

Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority Board
August 14, 2023
APPROVED

GERRISH LYON UTILITY AUTHORITY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
August 14, 2023
Held at Gerrish Township Hall
2997 E. Higgins Lake Drive
Roscommon, MI 48653

Regular meeting called to order at 7:00 pm. Present: Eric Carlson, Phil Czech, Dave Hall, Tom Metcalf, Jim Barnwell, Bill Lamb
Absent: Jerry McKenna

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA: Motion by Phil Czech, supported by Eric Carlson.
CARRIED that the agenda be approved as presented.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Secretary position - tabled until next meeting.

BUSINESS ITEMS

APPROVAL OF JULY 10, 2023 MEETING MINUTES: Motion by Eric Carlson, supported by Dave Hall. CARRIED that the meeting minutes are approved as presented.

PRESENTATION

Kelly Hon and Matt Lumbart- Michigan Rural Water Association (MRWA)

Presentation started by reviewing water quality of private wells and what influences them. Discussed the importance of testing wells annually. Septic tanks can affect ground water and surface water quality. A water cycle model was used to show how contaminants (septic tanks) can enter into the aquifer. What is dumped into the ground will end up in the aquifer.

Matt Lumbart- Reviewed STEP systems and talked about various systems that are within the State of Michigan. Reviewed grinder pumps versus effluent pumps, stating that grinder pumps require more maintenance. STEP systems still need to be pumped every 3-5 years.

Old Business:

Updated status on project plan:

Chairman Barnwell: Stated we have completed topographical mapping of the site and identified location for well monitoring. This information will be submitted to EGLE for permits.

New Business:

Discussion of onsite septic ordinances - Board members:

Members reviewed aspects of the Lyon Township proposed septic ordinance. This would require everyone within the township to have their system inspected. They would start with properties with no records of installation. If a system was to be replaced within the SAD, a performance (NSF-245 Standard) would be required. The septic ordinance is not a replacement for the sewer system but would work together.

Public Comments:

Topics brought forward included (1) concern about the lack of funding, (2) limitations of the STEP system, and (3) termination of the SAD.

Board Comments-

Tom Metcalf: Thanked everyone for coming.

Eric Ganson: Lyon Township is still working on "yes" petitions. Currently we are at 43%.

Phil Czech: Septic tanks treat bacteria but don't treat phosphorus, nitrates, or pharmaceuticals. He reviewed handout pertaining to pressurized sewers versus gravity. Communities are in long-term cycle funding studies/reports on sewer systems and are told they are too expensive or not affordable. While waiting, construction costs will continually rise. "With substantially lower up-front capital and repair/replacement costs, and with O&M costs that are virtually the same as those of gravity sewers, the life cycle costs of STEP sewer systems are clearly lower than those of a typical gravity sewer." We need to work together to ensure affordability.

Dave Hall: Reference from the Tip of the Mitt report - Gerrish and Lyon Township pursue septic regulation ordinances. Even as a sewer project moves forward, it takes years to obtain funding and permits, develop best management practices, and finally construct the sewer system. A septic regulation ordinance can address nutrient pollution now, while conversations are still occurring regarding the potential of a sewer system.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Motion by Bill Lamb, supported by Dave Hall. Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm.