

Healthy Pine River
Membership Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2026
7:00 PM @ Alma Public Library

Call to Order: Dr. Ben Peterson

Approval of Minutes: Sue J. / Gary R.

Financial Report:

Beginning Balance as of 04/01/26	\$44,676.52
Deposits & Credits	\$ 1,622.86
Withdrawals & Debits	\$ 2,674.45
Ending Balance as of 04/30/26	\$43,624.93

Meeting Adjourned: Sue J. Gary R.

HPR Promotional Video Draft Alma College student Dante presented a rough draft of a new promotional video for Healthy Pine River. He requested feedback from members on how to improve and finalize the video. A group discussion followed regarding the content, messaging, and overall direction of the video. HPR plans to relaunch its social media campaign in August/September 2026, and this video is intended to be part of that effort.

School Outreach Expansion HPR discussed its goal of expanding outreach to local middle and high schools. The plans are to develop educational presentations and materials focused on freshwater conservation and the Pine River. We are looking for volunteers to train to deliver these presentations in classrooms. This initiative is part of HPR's broader effort to increase community awareness and youth engagement.

Alma College Research Presentation Alma College research student Gage presented his ongoing research on property values near the Pine River. His work includes interviews with local real estate agents about the housing market in Alma. Gage is also collecting personal stories from Alma residents about their experiences living near the Pine River. These stories will help inform conversations with elected officials and strengthen HPR's advocacy efforts. He has transcriptions of all interviews available for anyone interested in reviewing them. A group discussion followed, with members asking questions and sharing insights related to his findings.

Alma College Watershed Research Update

Maddie, the Great Lakes Watershed Assistant Director at Alma College, provided an update on Great Lakes Watershed Institute. Alma College will continue its summer research program, with six student researchers participating, four from Alma College and two from Montcalm Community College. Their work will include continued monitoring and data collection throughout the summer season. Maddie also shared details about the upcoming five-day summer camp. The camp is designed for students entering 8th through 10th grade and aims to help youth explore their interest in environmental science. There will be hands-on water testing and lab work experience, a field trip to a wildlife reserve, and opportunities to meet and learn from environmental professionals. They will present a short media project at the end of the week where the students highlight what they learned

Livestream Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYAXBjfmXn8&t=6s>

Next Meeting: August 13, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Alma Public Library