



THE HEALTH OF
HIGGINS LAKE

PROTECTING OUR WATERS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

COMMITTEE REFLECTIONS

DECEMBER 2025

EXPLORING EVERY IMPACT

EMPOWERING EVERY VOICE

ENSURING A HEALTHIER HIGGINS LAKE



STEERING COMMITTEE

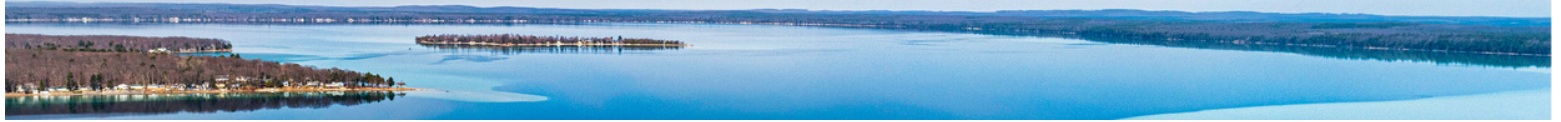
- The Steering Committee met on October 21st. Monthly updates were reviewed, and the audience was given an opportunity to ask questions or make comments.
- A new Monthly Committee Activity Report consolidates all subcommittee updates.
- The Steering Committee continues to operate under the Open Meetings Act on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.
- Transparency to the public will continue through newsletters, social media, public meetings, reporting, and presentations to the Township board.

SCIENCE

- Sub-committees have been assigned a “problem” to study:
 - Near Shore Water Quality
 - Invasive Species
 - Groundwater & Drinking Water Contamination
 - Watershed Quality
 - Changing Fisheries
 - Deep Water Quality
 - Recreational Activity
 - Non- nutrient Contamination
- 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

Health of Higgins Lake





SEPTIC

- Focus remains on creating a draft septic ordinance for Gerrish Township review.
- Inspector list was updated by the Health Department.
- Domestic wells will be included in the ordinance framework.
- Committee finalized 50+ key attributes to guide ordinance development.
- Draft ordinance prepared using regional examples and the attributes list; Health Department review comes next.
- Purple Dot mapping (septic + well locations) nearly complete in Gerrish; now finishing Lyon.
- Mapping considered critical—will allow accurate homeowner notifications and system condition analysis.

ROAD ENDS

- Most road-end data sheets and photos are now complete; remaining items expected by early November.
- Additional historical survey documents and 319 Grant materials were shared for reference.
- Committee discussed any outstanding data collection still needed.
- A follow-up meeting with the Higgins Lake Foundation will be scheduled to review fertilizer use and potential restrictions near open water.
- Sediment and contaminant reference materials from 2010 will be forwarded to the Science Committee for review.

IT/FUNDRAISING

- Donate button (status): Waiting on IT for technical implementation. Funding is prepared to review processor options, fee handling, deposit flow, and transparency language as soon as an implementation approach is available.
- Rolling funding-sources calendar: Standing tracker to organize opportunities across rolling/quarterly/annual cycles.
- Zotero (macOS) issues: Continued investigation and fixes for macOS-specific Zotero behavior to improve stability and smooth startup/updates.
- Email delivery for Nextcloud / Communications: Reviewed reported email delivery issues from Nextcloud and potential impacts on Communications workflows; isolated likely configuration points and queued remediation steps.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Monthly emails sent including The Ripple Effect & Committee Reflections publications.
- Four Facebook posts; moving posting access to the Township account.
- One-page HOHL overview is prepared and will be sent with the winter tax bills.
- Grand Valley State University is proposing a lake-specific spring survey; electronic distribution with Planning Commission coordination.

