



THE HEALTH OF
HIGGINS LAKE

PROTECTING OUR WATERS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

COMMITTEE REFLECTIONS

Health of Higgins Lake

JUNE 2026



EXPLORING EVERY IMPACT

EMPOWERING EVERY VOICE

ENSURING A HEALTHIER HIGGINS LAKE



COMMUNICATIONS

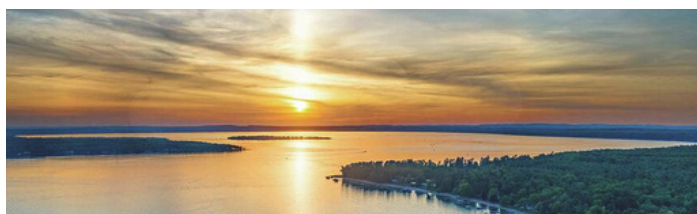
- A new HOHL Instagram account was approved and is being set up to expand outreach.
- Website analytics are being configured to track engagement better.
- The committee is scheduled to present at six association annual meetings this season.
- A summer community event, “Celebrating Higgins Lake,” is set for August 8 at the Gerrish marina, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. There will be food, fun activities for kids, and lots of information about what HOHL is doing and how community members can help protect the health of the lake.

STEERING

- Representatives from the Higgins Lake Foundation introduced Be Well Wise, offering free well water testing for Gerrish, Lyon, and Beaver Creek Township property owners through September 30. Test kits are available at the Foundation office, with samples returned to Raven Analytical Lab.
- HOHL is exploring a collaborative effort with Huron Pines and other partners to update the Higgins Lake Watershed Management Plan.

ROAD ENDS

- Inspected 81 road ends across Lyon and Gerrish Townships, documenting conditions with 87 photos.
- Identified six locations in Gerrish and 13 in Lyon needing work to reduce sediment entering the lake.
- Began coordinating with the Science Subcommittee on a water-testing protocol for road ends during heavy rain events.





FUNDING

- A decision on the pending EGLE grant is expected in summer 2026.
- The website donate button is now live with PayPal, Venmo, and credit card functionality.

SEPTIC/GROUNDWATER WELLS

- The septic ordinance has now been sent to the Gerrish Township Planning Commission for review and public input.
- **Be Well Wise** - the Higgins Lake Foundation is launching a new free water-well testing program for Gerrish, Lyon, and Beaver Creek Township residents to help families understand their water quality and make informed decisions.
- Work on the Higgins Lake Watershed Information Map continues, using Central Michigan District Health Department records and other available data to increase understanding and inform discussions about property conditions in the Watershed.



SCIENCE

All Science subcommittees are working on their research and reports:

- **Watershed/Groundwater Contamination** Subcommittee has joined the Septic Committee, expanding its work to include groundwater and watershed contamination while bringing the expertise of both groups together.
- **Changing Fisheries** will build its report on a recent DNR Fisheries report.
- **Deep Water Quality** is exploring new approaches to trophic status, since Zebra and Quagga mussels make traditional clarity-and-nutrient measures less reliable.
- **Recreational Activities** continues collecting data and is considering geofencing to learn where visitors come from.
- **Near Shore Water Quality** has focused much of its work on the question of E.coli in the lake.

INFO/TECHNOLOGY

- The committee provided primary IT support for the Higgins Lake Watershed Information Map, including parcel density views, septic and well context, shoreline/high-slope areas, and presentation layers for Steering Committee and township discussion.
- Continued work on terrain, LIDAR, and watershed-boundary information to show land surface, relative elevation, and likely water-flow patterns.