

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
HEALTH OF HIGGINS LAKE - STEERING COMMITTEE  
2997 E. Higgins Lake Drive, Roscommon, MI 48653 - Phone: (989) 821-9313  
Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 7PM

CALL TO ORDER: 7PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Biggar present, Booser absent, Chaney present, Fisher present, Teisen Zoom, Walker present

WELCOME: Jim Fisher, Steering Committee Member

CHANGES TO AGENDA: Chaney adds to agenda in New Business regarding legislation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Biggar, supported by Fisher; that the agenda for 2-17-2026, be approved as amended. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF 1-20-2026 MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Biggar, Supported by Fisher that the minutes for 1-20-2026 be approved as presented and be forwarded to the Gerrish Township Board Members. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF 2-9-2026 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Biggar, supported by Chaney to approve the minutes for 2-9-2026 be approved as presented and be forwarded to the Gerrish Township Board Members. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SUBCOMMITTEE MONTHLY REPORT:

Motion by Biggar, supported by Chaney that the report for January 2026, be approved as presented and be forwarded to the Gerrish Township Board Members. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES EACH): No comments.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Science – Gibson

- a. General Progress Report - Gibson reports that they have a general Science meeting tomorrow. The science committee is excited about a former local resident, Ryan McClure, who has a doctorate in modeling waterways and ecosystems and could help by looking at the data they have. Upon analysis there could be a determination of what further data collecting should be done. The science committee would like to make a budget for necessary future projects. The science committee would also like to collaborate with other committees on possible future projects in regard to modeling.

2. Communications – Gelderbloom

- a. General Progress Report - Gelderbloom reports that communications are dispersed through Facebook and newsletters. Sign up is available on the Gerrish Township web page for the newsletter.

3. IT & Finance– Panyard

- a. General Progress Report - Panyard reports they are still working on the rolling calendar and PayPal donate button. The IT committee is making progress on the purple dot project in cooperation with Central Michigan District Health.
- b. Formal Presentation of Zotero - Panyard presented how Zotero works. they have created a place where all of the studies, reports and technical papers are assembled in one place. Using Zotero you can use tags to search specific information. It was a collaborative effort from the Science and IT committees.

4. Road Ends & Fertilizers – O-Rourke

- a. General Progress Report- no report

5. Septic – Ostling

- a. General Progress Report - Ostling reports the Septic Committee submitted the Septic Ordinance Draft to the Steering Committee at the last work meeting. After discussion at the work meeting, changes have been made to the draft. Any other significant changes going forward would be sent as addendums. Ostling reports that well and septic data compiled in a spreadsheet is currently being added to as they gather information from the Health Department and other sources.
- b. Formal Presentation of Septic Ordinance Draft - Biggar suggested we move the Septic Ordinance Draft to the Gerrish Township Board.

APPROVAL OF SEPTIC SUBCOMMITTEE DRAFT SEPTIC ORDINANCE:

Motion by Biggar, Supported by Fisher, that the Septic Ordinance Draft be approved as presented and be forwarded to the Gerrish Township Board Members. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Joint Steering Committee & Subcommittee Chairpersons Work Session Overview

Walker reports that the Septic Ordinance Draft was reviewed, and funding sources and resources were explored. Monthly reports, action reports, membership, project timelines, subcommittee quarterly meetings, documentation of monthly and final action reports procedures were also reviewed. The HOHL purpose & scope, progress & planning, funding, legislation and other items were revisited collaboratively.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chaney presented copies of possible form letters that we might send to our state and federal legislators, asking for assistance in pending or existing legislation in relation to our endeavors of HOHL. Walker replied that the letters would be reviewed by Gelderman, Voigt and Panyard who and would report back on the possibility of using the letters.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES EACH):

Gibson reported that the Planning Commission may not be able to look at the Septic Draft Ordinance until May. The process would be dependent on the Boards ability to act on it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MEMBER COMMENTS:

Next meeting is March 17, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Biggar, supported by Chaney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm. Motion carried.

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Jennie Walker, Chairperson & Date

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Jolie Booser, Secretary & Date