



*Dear Members,*

*2023 HPR Holiday Newsletter*

*Hope you like the new HPR logo as much as our HPR board does. It was designed by our own director Brittany Sommerville. This holiday note is in lieu of our normal monthly meeting where we decided December was busy and crazy enough without one more meeting to attend. We hope you understand.*

*Most of all, we hope this holiday season and your Christmas is filled with family, friends, and joy! Those of us working closely with HPR are celebrating a special 2023-24 filled with much growth in our efforts to impact our river and a renewed hope that we can make a difference as we gain support and funding from our communities and members who have stepped up their commitment to make a difference.*

*On the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of our holiday email we will share with you the many member groups who are either working directly with HPR on river projects or who have contributed funding to help move us forward in those projects.*

*The other list is our current efforts at bringing to reality some of our HPR priorities for 2023-24. We hope you will take a few minutes to review the list of our partners along with the projects and priorities we are working on to improve our river and tributaries.*

*Lastly, in January after the holiday rush has subsided and whatever "normal" is now returns we will begin our 2024 membership drive for dues and donations. We hope we have proved to you how serious HPR is at trying to make a difference in restoring our local Pine River as one of the few natural water resources in our county and watershed.*

*Please know how appreciative we are in your giving.....it does make a difference!!*



***There is so much to be thankful for this holiday season!  
Wishing you a merry Christmas & Happy New Year!***

Partners who are either working  
with HPR or helping with funding!

City of Alma-funding support

City of St. Louis-funding support

Gratiot County Commissioners-funding support

Gratiot County Community Foundation-funding support

Mid-Michigan District Health Department-consulting

Greater Gratiot Development Inc.-consulting

Gratiot County Chamber of Commerce-consulting

United Way of Gratiot & Isabella Counties-consulting

Alma College-annual research and water testing

Triterra (Alma office)-consulting and testing

Gratiot Conservation District-board member, consulting

Michigan State University Extension-consulting

EGLE-Environment, Great Lakes, & Energy grant assistance

Streamside Ecological Services-consulting and testing

Michigan Environmental Council-advocacy

GEI Engineering-consulting

Projects & Priorities HPR is working on  
to make a difference!

Over 350 annual dues paying members

Annual Water Testing by Alma College

Rural Septic Service for our small towns

An annual budget that is healthy

Working closely with EGLE for grants

New HPR Director Brittany Sommerville

HPR board and officers that are committed

Alma College students joining HPR-LEAPS

Alma College Vista Volunteer Sara Warren

Municipal funds support-county, Alma/SL

Pontoon Boat for water testing & cleanup

Monthly Meeting with our members

Writing 5 grants, earning 3 fund awards

Upper Pine River Watershed Plan

Working on greater Advocacy with MEC

HPR Quarterly Newsletter

**Other Important Business:**

Nominations for the HPR Board class of 2024 are now open and you may contact any HPR Officer to nominate an individual for a board seat. The current board members up for renewal are Gary Rayburn, Lynn Sandro, Barb Chovanac, Tim Lambrecht, and Chuck Sandro.

HPR officers to contact would include: Gary Rayburn, Dave Shepherd, Sue Joyce, and Lynn Sandro.

Our January monthly membership meeting is Thursday, January 11, 2024 at the Alma Library @ 7:00 p.m.