

## **Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority (GLUA) Sewer Update Winter 2023**

The current lake wide sewer system is now moving forward as a result of Lyon Township attaining more than 50 % petitions in favor of the Higgins Lake Sewer System. In compliance with P.A. 188 both Gerrish and Lyon Townships have now authorized the creation of the Special Assessment Roll.

The need of a sewer system continues to become greater. Now, forever chemicals along with human waste effluent are being detected. Nutrients from septic systems continue to enter our ground water drinking wells and our lake. Our local Health Department previously tested 122 wells surrounding Higgins Lake, **ALL** tested positive for Nitrates, with 10% over the safe drinking threshold of 10PPM. (Highest was 23PPM the average was 4PPM). The nutrients entering Higgins Lake support the noxious weed/algae growth (biomass). As the biomass degrades the oxygen required for deep, cold water fish to survive is depleted. MDNR Fisheries Management reported that in Higgins Lake the survival of deep cold water fish are threatened due to this depletion of oxygen. The MDNR report supports the GLUA in implementation of a Sewer System .

GLUA is moving forward with both EGLE and USDA to seek Funding Forgiveness/Grants for which we may qualify. Additionally GLUA is working with our State and Federal Legislators with multiple Waste Water Bills that have been or may become available. The project will need to qualify and your support is critical. Our goal is to make the project affordable.

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). The GLUA is in a due diligence period, testing the soils and verifying the site is acceptable for securing a discharge permit.

Over three years this 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.

GLUA appreciate everyone's support. Your support and the support of your neighbors insures that the project will continue to move forward. It's the right thing to do to insure our health, safety and welfare. It's about our future. Respectfully, Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority.