



MEETING SUMMARY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS FLOODING TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2019

A meeting of the Charter Township of Texas Flooding Task Force was held on February 28, 2019, 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:

- Engineer Tom Wheat, Prein & Newhof
- Derek Haroldson, DEQ
- Jeff VanBelle, Deputy Drain Commissioner
- Travis Bartholomew, RCKC Deputy Director
- Kendra Gwin, City of Portage Public Services Director
- Jim Roberts, Crooked Lake Association
- Jack Levy, Sen McCann District Manager
- John Casper, Bass Lake Representative
- James Baker, City of Kalamazoo Public Services Director
- Bill DeYoung, Eagle Lake Representative
- Kalamazoo County Commissioner Christine Morse
- Russ Walters, Crooked Lake Association
- Amy Coon, Eagle Lake Association
- Dian Latora, Pine Island Development Representative
- Aaron Collins, Bass Lake Representative
- Mark Rose, Vineyards Representative
- Texas Township Trustee Nick Loeks
- 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 is at 31" above high water mark with 2" of ice above. This is a 3" increase from our last meeting.

Amy Coon (Eagle Lake) reported that Eagle Lake still is up 4" since the last meeting in January.

Josh Ruhrup (Vineyards) reported that the Vineyards is still high.

Dian Latora (Pine Island Development) reported that Pine Island Development is the highest it has been. They are dealing with increasing drainage water and ground water. The Drain Commission held the Board of Determination last week and that will help resolve the drainage issues.

Mark Rose (Vineyards Development) reported that the retention basin is the highest it has been yet.

Jeff VanBelle reported that they held a Board of Determination for Pine Island Development. They will complete the survey work in the week of March 11th. Duck Lake is also increasing and they have received a lot more calls around Pine Island from the increase in Eagle Lake.



MEETING SUMMARY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS FLOODING TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2019

3. PUMPING PLAN

Tom Wheat reported that the pumping plan has not changed much. We have all but three easements in hand. Tom Wheat stated that we are waiting on the Road Commission permit to work within the roadway. Travis Bartholomew responded that the permit was approved and on his desk. The Township should have received a copy.

Tom Wheat explained that we now need to develop a filtration plan as our screening plan was for vegetation and we now need to filter for zebra mussels including their larvae (veligers). We are working with a filtration company to develop a solution.

4. DEQ PERMIT UPDATE

Derek Haroldson reported that the DEQ Public Hearing was held on February 11, 2019, as the first meeting had to be canceled. There were 241 attendance cards submitted and there was standing room only in the auditorium. Derek said that everyone that indicated they wanted to speak, did. This was the largest public hearing he has held yet. So far there have been over 500 comments submitted.

Derek reported that MDEQ is currently completing an internal review and they are wrapping up reviewing the comments that have been submitted.

There are several remaining issues; if these are resolved MDEQ will issue the permit. They are reviewing the Max drawdown elevation on Crooked Lake. The request was for 893 and they are now considering 895. Prein & Newhof is reviewing the impact of reducing downstream water level increases by limiting/reducing draw down rates to minimize the downstream impacts.

At this time, the River Screen is not applicable because of the zebra mussel. We will need to filter for the veligers which will require a 40 micron filter. The question is whether this is feasible or not?

Prein & Newhof and the Township are also considering the use of a Horizontal Well.

The City of Kalamazoo has requested that Sunvalley Drive is included in the monitoring as this area is susceptible to flooding.

Derek stated that the augmentation pumps will not be allowed to operate while the permit is valid and the Township and the Lake Associations will have to agree to that. The permit will require some type of wetland monitoring; this is to ensure the wetlands are not inundated. Threatened and Endangered Species are inactive currently adding a lot of water will drown out these species. Therefore, until they become active, the pumping rate will need to be reduced.

Additionally, they will require water quality monitoring and aquatic invasive species monitoring as well. Derek reiterated that this project and permit is complicated.



MEETING SUMMARY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS FLOODING TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2019

Russ Walters asked being that we are lowering the lake less, if there is a big rain, will we be able to lower the lake level without another permit or will we be required to apply for a new permit?

Derek responded that the permit needs to be flexible. End date will need to indicate a date; however, if the levels reach the elevations before that date, it can probably be maintained.

Jeff VanBelle added that pumping will not be continuous. We will need to account for Sunvalley and the Threatened and Endangered species.

Tom Wheat also added that the pumping will not only be intermittent but we need to be able to throttle up and down as needed to account for the rainfall events.

Derek indicated that the limitations will be on pumping with monitoring stations. Max lake levels on Bass Lake, Atwater, 12th Street, 8th Street and Wetlands will be defined. There will be more than ½ dozen controls so that we can be as reactive as possible.

John Hinkle stated that we are not going to be able to drain down the lakes in 2 months. We need to be responsible downstream and need to stay in the middle of the two. We need to balance between the max amount of water drawdown while being responsible.

Jim Roberts stated that this has been presented as a lake problem but it is an area-wide problem and the lakes are being tasked to pay for it all. He stated that AeM did not find zebra mussels in Crooked Lake but he knows they are there. He also believes they are in Bass Lake as well and Bass Lake residents should pay for the added cost of the filtration equipment if zebra mussels are found in Bass Lake.

Russ Walters stated that we need to take into consideration that it will take a few months for the water table to settle down and this should be taken into consideration on the permit time table.

Derek Haroldson stated that he thinks we are in the final stages of the permit review. He said that there will possibly be a decision by next week.

5. PUBLIC HEARING- SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FOR FLOOD MITIGATION-MARCH 11, 2019 AT 6PM

John Hinkle stated that the public hearing will start at the Township but is likely to be adjourned and reconvened at KVCC due to exceeding maximum capacity.

Amy Coon asked how the proposed district was decided.

Julie VanderWiere responded that all of the properties currently included in the Lake SAD and the surrounding areas that were included were based on damage reports.

Jeff VanBelle stated that he reviewed the proposed district and he is comfortable with it.



MEETING SUMMARY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS FLOODING TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2019

Christine Morse responded that the Township Attorney indicated that a property must benefit in order to be included in the district.

Jeff VanBelle commented that we need to keep the process moving along and not get hung up on who is and is not included in the district, as we are losing valuable time.

6. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

John Hinkle commented that the Township, Prein & Newhof, Jeff VanBelle and DEQ are working very hard to resolve this crisis. He applauds everyone at the table for being engaged and keeping this moving forward.

Jim Roberts commented that he heard someone is trying to get people to go to the County Commission meeting on Wednesday March 6th at 7pm.

Tom Rogers replied that he would like to get representatives from the lakes as well as the Township to explain what we are going through with the flooding. He would like everyone that is impacted to go to the meeting to show there is a crisis and that we need help. He would like the Township to explain the project and the cost.

Christine Morse commented that it is important for people to come and talk about the issues and explain the severity of the long term issues. The County is not likely to be involved in the short term solution but will likely be involved in the long term solution.

Tim Brown asked if the Road Commission could provide an update on the access to Treasure Island.

Travis Bartholomew responded that they are dealing with road water and are working to get in contact with the owner of 1010 Wood Street. They are working to address the issues one by one but if it becomes overwhelming they may not be able to keep the causeway open.

Jim Roberts asked if we would be able to start pumping without the filtration equipment because the veligers can't be transferred right now?

Derek Haroldson responded that it is possible and they would have to review the request and advise.

The next Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Thursday March 21, 2019 at 10:30am.

Submitted by Superintendent Julie VanderWiere
March 19, 2019