

Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority Board
May 8, 2023
APPROVED

GERRISH LYON UTILITY AUTHORITY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
May 8, 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, Jerry McKenna, Phil Czech, Dave Hall, Tom Metcalf, Jim Barnwell, Bill Lamb

Pledge of Allegiance

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

1. CHAIRMAN: Motion by Dave Hall to elect Jim Barnwell as chairman of Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority, supported by Phil Czech: CARRIED that Jim Barnwell is now chairman of GLUA.
2. VICE CHAIRMAN: Motion made by Jerry McKenna to elect Dave Hall as vice chairman of Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority, supported by Eric Carlson: CARRIED that Dave Hall is now vice chairman of GLUA.
3. SECRETARY: Tabled by chairman Jim Barnwell until next meeting.

PRESENTATION: Or. Mark Luttenton

Updated and reviewed the current state of health of Higgins Lake. Most consultants/researchers still use trophic status index (TSI) developed back in the 1970's. Oligotrophic refers to low nutrients, such as phosphorus or nitrogen. Mesotrophic has medium amounts and eutrophic has large amounts/nutrient-rich. TSI is based on chlorophyll A, totalphosphorus (TP) and secchi disc transparency.

Dr. Luttenton stated TSI does not account for the amount of dreissenids (zebra mussels and quagga mussels) in the lake. He explained that the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) outlines why the TSI approach does not always work, but biomass could be a better measure.

Dr. Luttenton does not believe that TSI works for Higgins Lake because of the astronomical numbers of zebra and quagga mussels present in Higgins Lake. He believes that the phosphorus is bound to algae and aquatic plants, such as, Eurasian milfoil and dreissenid mussels, and there are now large amounts of "organic stuff" on the bottom of the lake. This biomass on the bottom of the lake contains huge amounts of phosphorus.

Dr. Luttenton also stated there is a decrease in dissolved oxygen (DO). Decreased DO directly affects the fish in Higgins Lake.

Dr. Luttenton recommends reducing the amount of nutrients in Higgins Lake by installing sewer system and banning fertilizers.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF APRIL 10, 2023 MEETING MINUTES: Motion by Phil Czech, supported by Tom Metcalf: CARRIED that the meeting minutes be approved as presented.

2023-2024 MEETING DATES/TIMES/LOCATION: Motion by Jerry McKenna, supported by Dave Hall: CARRIED that the 2023-2024 meeting dates/times/location be approved as presented.

Old Business:

Updated status of project plan: Paperwork on sewer plan was submitted on May 1 and will follow up with EGLE to provide more information, as needed.

REU Update: Phil Czech discussed the preliminary REU's for operating and maintenance costs (handout). The subcommittee is still reviewing and will present their final recommendation to the board at a later board meeting.

New Business:

Authorization to submit applications, permits and supporting documents: Chairman Barnwell discussed the need for the chairman and vice chairman of GLUA to be able to submit applications, permits and supporting documents on behalf of the GLUA board. Motion by Phil Czech. Chairman Barnwell asked for a roll call vote on this motion.

Yes: Carlson, McKenna, Czech, Hall, Metcalf, Lamb, Barnwell

No: None

Motion CARRIED.

Public Comments:

- Citizen remarked on the status of the loan application.
- Citizen commented and listed reason for no sewer line under Higgins Lake to serve the island.

GLUA Comments:

- Eric Carlson- Lyon Township is still working to get 50.1% support for the sewer system.
- Phil Czech - Discussed projected life expectancies of STEP System versus septic systems and their related costs.
- Bill Lamb- Thanked the subcommittee for the REU handout.

- Dave Hall - Commented that the engineers have not finalized any design on the system that would support the island in the STEP project.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Motion by Jerry McKenna, supported by Tom Metcalf. Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.