



MEETING SUMMARY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS FLOODING TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2018

A meeting of the Charter Township of Texas Flooding Task Force was held on November 1, 2018, commencing at approximately 10:30 a.m. at the Texas Charter Township Hall.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor John Hinkle opened the meeting, thanking everyone for taking the time to attend and inviting the Task Force members to introduce themselves. The following members of the Task Force were present:

- Senator Margaret O'Brien
- Representative Brandt Iden
- Kalamazoo County Commissioner Dale Shugars
- Engineer Tom Smith, Prein & Newhof
- Engineer Tom Wheat, Prein & Newhof
- Kameron Jordan, DEQ
- Jeff VanBelle, Deputy Drain Commissioner
- Dan Moyle, Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) Chairman
- Travis Bartholomew, RCKC Deputy Director
- Kendra Gwin, City of Portage Public Services Director
- Michelle O'Neil, MDOT
- James Baker, City of Kalamazoo Public Services Director
- Jordan Bentley, Restorative Lake Sciences
- Jim Roberts, Crooked Lake Association
- Russ Walters, Crooked Lake Association
- Amy Coon, Eagle Lake Association
- Len Bosma, Eagle Lake Association
- Dian Latora, Pine Island Development Representative
- John Casper, Bass Lake Representative
- Mark Rose, Vineyard Development Representative
- Texas Township Trustee Tim Brown
- Texas Township Superintendent Julie VanderWiere
- Texas Township Supervisor John Hinkle

2. FLOODING STATUS

Jim Roberts (Crooked Lake) reported that Crooked lake was 25 ¼ inches above the high water mark as of this week.

Dian Latora (Pine Island) reported that they are not seeing significant decrease in the water level. They have seen a negative impact on house sales as two sales recently fell through in their neighborhood.

Amy Coon (Eagle Lake) reported that Eagle Lake is the same as Crooked Lake. It is currently down 1 ¼ inches from the highest water level.

Mark Rose (Vineyards) reported that the Vineyards is about the same from the last meeting. The retention pond is down quite a bit though.

Len Bosma (Eagle Lake) expressed that they all have urgent concerns about winter and the raising lake level.

3. FLOOD STUDY UPDATE

Tom Smith advised that a lot of effort has been spent on a short term solution in which Crooked Lake would be pumped to the wetland then north east to Bass Lake. When the lake levels go down, the ground water levels will go down behind it.



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The modeling indicates that 120 days of draw-down of Crooked Lake will bring the level down 1 foot below the normal level. The other areas (Eagle, Pine Lake, Vineyards etc.) will drop approximately 7/10th of a foot.

Pumping from Eagle Lake to Crooked Lake would require 3000 gpm pumped from Crooked Lake and 1500 gpm pumped from Eagle Lake. This will be dependent on the pipe sizing however with a large pipe, it will take 5-7 months to drop the lakes 2 ½ ft. and will take approximately 1 year to drop the lakes 4 ft. Pumping both lakes would slow down the draw-down of Crooked Lake but will increase the draw-down of Eagle Lake. The outlying areas to the west will see about the same impact regardless if Eagle Lake is pumped or not.

Prein & Newhof submitted the draft permit to DEQ on October 26, 2018. This permit is not complete as we still need to include the Water Quality Testing reports.

The outlets are being sized for both the long-term and short-term solutions and will be sized to reduce the downstream impact.

The Flood Study is nearing completion.

Trustee Brown asked if the modeling indicates that pumping Eagle Lake alone is not an option and if pumping Crooked Lake is the best option? He also asked how the decision was made to pump 3000 gpm from Crooked and 1500 gpm from Eagle Lake?

Tom Smith advised that 1500 gpm from Eagle Lake and 3000 gpm from Crooked Lake provides a good draw-down from both lakes. This ends up being 1500 gpm from both lakes and it has no negative impacts downstream.

Tom Wheat stated that pumping has substantial financial implications. The Township will need to decide what the funding mechanism will be to pay for it.

Tom Smith reported that Prein & Newhof applied for the DEQ permit to pump from Crooked Lake to the wetland. The application did not include pumping from Eagle Lake. They anticipate applying for another permit to also pump Eagle Lake in the future but wanted to start pumping Crooked Lake as soon as possible.

Kameron Jordan, DEQ, asked if the idea was to start pumping Crooked Lake then apply for an additional permit to also pump Eagle Lake. Tom Smith advised that was in fact the plan.

Commissioner Shugars was encouraged that the efforts involve pumping both lakes. He recommended a smaller subcommittee to determine the funding mechanism. He also recommended that this subcommittee included some residents. He further asked if there was anything else that we can be doing to help the process?

