

HOHL STEERING COMMITTEE & SUBCOMMITTEES

WHEN: Monday, February 9, 2026, 9:00 am
PLACE: Gerrish Township Municipal Center
PURPOSE: Special Meeting/Work Session

CALL TO ORDER: 9:00 am

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

STEERING COMMITTEE: Walker present, Biggar present, Booser Zoom, Chaney present, Teisen present

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS: Gelderbloom Zoom, Gibson absent, Panyard Zoom, Ostling present

COMMENTS ON AGENDA:

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1. Brief Review of Septic Ordinance Draft Rev 6 - Chaney noted he did not see anything in the Septic Ordinance draft that would give homeowners an opportunity to minimize their costs. Ostling replied that the issue has been identified but has not been resolved. Teisen asked about Section 6 that states that all owners must connect their wastewater to previous public sewer located adjacent or otherwise available. Ostling stated that there is currently not a sewer system available but with this language if one becomes available a homeowner will have to hook up to become compliant. Teisen asked about a timeline for Section 7 in Part B that states that the Central Michigan DHD requires registration. Ostling replied that the homeowner needs an inspection report for new construction. Ostling also stated that for a remodel it is not completely clear for a timeline and it will need to be addressed. Teisen asked about Section 10 paragraph A which states the seller should be in compliance before property transfer. Ostling is not sure there is consensus in the Septic Committee about a time of transfer requirement because the inspections will already be in place. Teisen asked about Section 11 concerning private supply water testing with regards to corrective action needed by a homeowner if a test reports they are in noncompliance. Ostling replied that the Health Department is responsible for remediation advice but stated it should be included in the ordinance. Teisen asked who grants variances stated in Section 15. Ostling states the Septic Committee is not in agreement with whether to approve variances, at this time.
2. Funding Sources and Resources – presentation and discussion – Catherine Voigt, volunteer of the Finance Committee gave an overview of the grants landscape, EGLE grant update, and an update of creating a timeline calendar for other grant possibilities. They are putting together a list of possible partners of HOHL. Catherine stated that 25% of funding comes from grants and it is very competitive. She also stated that grant seeking is a team effort and forging a relationship with whoever you are seeking a grant from is very important. She asked for suggestions for potential partners and anyone can reach out to her. She recommended that subcommittees be forward thinking about their funding needs so that grant opportunities can be applied for before the funds are needed. Catherine also stated that residents can apply to a state program specifically designed for septic costs.
3. Administrative Items – Discussion
 - a. Monthly Reports – Subcommittee Chairpersons submit reports at the end of each month. Discussion about lag time but consensus is that it seems to be the best method.
 - b. Action Item Reports – Discussion about whether subcommittees should send their reports to the other committees before it is sent to the Steering Committee. In addition, a quarterly meeting with subcommittee chairs to discuss their progress and reports was also suggested. Agreement was reached that there should be presentations given for global milestones to the Steering Committee before presenting to Township Board.
 - c. Committee Membership – updates and needs – Communications Committee has two new members. Steering Committee has one new member, Jim Fisher.
4. HOHL Review -Discussion – Walker asked if we are tracking pertinent environmental legislation. Panyard stated we need to partner with someone to get a new watershed plan to get grant money. Chaney replied we should be a neutral entity politically.

- a. Subcommittee progress – Ostling reports that the Septic Committee will meet tomorrow. They are meeting with the Health Department and Well Logic to get some perspective of the information they have. Panyard from IT states that not all of the HOHL is using Nextcloud. Gelderbloom from Communications is open to ideas.
- b. Other areas or challenges – Quarterly reports questioned by Biggar. Ostling said a dashboard updated quarterly might be one way to communicate progress.

Next work meeting March 9, 2026 at 1 pm with subcommittee chairs and Jennie Walker.

Adjournment at 10:42 am.

Motion to adjourn by Walker and supported by Biggar.