

# Trustee Report for Jim Ostling – January (2) 2025

Jan 15, 2025 – Jan 31, 2025\*\*

- 1/15/25 Attended Lyon Township Board Meeting
- 1/16/25 Initial Call with Mr. Jarski at the CMDPH regarding their FetchGIS data base system
- 1/20/25 Phone call with Members of the HLPOA to answer questions regarding the Health of Higgins Initiative
- Several - Worked on the job descriptions for the HOH Steering Committee and various sub committees.
- Phone meeting with Steve King from the CMDPD – discussed HOH initiative
- 1/23/25 Attended Board work Session
- 1/24/25 Attended pre-interview meeting for fire chief
- 1/28/25 Participated in the selection Committee for the new fire chief replacement
- 1/29/25 Met with Supervisors Bertrand and Hill

During the last two weeks of January, I continued to work on the Health of Higgins Initiative with key focus on the following.

- It was called out at the last board meeting by a member of the audience from Lyon Township that they took exception and did not like the term Steering Committee we use for the Health of Higgins. To evaluate the comment and assess whether we had possibly picked a poor term, I found the following:

---

*A **Steering Committee** is a group of individuals who provide guidance, direction, and oversight for a project or organization. In the context of a research group, a Steering Committee plays a crucial role in ensuring that the research activities align with the overall goals and objectives of the group. Some key points about the relevance of a Steering Committee to a research group are:*

- 1. Guidance and Direction:** The Steering Committee helps set the strategic direction for the research group, ensuring that the research activities are aligned with the group's mission and goals.*
- 2. Oversight and Accountability:** The committee provides oversight to ensure that the research is conducted ethically and meets the*



*required standards. They hold the research group accountable for their progress and outcomes.*

- 3. Resource Allocation:** *The Steering Committee often has a role in allocating resources, such as funding and personnel, to different research projects within the group. This ensures that resources are used efficiently and effectively.*
- 4. Decision-Making:** *The committee is involved in making key decisions related to the research group's activities, such as approving research proposals, setting priorities, and resolving conflicts.*
- 5. Networking and Collaboration:** *Members of the Steering Committee often have extensive networks and can facilitate collaborations with other researchers, institutions, and stakeholders. This can enhance the research group's impact and reach.*

*Overall, the Steering Committee is essential for providing leadership, ensuring accountability, and fostering a collaborative environment within a research group.*

---

So, I stand by the name and continue to thank all those that have supported our initial work with this group. I look forward to working with you.



- At our January Board meeting, the Board approved the structure of the Health of Higgins Initiative and the creation of a Steering Committee its subcommittees.

- **Steering Committee**

- Science

- Finance

- Communications / Outreach

- Lake Data

- Mapping /database

- New Lake testing

- Water well testing

- Documentation

- Road Ends/fertilizer/Septic evaluation

- There is more detail on what each of these committees would be expected to do and they are listed on the HOH section of Gerrish web site.

We will be accepting applications from those truly interested in working as a team to bring ideas, talents, expertise, resources, training and enthusiasm to this new approach to how we can help our lake.

If you are interested in getting involved, please go to the website (<http://Gerrishtownshp.org>) and have a look at the positions, fill out an application and give us a chance to gather them and review. We will be at least 30 days (maybe longer) taking applications to fill the key spots. There will always be room for new ideas and energy as time goes on.

- In the meantime, there has been work on some of these subprojects gathering information and data for the committee to hit the ground running.

Road End Erosion – The Roscommon County Road Commission prepared an assessment of the road ends in Gerrish and Lyon in 1993. We are reviewing this report and have talked with the RCRC Manager and engineer about what the next steps to update the report may be. Much of the data is still relevant but should be reassessed. We will prioritize these with the RCRC and prepare a plan to address the most critical first.

Mapping / Database – We have a listing of all properties in Gerrish and Lyon (Lyon data is pending) to include property ID, name, address, location etc. This will be our first look at gathering data about properties throughout the



Township and assembling public information to better assist in planning and prioritizing. The EXCEL Pivot Table will be maintained by HOH for now and expanded to add necessary features.

Septic Evaluation – I met with Mark Jarski at the CMDPH to get a tour of their FETCH GIS database and see where the data entry effort is today. This system will be extremely helpful in evaluating the extent to which septic systems are up to Health Department code over the next several months. Currently the HD is entering the information from their paper records in file cabinets onto the FETCH system. Gerrish records will be entered as soon as Lyon is completed. Once completed, we will begin to have a better view of the scale of the condition of recorded septic inspections and when they were last reviewed throughout the Township. This information can then be used to help in preparing any next steps regarding a potential septic ordinance.

Lake Testing – The Roscommon Area Public School chemistry class had an ongoing year-to-year lake water testing program for the last six years. There have been personnel and curriculum changes at the school. We are working with School officials and others close to the project to get this important testing back on track and continue to monitor the results. RAVEN Labs in Roscommon has graciously worked closely with this effort and is willing to continue. We will have more on this next month.

Project Schedule – I have prepared a *Microsoft Project* Schedule for the initial rollout of the HOH initiative. Once committees are filled, we will update the schedule with agreed timing. This GANTT chart helps to show an overall view of the work that is going on and where it is within the overall project.

I also have used MS Project to inventory the various studies that have been done and their place in time. A significant computer error has rendered URL's of the studies unavailable at this time but will be corrected as time permits.

- Supervisor Hil and I have had several communications with both GLUA and representatives from Lyon. Significant differences remain and are being addressed.

\*\* Previous Trustee reports ranged from Board meeting to meeting. I have adjusted my reporting timeline to include the entire previous month. Thus this report is only for the last half of January. Next months report will be for all of February.

