

**NOTICE**  
**HEALTH OF HIGGINS LAKE**  
**STEERING COMMITTEE - Agenda**  
2997 E. HIGGINS LAKE DRIVE  
ROSCOMMON, MI 48653  
PHONE: (989) 821-9313

**WHEN:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025  
**PLACE:** Gerrish Township Municipal Center  
**PURPOSE:** Regular Meeting

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance:

**Roll Call:** Biggar \_\_, Booser \_\_, Teisen \_\_, Walker \_\_, Ostling \_\_, Chaney

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:**

Motion by \_\_\_\_ supported by \_\_\_\_

That the agenda for the December 16, 2025 be approved as presented.

**APPROVAL OF November 18, 2025, MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by \_\_\_\_ supported by \_\_\_\_

That the minutes be approved as presented

**APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS AS ATTACHED**

Motion by \_\_\_\_ supported by \_\_\_\_

That the reports be approved as presented

**Public Comments Agenda Items:**

**Old Business**

EGLE grant opportunity - submitted

**New Business**

Approval of Ripple Effects

Propose: Motion to approve the Ripple Effect for distribution as presented by the Communications Committee

Motion by \_\_\_\_ supported by \_\_\_\_

That the motion be approved as presented

Acceptance of the Septic Ordinance draft from Septic Committee.

Propose: Motion to forward the Septic Ordinance to the Board for their action

Motion by \_\_\_\_ supported by \_\_\_\_

Look ahead – Discussion on what our longer term objectives should be

**Sub Committee Reports –**

1. Science – Gibson
2. Communications – Gelderbloom
3. IT – Panyard
4. Roads – O'Rourke
5. Septic – Ostling

**Public Comments:**

**Announcements/ Member comments:**

Motion by \_\_\_\_, supported by \_\_\_\_ that the Board adjourn at \_\_\_\_pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Ostling, Interim Chair

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# Sub-Committee Activity Report

December 15, 2025

## Steering Committee

The Steering Committee's regular meeting, held on November 18, 2025, received reports from each of the committee chair people and provided the audience with an opportunity to ask questions about their activities.

I am happy to announce that Don Chaney has joined the Steering Committee. Don's family has been coming to the Lake since the very early 1900's and built the first resort on Chaney point. Welcome Don. Committee remains in need of another member.



## HOHL Communication Committee Report -

The Communications Committee continues to make steady progress in strengthening outreach and engagement efforts.

- **Email Campaigns**

Our email distribution list has grown to approximately 202 individuals plus 49 committee members addresses. Our plan to distribute two emails per month was completed. *The Ripple Effects* – Highlighted the Septic Committee this month and was distributed on Nov 24th. *Committee Reflections* – Giving an overview of each committee's progress was distributed on Nov 20th. We have connected with Roscommon County Commissioners, and they have agreed to forward our email distributions. We thank other organizations for forwarding our emails include HLU, HLPOA, HLF and others.

- **Social media & Website**

Facebook has migrated to be under the township account. A total of 7 posts were made in November. At the request of the steering committee, we will be tracking comments made on our posts. We want to capture any concerns the community has so they can be addressed. There were 2 comments, no concerns and 19 thumbs up.

- Some improvements have been made to the website, but it still needs work

## **Community Outreach**

The communication committee had a booth downtown Roscommon for "Does Day Out" on November 15. We collected email addresses and had a chat with a couple news outlets about our mission.

- **Collaboration & Research**

It has been decided that the proposed survey with Professor Amanda Buday of Grand Valley State University, will be delayed until the HOHL is further down the road and adequate planning for funding can be done.

- The committee submitted a wish list of things to be funded for a grant application.

- **Committee Development**

- The committee met on November 12. Next meeting scheduled is December 10

## IT Subcommittee – November - December Summary of Activities

- Zotero (macOS) issues: Mac-based Zotero is now fully operational and tested with multiple users. No outstanding issues.
- Email delivery for Nextcloud / Communications: No issues at this time.  
Donation button support for Funding: Provided technical guidance on implementing a Donate option, including basic integration considerations and coordination points for downstream processing, ongoing.
- General maintenance & backups: Routine maintenance, health checks, and backup verification continue. The file-by-file backup system is active and runs on Monday, Thursday, and Saturday, in addition to Hostinger's nightly snapshots. All systems remain stable and recoverable.