Tom Smith reported that Amy Coon and Eagle Lake Board have been working diligently to get information from the residents afraid to complete the damage survey for the grant. He appreciates all of the assistance.

Len Bosma questioned if the pumping route from Eagle Lake to Crooked Lake had been discussed?



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Tom Wheat advised that they discussed the route with the contractor. The Crooked Lake route to the wetland is easy and the route from Eagle Lake to Crooked Lake is more difficult. Easements will need to be acquired for both routes but there is only one for Crooked Lake and that we have received a verbal commitment. The Eagle Lake route will need 4-6 easements.

Len Bosma asked what was the distance of the Eagle to Crooked route? Tom Wheat advised that it is approximately 2700 ft.

Jim Roberts thanked Travis Bartholomew and RCKC for moving forward with the culvert replacement on 8th Street.

Russ Walters wanted clarification on the DEQ process and asked if the public hearing had been requested yet?

Kameron Jordan advised that the DEQ permit is not considered complete yet, so the hearing can't be requested or the public comment period started yet. He stated if we are now talking about pumping from Eagle Lake also the permit should be amended to include that instead of applying for two permits. Two permits would require two public notices and hearings as well as review. He felt that they should be combined so that there was only one permit, one public hearing and comment time. He explained the permitting process further. Indicating that the permit system is 3 tiered. Tier 1 is for Boardwalks, Tier 2 is for Docks and Tier 3 is an Individual Permit. The Individual Permit requires noticing and public hearings if requested.

Russ Walters asked if consideration was given to there only being need for a long term solution for Crooked Lake?

Tom Smith advised that yes that has been considered. It is likely that will work but there would still be risk for Eagle Lake that needs to be considered.

4. WATER QUALITY TESTING UPDATE- AeM

Tom Wheat reported that the water quality consultant took samples from Bass Lake and Crooked Lake last Sunday and delivered them to the lab on Monday. He plans to begin his report and should have a final report at the end of next week barring there aren't any delays with the lab.

Kameron Jordan advised that water testing will be required for Eagle Lake if Eagle Lake is to be pumped to Crooked Lake. The samples need to be taken contemporaneous. He inquired if invasive species were located in the Bass Lake samples?

Tom Wheat indicated that the preliminary results showed trace amounts but these were still being evaluated.

Russ Walters advised that there are some concerns from Crooked Lake residents about the water quality from Eagle Lake as well. He believes it is a good idea to have Eagle Lake tested.

Kameron Jordan asked if there was going to be post project monitoring? He was advised that there would be monitoring but the extent had not been determined yet.



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Amy Coon inquired why water samples hadn't been taken from Eagle Lake? And whether we were moving forward with a short term solution or not or is the Township just pacifying the residents? She asked when will a decision be made?

Supervisor Hinkle responded that no one wants to hear "be patient". Testing for Eagle Lake will get done. We are moving forward as instructed.

Amy Coon inquired if it would be possible to get AeM back out to sample Eagle Lake as soon as possible?

Supervisor Hinkle responded that the Township is being transparent and trying to work thru this together. We are hypervigilant and know there this crisis is a serious concern.

Jeff VanBelle advised that if we are not able to pump Crooked Lake, then we won't be able to pump Eagle Lake either. He added that a mild winter has been predicted for this year.

Trustee Tim Brown asked if we could move forward with both plans and still beat the clock? Or will having two applications and two hearings slow progress down?

Tom Wheat responded that a lot will be based on whether or not AeM will be able to come back to test Eagle Lake.

Kameron Jordan stated that if we decide to test Eagle Lake we will need to get samples right away.

Tom Smith said that the study could cover both pumping from Eagle and Crooked Lake. We should be able to provide both relatively quickly.

Senator O'Brien asked if adding Eagle Lake will delay the permit application to DEQ?

Supervisor Hinkle stated that Kameron Jordan needed to determine if DEQ will accept historical water sample data from Eagle and Crooked Lake.

Kameron Jordan replied that we will need to show No Down Stream impacts which includes invasives. The DEQ would require a report on why we shouldn't have to require sampling. Review of this report will take time. He advised that he thought it would be better to sample Eagle Lake so the parameters would be better.

Supervisor Hinkle asked if Prein & Newhof had done any sampling for the downstream impacts yet?

Tom Smith advised he provided data in the permit to DEQ stating we will have people in place to monitor the downstream impacts.

Michelle O'Neil stated MDOT will require a permit to accept the additional water flow.

James Baker advised that he has reviewed the flow recommendations. He said it was good news that 6.7CFS was well within the range of baseline. He advised that they have a gauge which is online to monitor control levels.



