

HEALTH OF HIGGINS LAKE – STEERING COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
2997 E. Higgins Lake Drive, Roscommon, MI 48653
Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Call to Order: 7:01 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Online Audience: Not presented

Public Audience: Jeri Gleichauf, John Mikoljczak, Sue Gelderbloom, Brad Gibson, Jim Ostling, Ed Panyard

Changes to Agenda: No changes.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Chaney, supported by Biggar to approve the 7/21/2026 Agenda as presented and forwarded to the Gerrish Township Board Members for review. Motion carried.

Approval of 6/16/2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Biggar, supported by Chaney to approve the 6/16/2026 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes as presented and forwarded to the Gerrish Township Board Members for review. Motion carried.

Approval of 7/1/2026 Work Session Minutes

Motion by Chaney, supported by Biggar to approve the 7/1/2026 Steering Committee Work Session Minutes as presented and forwarded to the Gerrish Township Board Members for review. Motion carried.

Public Comments: No comments.

Presentations:

- Celebrate Higgins Lake & Beyond – Sue Gelderbloom reports on August 8, 2026, from 11 am – 3 pm HOHL will host Celebrate Higgins Lake & Beyond at Gerrish Township Marina. The following are planned for guests: food, bounce house, scavenger hunts, video booth, find your favorite place on Higgins Lake table and information tables from other organizations. They are looking for volunteers for this event. Gerrish Township Fire Department will host and open house on the same day at the fire house.
- Digital Outreach – Sue Gelderbloom presented a power point to show how we are going to use geofencing to target audiences at the campgrounds, on the water, around the water, and in west Gerrish Township with environmentally friendly messages about the lake. These messages will also link to the HOHL website to encourage the public to join the HOHL information streams. The effectiveness of this campaign will be evaluated at the end of July before moving on to an August distribution of messages.

Subcommittee Monthly Reports and Updates:

- **Communications** – Sue Gelderbloom reports committee members are attending property association meetings this summer to give information on the HOHL, email lists have migrated to constant contacts with 370 emails, the Ripple Effect will showcase Celebrate Higgins Lake & Beyond, Road Ends Committee progress, and our website has been given a facelift.
- **IT** – Ed Panyard reports they are working on the watershed information map, resolving Nextcloud space issues with Brian Hill, and are supporting the Communications Committee on their website and videos needed for the celebration.
- **Road Ends & Fertilizers** – Tim O'Rourke was not present but has included the monthly report and the need for volunteers for the Fertilizer subcommittee.
- **Science** – Brad Gibson reports they are progressing in the research phase and should have an update by the next meeting.
- **Septic & Groundwater** – Jim Ostling reports that the Gerrish Township Planning Commission has the septic ordinance draft, and he has been meeting with them to answer questions. The next Septic &

Groundwater Committee meeting will be a public meeting with Zoom available with CMHD and the Planning Commission in attendance on August 11, 2026, at 1 pm. The committee also participated in Lake Saver Days with HLF. They are looking at the types and locations of testing needs for our groundwater. The Demonstration Map, including drainfields, wells, and septic tanks for a subdivision area, is in process.

Old Business:

Funding Committee Change Approval:

- Motion by Chaney, supported by Biggar to approve to disband the Funding Committee and incorporate into the purview of the Steering Committee as presented. Motion carried.
- Walker stated Catherine Voigt will continue to assist in obtaining grants for HOHL.

New Business:

- A letter was submitted by Jennie Walker to explain the process for HOHL project proposals and budgets. Subcommittees will propose projects with monies needed to the Steering Committee for approval. The project will be forwarded to the Gerrish Township Board for review and disbursement after the project is approved by the Steering Committee.

Approval of Project Proposal Procedures:

Motion by Biggar, supported by Chaney to approve the project proposal procedures as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of the Demonstration Map Project:

Motion by Booser, supported by Chaney to approve the Demonstration Map Project proposal as presented. Motion carried.

EGLE Press Release & Budget Adjustment

Approval of Press Release and Budget Adjustments to be Submitted to EGLE:

Motion by Biggar, supported by Chaney to approve the press release and budget adjustments as amended and be forwarded to EGLE and the Gerrish Township Board Members for review. Motion carried.

- Celebration of Higgins Lake & Beyond invitations sent to State Representatives

Public Comments: No comments.

Announcements:

- HLF water testing kits are available at the HLF office.
- Check out some local and regional organizations, and what they are doing for the health of our community and beyond: Higgins Lake Foundation (HLF), Higgins Lake Land Conservancy (HLLC), Higgins Lake Property Owners Association (HLPOA), Higgins Lake Swimmers Itch Organization (HLSIO), Higgins Lake United (HLU), Michigan Clean Water Corps, Great Lakes and Energy, Central Michigan Health Department, and many more.
- Donations to HOHL can be made on our website.

Adjournment:

Motion by Biggar, supported by Chaney to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Motion carried.

Jennie Walker, Chairperson & Date

Jolie Booser, Secretary & Date