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- Zotero literature management: Continued supporting the Science subcommittee by loading new studies, verifying metadata, and organizing the research library to keep everything accessible and operational.

### **Funding Subcommittee – November - December Summary of Activities**

Donate button (status): Working with the township to determine the process for creating an official PayPal account that can be used for the HOHL donate button. Implementation on HOH-Lake.org will begin once the account is established.

Rolling funding-sources calendar: Maintaining the standing tracker to organize grant opportunities across rolling, quarterly, and annual cycles. A preliminary spreadsheet exists, and formal update procedures are being developed.

EGLE FY-2026 Watershed Council Capacity-Building grant: Continuing working with IT, Communications, and Septic to define the activities supported by the \$40,000 request. Draft budget categories and narrative justifications have been aligned with recent committee discussions.

### **Road Committee report**

- Final GPS data has been collected
- Road end evaluations are complete
- Jean is investigating a number of older documents from the last road end survey and 319 grant information.
- Tim and Don to schedule a follow-up meeting with HLF Representatives to discuss Fertilizer use/ possible bans and or Ordinances for limiting use near open waters in the Higgins Lake watershed.
- Tim sent 2010 equations on sediments and contaminants to Brad Gibson for Science Committee review.
- Future meetings are schedule.

### **Science Committee**

Note: This is virtually the same status report as provided one month ago. The reason is our Science Committee sub-committee are still working and there has been little reported out yet. I will add some sub-committees got off to a slow start as the tasks appeared overwhelming with approximately 50 studies to review. I am happy to say we appear to be moving forward now. As the old question asks, “How do you eat an elephant?” The answer is, “One bite at a time.”

Our eight work groups, or sub-subcommittees, are busy working. Each workgroup is assigned a “problem” to study. The committees are:

- Near Shore Water Quality
- Invasive species
- Groundwater and Drinking Water Contamination
- Watershed Quality
- Changing Fisheries
- Deep Water Quality
- Recreational Activities
- Non-Nutrient Contamination

Each problem has a list of questions, created by the entire Science Committee, for the subcommittees to address.

The process each sub-committee will utilize to address the questions has been established. In its’ simplest form, each sub-committee will:

- Study the questions posed for each problem.
- Gather data
- Evaluate the data
- Analyze the data
- Draw conclusions and draft a report.

The Science Committee will now meet monthly. The agenda for the next few months will be updated by the subcommittees with feedback and input from the Science Committee members.

For the next few months, the Science Committee will be meeting on the third Wednesday of the month.

## Septic Committee

- The Septic Committee met on November 5 last month.
- The primary focus of the Septic Committee is the development of an ordinance to be considered by the Township Board for eventual adoption.
- The committee reviewed the draft of the ordinance prepared by Ostling and made suggestions. Comments from members were made available on a shared version of the ordinance for two weeks. These comments were consolidated by Ostling and a new version – Septic Ordinance Rev3 was created and reviewed on December 3. This draft is nearly ready to submit to the Steering Committee. It is anticipated that it will be forwarded to them at the December 17 meeting.
- Work continues with the effort to identify properties that are not compliant with the CMDHD inspection records. There are about 3700 on site septic systems in Gerrish Township but the Health Department only has records on 2700 of them. The remaining 1000 are the focus of the ordinance inspection process. Also, of the 2700 records, it is anticipated that 25% plus will not have complete documentation and will need to be addressed. Staff is seeking ways to identify and capture this information.
- Septic personnel are working with the Funding team to apply for a grant to help capture this information. Grant application is due on Dec 10 and we are nearly done as of Dec 6.
- Work on the Purple Dot project continues. Gerrish is nearly complete, and the volunteers have moved on to finish Lyon Township. Last month we were searching for funding sources to help with the completion of the purple dot work. A big thank you to three local interest groups for coming to the rescue and funding the remaining work. This community is full of very strong supporters – thanks again to HLPOA, HLF, and the Friends for clean Water. Once complete, we will be able to generate informational letters to the residents as to the status of their STD's according to the records at the Health Department. Completion of the status information will also allow for better analysis of the overall condition of the STD's throughout Gerrish and Lyon.

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