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200 CFS is the maximum control level and if the water was nearing this the pumping would have to be shut down. He advised that Station 24 (Al Sabo Well Field) has significant attenuation and the aquifer is leaky. He is pretty confident in the plan as long as the controls are in place to cease pumping if levels are met.

Tom Smith advised that we will have to monitor for storm events as well.

James Baker stated that they would like to make improvements to Station 24. Currently they are limited to 14 Mgd and eventually they would like to increase this. They will be asking the Township shortly to increase the limit.

James Baker went on to say that he thought we have a good plan, utilizing the outlet to Bass Lake. He asked if the existing culvert at Atwater was sized appropriately. Tom Smith advised that it was.

Jim Roberts asked if the pump for Crooked Lake was diesel or electric. Tom Wheat responded that this had not been determined yet. Jim Roberts advised that the easement is lined up but the property owner does have a concern about the noise.

Jeff VanBelle stated that technology exists right now that could quiet the pump.

5. PRELIMINARY PUMPING COSTS AND ROUTING

Tom Wheat advised that he has met with the contractor and discussed the routing of the pumping. They have started to talk about the required easement on Crooked Lake. The route for Eagle to Crooked will need 8 or 10 inch poly pipe. They are still trying to determine exactly what easements will be required for this route.

Tom Wheat advised that the cost is still being determined but it will be very expensive. Daily visits to the pumping site will be required to check on the equipment and fuel.

Supervisor Hinkle asked how long it would be before the costs are known?

Tom Wheat stated that it will be up to the Township on the funding mechanism and it will be a policy decision.

6. RCKC CULVERT REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Travis Bartholomew reported that the DEQ permit was secured for the culvert replacement on 8th Street at Bentwood Shores. The replacement is scheduled for Friday-Saturday (Nov 2-3rd). 8th Street will be closed for the replacement approximately two days. The road will have to be open cut and that portion will be gravel until it can be paved the following week.

He also reported that RCKC inspected the 12th Street culvert. It is a 7ft. structure and is adequate for the needs of the project and is working well. Additionally, RCKC believes they located a culvert under the entrance to Bentwood Shores. The culvert appears to be blocked. They will be working to open it back up within the 8th



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Street culvert replacement project. However, there are a lot of utilities located in this area that still need to be accurately located.

Travis was happy to report that 8th Street South of S Ave was opened back up. It had been closed due to flooding since February 2018. RCKC constructed a temporary fix by raising the road approximately 2 ft. Unfortunately, S Ave west of 8th Street will remain closed until next construction season. RCKC has included both 8th Street and S Ave in their tentative CIP plans for next year.

7. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Jeff VanBelle reviewed a handout he provided documenting the area rainfall from 1877 to current. In 1877, record rainfall was recorded for the year of 47.58 inches. This year, the rainfall in our area surpassed this record with 48.66 inches of rainfall. He further explained that 70-85% of rainfall in Kalamazoo county returns to the atmosphere by evapotranspiration, which has not occurred due to all of the rainfall this year.

He also reported that Finnegan Street will be closed Monday-Friday next week to pump out and move water away from the homes. The Drain Commission will also be making improvements on their retention basin in this area.

Jeff VanBelle reported that the drain improvements to the Vineyards was not going to be possible until 2019 due to the weather.

Len Bosma asked about the status of the FEMA Grant application and timeline? Tom Smith advised that they are working on the application to get it submitted. They need to survey the most impacted homes and will work on that the next week. The survey will be of the first floors to determine extent of impact for the BCA. He said that basement levels do count if they are living area. He also stated that he felt we were on schedule. He further stated that if people are worried about filling out the flood damage survey, they just need to provide flooding information as to the extent of the flooding.

Amy Coon asked when they survey will they need to go into the homes? And she stated that she has a pretty good idea which homes have been impacted the worst and was happy to help Tom Smith determine which homes should be surveyed. Tom Smith stated that they will need to get the first floor elevation which is taken from inside the home.

Senator O'Brien wants everyone to be aware that there were companies that were misrepresenting themselves in Parchment reference to the PFAS crisis. She asked if the surveyors would have some type of official identification that the homeowners would clearly be able to identify them? Tom Smith advised that they would be contacting the homeowners and scheduling the surveying. Additionally, they would have Prein & Newhof identification. Superintendent VanderWiere advised that if necessary, the Township could provide lanyards with photo ID, similar to what is done for the Assessing Department.

Commissioner Shugars recommended that the flood damage survey should be kept open so that updated information could be obtained as the crisis continues.



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Jim Roberts thanked the Township and the members of the Task Force for all of their hard work to resolve the flooding.

The next Flooding Task Force meeting was scheduled for Monday November 26th at 10:30am.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Submitted by Superintendent Julie VanderWiere
November 16, 2018