

HEALTH OF HIGGINS LAKE – STEERING COMMITTEE WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
2997 E. Higgins Lake Drive, Roscommon, MI 48653
Wednesday, July 1, 2026

Call to Order: 3:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Biggar present at 3:40 pm, Booser present, Chaney present, Fisher present (left at approximately at 5:00PM), Walker present

Public in Attendance: Brad Gibson, Jim Ostling, Jim Anderson, Teresa Korn, Sue Gelderbloom, John Barta, Phil Czech, Tim O'Rourke, Ed Panyard

Changes to Agenda: Fisher added financial planning of the Watershed Management Plan but had to leave due to a fire call.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Chaney, supported by Fisher to approve the agenda for 7/1/2026 as amended. Motion carried.

Presentation of Financial Procedures – Jim Anderson

- HOHL was created with a special revenue fund that is self-contained through Gerrish Township Board.
- HOHL Steering Committee has direct communication through Gerrish Township Board for funding projects.
- HOHL is not a nonprofit and is a governmental unit and has a budget created by Gerrish Township Board.
- All grants or other monies will be added to the account, and expenditures will be taken out through a protocol of an approval process. After the Funding subcommittee and Steering Committee approve projects and expenditures for those projects, a letter explaining those projects and expenditures should be submitted to the Gerrish Township Board for disbursement of funds.
- Jim Ostling, as a Gerrish Township Board Trustee, has the authority to approve small expenditure requests.

Public Comments:

- Phil Czech asked if the Gerrish Township Board would approve a petty cash fund. Jim Anderson replied this is what Jim Ostling has the authority to do with his ability to approve small expenditure requests.
- Teresa Korn asked if a donation to HOHL could be a Quantified Charitable Distribution (tax deductible). Jim Anderson confirmed that it can be a QCD. Anderson said he will make a change to the HOHL donation button to indicate that the donation is tax deductible.

Request for Funding

- Jim Ostling, Septic Committee, will submit a cost and benefit proposal for the Lidar Map of Sovereign Park project to the Funding Committee.
- The Steering Committee requests that all HOHL committees work on a semi-formalized budget forecast for the next year and submit them and any project proposals to the Funding Committee.

Digital Outreach Presentation – John Barta – Science Committee and HLF Board Member

- HOHL presently uses the HOHL website, FB, email and Instagram to send messages out to individuals.
- Geofencing is a method to deliver messages to the public and visitors in the Higgins Lake and Township area.
- Geofencing can send HOHL-specific messages according to location of individuals. Messages will link back to HOHL website.
- Geofencing provides real-time analytics to track effectiveness and give feedback to develop better marketing strategies.
- HOHL Committee members who reviewed geofencing options concluded that Nexstar is most cost effective.
- July and August would be ideal for starting this program. An evaluation will be conducted at the end of July to determine the cost effectiveness of the \$600/month program with the service provider, Nexstar.

Approval to Conduct Trial Run of Geofencing

After a brief discussion regarding the digital outreach presentation and request for funding, Walker asked Steering Committee members and Voight, Funding chairperson for input, then requested a motion of approval of the expenditure.

Motion made by Biggar, supported by Chaney to approve funds for a trial run of Geofencing at a cost of \$600/month for two months. Motion carried.

Subcommittee Updates and Requests

- IT – Ed Panyard

Ed states that Nextcloud is running out of space and he will give an update at the next meeting for future prospects on storage space.

- Communications – Sue Gelderbloom

The HOHL Celebration on August 8, 2026 budget will be forwarded soon.

- Road End Committee – Tim O'Rourke

O'Rourke met with Roscommon County Road Commission to discuss the six worst road ends in Gerrish Township. They will review what can be done, the cost involved and will report later in July.

- Fertilizer Committee – Tim O'Rourke

Still looking for volunteers for this committee.

- Funding – Catherine Voight

Voight reports the donate button on Gerrish Township website is functional.

Old Business

- We still need volunteers to attend Association meetings on behalf of HOHL.
- Open House needs volunteers on August 8.

New Business

Ed reports Zotero needs to have more time to curate documents by Science Committee.

Public Comments – No comments.

Adjournment

Motion by Biggar, supported by Chaney to adjourn the meeting at 5:34 pm. Motion carried.

Jennie Walker, Chairperson & Date

Jolie Booser, Secretary & Date