



## MEETING SUMMARY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS FLOODING TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON April 11, 2019

A meeting of the Charter Township of Texas Flooding Task Force was held on April 11, 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
- Engineer Tom Smith, Prein & Newhof
- Derek Haroldson, DEQ
- Jeff VanBelle, Deputy Drain Commissioner
- Travis Bartholomew, RCKC Deputy Director
- Jack Levy, Sen McCann District Manager
- John Casper, Bass Lake Representative
- Aaron Collins, Bass Lake Representative
- James Baker, City of Kalamazoo Public Services Director
- Len Bosma, Eagle Lake Association
- Jordan , Restorative Lake Sciences
- Dan Moyle, Former Kalamazoo County Road Commissioner
- Rod Krapf, Crooked Lake Association
- Kalamazoo County Commissioner Christine Morse
- Russ Walters, Crooked Lake Association
- Amy Coon, Eagle Lake Association
- Dian Latora, Pine Island Development Representative
- Johanna Thompson, 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

Russ Walters (Crooked Lake) reported that Crooked Lake is ½ inch below highest level it has been.

Diane Latora (Pine Island Development) reported that Pine Island Development is at an all-time high. Mold growing on the water. The level is now 5 ft. from her sliding glass door.

Johanna Thompson (Vineyards Development) reported that the retention basin is about the same level as last time.

Amy Coon (Eagle Lake) reported that Eagle Lake is currently ½ inch below the highest point it has been.

### 3. DEQ PERMIT UPDATE

Derek Haroldson, DEQ, reported that the pumping permit for flood mitigation was issued on March 29, 2019. The permit has been posted to the Texas Township website under the Flood Crisis Tab. Derek advised that there are still some questions on the monitoring that will be required. He is working with the Township on those questions.

Russ Walters asked what questions there were and what else is remaining to be completed?

Derek Haroldson responded that the Wetland Monitoring Plan has to be submitted with details on how it will be completed. These are very technical questions but we will work through them.



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Len Bosma asked if long term if the permit is similar?

Derek Haroldson responded that a lot of it will be similar but being a drain project through the Drain Commission Office there will be a lot more structures. We will be re-visiting a lot of the same issues.

Tom Wheat stated that the big issues will be determining the volumes and the invasive species. Long term the volumes will be much less so the approach to deal with the invasive species will be different. We will learn a great deal from the short term process that will be helpful in determining the long term process.

Derek Haroldson stated that if the long term project is done through the Inland Lakes, the findings and reviews will be used.

Jeff VanBelle, Deputy Drain Commissioner, stated that we have already met a lot of the requirements for the short term project so the long term project will dove tail those.

#### 4. CONTRACTOR SCHEDULE

Tom Wheat reported the following:

- Prein & Newhof is setting up the reporting document for the monitoring data to be entered into.
- We received three Wetland/Water Quality Proposals that we are reviewing. There are some minor interpretations to be clarified on the monitoring.
- The pump for Crooked Lake is still about two weeks from delivery to the contractor
- The River Screen has arrived and is at the contractors yard
- Balkema is hoping to be onsite at Crooked Lake next week to start setting up.
- Filtration system will be placed on a gravel pad with a temporary pole barn built around it. The pole barn will allow for heat during the winter and for security.
- Pumping will start on Crooked Lake first then Eagle Lake
- We believe it will take 2-3 weeks to build the piping and the intlet/outlet structures
- We will provide a delivery date when we get one.

Len Bosma asked how the filtration system works?

Tom Wheat responded that there will be two skids, each containing two filtration units. It is similar to a whole house unit. But has an automatic backwash. We will be using the River Screen as a pre-filtering device. This will filter out the larger plant material and help the filtration system to run longer before needing to be backwashed. The contractor will be required to check the system every day. The back wash will go back to the lake.

Len Bosma asked what the project costs are currently, are we now up to \$1.5 million. Are there any funding options?

Christine Morse, County Commissioner, responded that the long term project will end up being in the county budget.



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Rod Krapf commented that no one is cheering the mid to late May pumping date. Every storm brings more and more damage.

Amy Coon asked if we were comfortable that the contractor will have everything in place before the filter gets here?

Tom Wheat responded Yes it will be ready to go by the expected delivery date.

Tom Smith stated that the Filtration System was to take 10 weeks to arrive and another 1 week for transport and 1 week to install.

