

Healthy Pine River
Membership Meeting Minutes
September 11th, 2025
7:00pm @ Pine River Park

Call to Order: Brittany

Approval of Minutes: Doug/Gary

Financial Report:

Opening Balance as of 08/01/25:	\$43,299.31
Deposits and Credits:	\$5,139.80
Withdrawals and Debits:	\$1,046.37
Closing Balance as of 08/31/25:	\$47,392.74

Meeting Adjourned: Doug/Brittany

Understanding our river in its current condition presented by Garnet Johnson, Triterra. Discussed ecological issues and sources of contamination within the Pine River.

Summer Water Testing & Initiatives presented by Murray Borrello, Alma College. The Great Lakes Research Institute at Alma College has been established, and Healthy Pine River with this new program will have a permanent place to reach out for assistance at the college. This program has found methods to trace algal blooms to the source. These methods will be published in a peer-reviewed journal so that other communities can use this study as a reference for their own pollution issues. The October 2025 meeting will go into detail about this year's water testing results.

Dam Risk Reduction Grant and Feasibility Study presented by Michelle La Rose, GEI Engineering Consultants. The EGLE Dam Risk Reduction Grant is a state funded program to help financially struggling dam owners. The State Street Dam has received funding through this grant to pursue a Feasibility Study to study three options for the State Street Dam – Removal, Partial Removal, and continuing maintenance as usual. The Project cost is \$290,000, paid for through the grant and matching in-kind funds. The Feasibility study will consider infrastructure, sediment management, flow of water during and after any construction, ecological options, community surveying, data collection, and identify potential problems with each option. It will answer questions such as estimated costs, pros and cons of each option, and how to target future funding options. The models of each option will include impact on the St. Louis dam infrastructure, but this study is for options regarding Alma's State Street Dam. The grant work starts October 2025 and is estimated to take 9 months to complete the study. The dam's original purpose was for logging and recreation. Now it serves as an emergency water supply for the City of Alma.

Dr. Ben Peterson is introduced as the new chair of HPR. He lead the discussion on **updated priorities and projects** which include: continuing to fund annual water testing, working with Alma Public Schools to deliver presentations on the Pine River Watersheds to classrooms this fall, working with RESD and Forest Hill Nature Center to develop Pine River education during student field trips for 4th and 5th grade students, continuing septic outreach to our rural communities and collaboration with the Mid Michigan District Health Department, to re-establish the Farm Engagement Committee with farmers and farm agencies, fund the State Street Dam feasibility study, find funding support for HPR including seeking grants and membership drives, continuing Alma College LEAPS collaboration to grow the working relationship between Alma College students and HPR, and support advocacy efforts that support improvement of our waterways.

Dave DeGraaf donates copies of his book *Pine River Wanderings* to HPR, which are for sale. Proceeds from this sale being a direct donation to HPR. HPR also delivered a community barbeque prior to the meeting and had free merchandise available to members including tote bags and mugs.

Next Meeting
October 9, 2025, 7PM
Alma Public Library