



4241 Old US 27 South, Suite 2
Gaylord, MI 49735
(989) 448-2293
huronpines.org

2/24/22

Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority
2997 East Higgins Lake Drive
Roscommon, MI 48653

Dear Authority Board,

The proposed sewer is a community project that will impact future generations by protecting drinking water, cold-water fish population, the water quality of Higgins Lake for recreational enjoyment and the economic vitality of the community.

Research confirms continuing water quality degradation in Higgins Lake. This degradation is changing the trophic status of the lake, results of which have been observable over time.

Recent research indicates poor filtration capability of the sand within the watershed; much of it oversaturated by years of use. The high density of development around the lake has been an issue tied to a decline in water quality, going back to a 2001 study by the US Geological Survey. Going back more than 20 years, watershed management staff recognized that this would be a problem that would continue to increase as time went by. A lakeside sewer system will help reduce the type of pollutants that septic systems currently contribute to the lake. For this reason, Huron Pines is supportive of your efforts for the completion of the sewer system proposed by the Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority.

We are at a point in time where we're seeing greater investments in infrastructure and water quality, both at the state and federal levels. It may be possible that you are eligible to receive some of these funds to help offset the costs of a system, in addition to low interest loans. Having broad community support for the effort to reduce pollutants to the lake will strengthen your chances to receive grant funds for this project. Huron Pines can commit to tracking and sharing with you possible funding opportunities for the Authority or its townships to apply toward.

We wish you the best in your efforts.

Sincerely,

Brad Jensen

Brad Jensen
Executive Director