

Healthy Pine River  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
May 8th, 2025  
7:00pm

Call to Order: Chuck

Approval of Minutes: Gary/Mike

Financial Report:

Opening Balance as of 04/01/25: \$26,763.18

Deposits and Credits: \$2,978.46

Withdrawals and Debits: \$7,938.30

Closing Balance as of 04/30/25: \$21,803.36

Meeting Adjourned: Chuck

**“Tour of the Upper Pine River of Mid-Michigan”:**

A brief documentary on the Pine River was presented, showcasing various segments of the river and highlighting its current condition. The documentary covered the Alma Impoundment wetlands, featuring the impoundment area itself and the diverse wildlife that inhabits and is impacted by the Pine River ecosystem.

**Oil Spill Update:**

Gratiot County Drain Commissioner Bernard Barnes was introduced and participated in a Q&A session with the audience to provide updates on the oil spill. While the Wolverine Pipe Line Company investigates the incident, Barnes relayed that no additional details have been shared with his office at this time. He noted that the third-party contractor responsible for the digging did not obtain the required permit from the Drain Commissioner’s office. Barnes emphasized that reinforcing regulatory compliance can help prevent a similar incident in the future.

**HPR Updates:**

HPR reviewed its priority list and ongoing action efforts. This summer, HPR will fund the 2025 Summer Water Testing program conducted by Alma College, covering supplies, intern stipends, and related expenses. Alma College will publish a public summary of the testing results. Outreach efforts continue, including meetings with county commissioners and the Cities of Alma and St. Louis to share updates on the Pine River and Upper Pine River Watershed. HPR is also partnering with the Regional Educational Service District (RESA) and Forest Hills Nature Center (FHNC) to create a curriculum for fourth and fifth graders focused on the watershed, which will launch during field trips to FHNC in the Fall of 2025. Septic engagement efforts are ongoing, involving collaboration with rural communities to promote proper septic practices and awareness of available services. In the agricultural sector, HPR is working to re-establish the Farm Engagement Committee in partnership with local farmers and farm agencies.

HPR was recently awarded five thousand and fifty-five dollars from the Gratiot County Community Foundation to support research, outreach materials, promotional items, and sustainability consultation. Additionally, HPR was awarded a ten thousand matching grant from United Way to further advance its initiatives.