

HEALTH OF HIGGINS LAKE – STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES

2997 E. Higgins Lake Drive, Roscommon, MI – Phone (989) 821-9313

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Biggar present, Booser present, Chaney present, Fisher present, Teisan Zoom, Walker absent

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Booser, supported by Biggar to approve the 5/19/2026 agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of 4/21/2026 Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Fisher, supported by Biggar to approve the 4/21/2026 meeting minutes as presented and be forwarded to Gerrish Township Board Members for review. Motion carried.

Approval of 4/30/2026 Work Session Minutes:

Motion by Booser, supported by Biggar to approve the 4/30/26 Work Session minutes as presented and be forwarded to Gerrish Township Board Members for review. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None

Presentation of “Be Well Wise” Water Testing Program:

Nancy Lamb and John Barta from Higgins Lake Foundation presented the “Be Well Wise” Water Testing Program that will be available to Gerrish Township, Lyon Township and Beaver Creek Township landowners beginning June 1 and ending September 30 free of charge. Landowners can pick up the tests at the Higgins Lake Foundation office and may drop off their sample within 30 hours of taking the sample to the Raven Analytical Lab Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 3 pm. To obtain a testing kit, participants will need to give consent for the data to be mailed to the landowner, Higgins Lake Foundation and other health agencies. Raven Labs have follow up resources if test results are not within the normal ranges. They are not testing for PFAS or microplastics.

Subcommittee Reports:

Communications – Sue Gelderbloom reports:

- Communications committee have an email list of 200, they are active on Facebook and will be starting an Instagram account soon.
- Donate Button is active on HOH- lake website.
- Summer marquee will be up across from Pioneer Hill.
- Individual contacts in legislature have been suggested and communications are in the process.
- Associations have been contacted and arrangements have been made to attend some of their meetings.
- HOH – Lake Booths and a variety of activities are in the plans for an Expo in conjunction with the Fireman’s Open House on 8/8/2026.
- A 3-ring binder of the Reflection and Ripple Effect will soon be available at the Gerrish Township office.

Funding – No report

IT – No report

Road Ends & Fertilizers – No report

Science – No report

Septic – Jim Ostling reports

- A Demonstration 3-d Mapping Project is in the planning stage to show real-world situation in a real life chunk of the lake showing wells and septic effects in a high density area.
- Testing needs to be done for empirical data to show effects of septic and road ends. Collaboration with the Science committee to identify parameters of testing samples is on the agenda next week.

- HLF sponsors Lake Savers Day at the RAM Center on June 2. Jim will talk to the participants about the science of septic.

Old Business:

Jim Fisher discussed the 2007 Higgins Lake Watershed Plan with HLF and Huron Pines. There is a possibility that they will work with us on an updated plan.

New Business:

Don Chaney announced Catherine Voigt would appreciate contacts for leaders and resources for HOHL efforts.

Public Comments: None

Announcements and Member Comments:

- Don Chaney reports Mary Jane Gepford sent a letter of appreciation for the septic ordinance.
- Joint chairperson meeting on June 9.
- Next Steering Committee on June 16, 2026 at 7 pm.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion by Biggar, supported by Chaney to adjourn at 7:35 pm. Motion carried.