

## Trustee Report for Jim Ostling - December 2024

This is my first monthly report - Nov 22, 2024 – December 10, 2024. Since elected in November, I would like to thank the residents for their support, and I look forward to working with the Board and the residents of Gerrish Township to address the daily needs and the business of the community.

- Prior to my official start date of November 22, 2024, I began work on what I hoped to roll out to the Township Board was a new approach to the Health of Higgins Lake. This work started as a series of ideas, documents, and thoughts on how we might take a fresh approach at how the Board might look at a way to address the perceived water quality issues of Higgins.

As more and more material began to come together, I created a Power Point document that could be used to convey the various ideas and thoughts to a wider audience when the time came.

This Power Point grew to over 60 slides and too lengthy to use in a single session. From this document I created a much shorter “high Level” presentation that can be used to highlight the broader material - which I rolled out to the Board at our work session on December 5. This work has consumed the majority of my time with the board over the last month. The Power Point document is attached.

- I worked with Supervisor Hill to prepare the required EGLE report detailing the material accumulated at the compost site over the summer. This included the initial filing of paperwork to register the site earlier in the summer then measuring and calculating the on site volume for the report. The report was successfully transmitted to EGLE prior to the November 15 filing deadline.
- I attended the Lyon Township Board meeting on November 20 and again on December 2.

- I attended the Board Work session on December 5 and presented the PP on the Health of Higgins.
- I was asked to participate in a review of the RFP to select an engineering firm to continue work on behalf of GLUA. I attended several organizational meetings and interview's for three potential candidates. I am now in the process of finalizing my thoughts on each candidate in the search for the best fit.

Regards,

Jim Ostling

Trustee 1 – Gerrish Township Board

# HEALTH OF HIGGINS

NEXT STEPS TO ADDRESS THE LONG-TERM HEALTH OF HIGGINS LAKE.

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Health of Higgins Steering Committee 25

## Mission Statement

*Facilitate and guide a renewed collaborative effort of stakeholders with a common interest in securing the overall health of Higgins Lake for the generations to come*

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## Identify Common Ground

- ▶ Consolidate Efforts
- ▶ Search for those interested in health of Lake --
- ▶ Minimize Partisan Conflicts
- ▶ Identify a Single Direction on two parallel tracks
  - ▶ Health of Higgins initiative
  - ▶ GLWA - potential wastewater treatment effort
- ▶ Improved transparency
- ▶ Identify stakeholders - local and statewide
- ▶ Attract new funding

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## New & Consolidated Effort

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Steering Committee</li> <li>▶ Baseline Data / Old and New</li> <li>▶ Universal Database</li> <li>▶ Immediate opportunities           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Septic Drainage</li> <li>▶ Road and Erosion</li> <li>▶ Fertilizer Ordinance</li> <li>▶ Mapping</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Address Sewer prospect</li> <li>▶ Focus on needs of entire Township</li> <li>▶ Outreach to community</li> <li>▶ Education</li> <li>▶ Higgins is a regional resource -</li> <li>▶ Need statewide support to maintain its quality</li> </ul>
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## Suggestion to get started

- ▶ Gerrish Township Board to take the lead initially.
- ▶ The 5 member steering committee with representatives from interested stakeholders --
- ▶ Most important - each representative must believe that the future health of Higgins Lake is of future importance.
  - ▶ If they do not have a belief, they should find another area to focus their efforts. This has to be a "win-win" situation with the other stakeholders involved.
- ▶ Steering Committee should have the ability to add and remove individuals from the committee.
- ▶ Identify Common Ground and get extreme positions on the periphery.
- ▶ Prepare a common set of criteria.

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## Organizational Chart

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## Major Areas to Consider

- ▶ Administrative framework
- ▶ Baseline quality of Lake
- ▶ Baseline potable water Wells throughout the Township
- ▶ Septic Ordinance
- ▶ GLUA - Potential Sewer system
- ▶ Other components:
  - ▶ Road end runoff
  - ▶ Fertilizer
  - ▶ Shoreline erosion
- ▶ Mapping
  - ▶ Testing
  - ▶ Well/Septic
  - ▶ Topography
  - ▶ Geo Locations
- ▶ Universal Database

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## Data Analysis

- ▶ Assemble and analyze data to date
- ▶ Start new testing if warranted
- ▶ Baseline status of lake in common terms
- ▶ Commission review of data to date
- ▶ Create new Universal Data base to track progress
- ▶ Website / wide access to data
- ▶ Community outreach and involvement

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## Develop Septic Inventory

- ▶ Prepare draft Septic Ordinance to be implemented when needed
- ▶ Township wide - all septic's would need to comply
- ▶ Expand universal database to include septic data
- ▶ Start with mapping - locate all well/septic
  - ▶ New geo-mapping / Health Department
  - ▶ Leverage others work

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## Sewer System

- ▶ Work in conjunction with GLUA
- ▶ Re-evaluate solutions
- ▶ Revisit technologies
- ▶ Consider alternate approaches
- ▶ RFP to select engineering consulting firm
- ▶ Outreach to wider community
- ▶ Remove existing SAD?

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## Summary

- ▶ New Steering Committee formed by Gerrish Township
- ▶ Evaluate Data to date and start additional testing
- ▶ Do what we can now - Septic inventory, Fert, ord, Road ends, mapping, etc.
- ▶ Community education and outreach
- ▶ Provide guidance for GLUA
- ▶ Develop Master plan/approach

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## The Goal is the Health of the Lake

We are all headed in the same direction!

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