

HEALTH OF HIGGINS LAKE – STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES

2997 E. Higgins Lake Drive, Roscommon, MI

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Biggar present, Booser present at 7:03 pm, Chaney present, Fisher absent, Teisan absent, Walker present

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Biggar, supported by Chaney to approve the 6/16/26 agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of 6/19/26 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Chaney, supported by Biggar to approve the 5/19/26 Meeting Minutes as presented and be forwarded to Gerrish Township Board Members for review. Motion carried.

Public Comments

No comments.

Presentations

- “Celebrate Higgins Lake & Beyond” – Sue Gelderbloom reports a community outreach program is planned for Saturday, August 8, 2026, from 11AM to 3 PM. Participating in information tables are HOHL subcommittees, DNR, Muskegon River Watershed Assembly and possible other organizations. Presentations will be given and activities for children are planned. Hot dogs, ice cream and chips will be served.
- Funding Request for Demonstration Map – Jim Ostling requests the Steering Committee to acknowledge and approve the Sovereign Park Demonstration Map project and support the Septic Committee to seek funding to complete this sample project. The Demonstration Map will utilize a LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology to capture many physical ground components. Also added to the map will be information from the Department of Agriculture and USGS to show subterranean structure with various soil layers. The Demonstration Map will also show where wells are and depths, and location of septic systems. The data will provide real, current information on a high-density part of Higgins Lake and will be used to help plan for the septic ordinance.

Subcommittee Monthly Reports & Updates

Communications – Sue Gelderbloom reports that HOHL Instagram is up and running. The Committee will be attending Subdivision Association Meetings this summer. The Ripple Effect will include a density map of Higgins Lake. They are promoting the Higgins Lake Foundation’s free water testing program, “Be Well Wise.” The “Donate” button for HOHL is functional on the Gerrish Township website.

Funding – No report.

IT – Ed Panyard reports they continue to monitor and maintain the Nextcloud operations. They continue to support the Higgins Lake Watershed Information Map with refinement of the map ongoing. They are collaborating and supporting other subcommittees technology needs.

Road End & Fertilizers – Jennie Walker reports Road End Committee met with Roscommon Road Commission to discuss the 319 road ends and other findings. A new subcommittee will be formed to assess fertilizers. This area will no longer be a part of the Road Ends Committee. Walker asked for volunteers for this new subcommittee.

Science – Brad Gibson reports that of the six subcommittees within the Science subcommittee there should be four of the subcommittees reporting by the end of the summer. Two of the subcommittees will need more time. At their next meeting they are planning to establish a timeline for reporting.

Septic – Jim Ostling reports the Septic Ordinance Draft was submitted last month to the Planning Commission.

Old Business

Volunteer requests from Sue Gelderbloom for attendance at Association meetings and from Jennie Walker for new Fertilizer subcommittee members.

New Business

- Brad Gibson asked for guidance on how to solicit funds for proposed projects. The procedure to request funds for projects was discussed. Subcommittees will provide a formed concept of the project with a proposal for needed funds to complete the project to the Steering Committee and the Funding Committee. The Steering Committee will acknowledge and decide if the project will be forwarded to the Gerrish Township for approval of the funds or request that the Funding Committee attempt to find other funding sources, such as grants or local organization resources.
- Sue Gelderbloom asked for a volunteer from the community to take over the HOHL website.

Public Comments

None

Announcements and Member Comments

Jennie Walker reports the Higgins Lake Foundation well water test kits are available at the Farmers Market on Saturdays or at the Foundation office in Roscommon.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Biggar, supported by Chaney to adjourn at 8:25 pm. Motion carried.

Jennie Walker, Chairperson & Date

Jolie Booser, Secretary & Date