A Monthly Update Highlighting One Committee's Progress

NOVEMBER  
2025

**EXPLORING EVERY IMPACT  
EMPOWERING EVERY VOICE  
ENSURING A HEALTHIER HIGGINS LAKE**

[HOH-lake.org](http://HOH-lake.org) or [HOHL@gerrishtownship.org](mailto:HOHL@gerrishtownship.org)

## AT A GLANCE

- Well and septic data mapping through the Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) is nearing completion.
- On-site septic and water well ordinance attributes and recommendations continue to be compiled as a foundation for the development of a draft ordinance.

# SEPTIC COMMITTEE



**The MISSION of this committee is to support the HOHL by researching best practices, collaborating with experts and officials, and making informed recommendations to the HOHL Steering Committee in matters of on-site septic systems and domestic water wells.**

## Educate

- Research efforts of area septic and water well issues have included interviews of CMDHD officials, local septic service contractors, and other field professionals. Additional data has been gathered from other Michigan health departments, municipalities, and online resources.
- Further study of septic and well concerns will include collecting data from the CMDHD FetchGIS system, a digitized and searchable records system. This information will contain septic tank size and location, drain field size and location, domestic water well location, etc., where the data is available.
- The Septic Committee will continue to share related educational content to community members on various media sources, including the HOHL website and Facebook pages.

## Evaluate

- The CMDHD has reviewed, revised, and made available the list of qualified inspectors for Township use.
- Based on the research, septic and well ordinance attributes have been and will continue to be defined and refined.

## Execute

- A draft ordinance for on-site septic systems and wells has begun. The committee will make alterations as more information becomes available. This document will then be reviewed by the CMDHD and the Steering Committee for revisions before referring the proposal to the Gerrish Township Board for consideration.

- Area volunteers will continue to enter septic and well data at the CMDHD for Gerrish and Lyon townships. This process may be completed by the end of 2025.

# What's Next...

Health of Higgins Lake



- Once the FetchGIS data is available, the committee will research and review the township parcels for levels of compliance. These findings will further assist the development of the draft ordinance and the future direction of the committee.
- The committee will continue to evaluate other ordinances, other HOHL committees' outcomes, data sources, etc. to make informed and data-driven recommendations to the Steering Committee and beyond.

**The next Septic Committee meeting is Wednesday, December 3, 1PM at the hall.**  
**Plan to attend and participate! For more information, go to the website or on Facebook at**  
**Gerrish Township Health of Higgins Lake.**