

Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority (GLUA) Sewer Update Summer 2023

1. The current lake wide sewer system cannot move forward until Lyon Township property owners sign a "yes" petition totaling 50.1% of the acreage in the township. If you haven't signed a yes petition, please do so. Acquiring the necessary yes petitions does not determine a sewer will be installed, it means the GLUA can work toward the goal of an affordable sewer system.
2. The need of a sewer system continues to become greater. Now, forever chemicals along with human waste effluent, are entering our ground water that feeds our drinking wells and our lake. The Central Michigan Health Department tested 122 wells surrounding Higgins Lake, **ALL** tested positive for Nitrates, with 10% over the safe drinking threshold of 10PPM, the highest was 23PPM the average was 4PPM.
3. The system is affordable. \$1 -\$4 a day depending the amount of funding Forgiveness/Grants, to stop the contamination of the water we drink and greatly reduce contamination entering our lake.
4. Both our State Government through EGLE, and the Federal Government through USDA, are willing to fund our project with affordable low interest long term loans.
5. Both EGLE and USDA offer Funding Forgiveness/Grants if we qualify. In addition the GLUA is working with our State and Federal Legislators with multiple Waste Water Bills that have been introduced. Although there is no guarantee Higgins Lake will qualify for relief or receive forgiveness or grants, the dollar amount which needs to be financed by us will be affordable.
6. The DNR has agreed to move forward on the transfer of land to the GLUA near W. Pine Drive and old 127 for use as a Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). We are currently evaluating whether the land will meet the permit requirements the DNR has established, this includes soil borings and a work plan for the WWTP.
7. It has been three years since the project was first discussed. Projects like ours often take years in the planning stages to ensure best practices with regard to system plans, construction techniques, and affordability. We anticipate multiple construction phases over a four to five year period starting in 2025.

We appreciate everyone's support in this much needed centralized sewer system. It's the right thing to do, it's about our health and safety, it's about our future.

What can you do now? Residents can sign a Yes petition in Lyon Township. You can express to your neighbors that the development of a lake wide sewer is essential to protection of Higgins Lake and our drinking water and encourage them to sign a positive petition.