Russ Walters responded that we would like a date for pumping so we are all on the same page.

Amy Coon asked how the Bass Lake residents were feeling about the permit being issued? And asked if they were still discussing legal injunction?

John Casper, Bass Lake, responded that they are pretty comfortable but they need to know who is monitoring the permit requirements. He also advised that the Boy Scouts had questions about damage that might occur as a result of the pumping. In regards to a legal injunction, he responded they were not considering one at this time.

Aaron Collins, BSA, advised that they were working with the Township on their concerns.

### **5. TREASURE ISLAND AND DNR DRIVE LIFT STATION-ILICIT DISCHARGE INTO SEWER SYSTEM**

James Baker, City of Kalamazoo Director of Public Services Director, advised that the Sewer System around Eagle Lake was designed for 80 gpm of flow. The lift station at Treasure Island has two pumps for redundancy and the second pump was for overflow. They designed the systems for approximately 20 gpm per house. They have had so much extra flow on Treasure Island that they brought in an additional diesel pump to assist. They were operating at 100% continuous flow utilizing all of the pumps, which did not allow for any backup pump. If any of those pumps fail we will have backups into homes and possibly into the lake.

James Baker advised that they understand water is getting into basements and crawl spaces and what residents are going through but the lift stations can't handle the extreme amounts of flow. This situation is catastrophic. These lift stations are alarmed and monitored 24/7. If the lift station fails, it could be down for 1 week while the City works to get it back on-line.

The City utilized CCTV and videoed the line to determine which houses the additional flow was coming from. They were able to determine the additional flow was a result of illicit sump pump connections into the sanitary sewer system. These typically are being used to pump out water from basements and crawl spaces. They then notified the Township those addresses to contact. The City is currently closely monitoring DNR Drive, Treasure Island and Heritage Neighborhoods due to capacity concerns.



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Julie VanderWiere advised that the Township will be sending out letters to all of the affected areas explaining the situation and concern. The Township will then send out specific Notice to Disconnect letters to those residents that have been identified with illicit sump pump connections to the sewer system.

Tom Wheat stated that we are also checking other potential sources for the additional flow involving grinder pumps, manholes and 1<sup>st</sup> floor inundations.

Nick Loeks asked about the Notice to Disconnect and how do you disconnect to the sewer?

James Baker responded the requirement is to disconnect the illicit pumping into the sanitary sewer system. The CCTV clearly shows what is occurring and which homes are pumping additional water into the system.

Len Bosma inquired if the City is pretty confident of the integrity of the system?

James Baker responded this is a newer system so yes.

Amy Coon asked if there is a big rain event won't that get into the sewer system?

James Baker responded No, sewer is only hooked up to house for domestic sewage. The goal is to keep all of the clear water out.

Travis Bartholomew stated that it is confusing because road water goes into the storm sewer system which goes to the lake; this is a separate system from the sanitary sewer system which goes through the lift station and onto the City of Kalamazoo for processing.

### **6. EMERGENCY ROAD STABILIZATION-TREASURE ISLAND AND N EAGLE LAKE DRIVE**

Travis Bartholomew reported that they are working on Treasure Island and have two crews out pumping the water back to the lake and off of the road to keep it open. They have been pumping for over 2 weeks now to keep the road open. RCKC worked with the Township and raised both Treasure Island Causeway and N Eagle Lake Drive 1 foot higher than the lake level. It looks good right now.

Julie VanderWiere asked Travis to address the speed limit on Treasure Island Causeway.

Travis Bartholomew responded that it is already posted at 25 mph, which is the lowest speed limit allowed on a roadway. They have caution signs posted as well.

### **7. SECOND PUBLIC HEARING ON SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**

Julie VanderWiere reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing on the Flood Mitigation Special Assessment District has been moved to April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm at KVCC.



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### 8. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

John Hinkle stated he would like to invite Nick McLaughlin a representative from Pine Island Lake to the Task Force.

Jeff VanBelle reported that the elevations for Pine Island Lake are 904.01 and Duck Lake 902.11. He stated that Pine Island Lake is probably being directly impacted by Eagle Lake. He also advised that he was encouraged by the last drawdown graph.

Christine Morse reported that Texas Township will be presenting at the County Commission Committee of the Whole on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. She will be offering a Resolution for support to bring attention to the flooding crisis to the Commission and encourage discussion on the long term solution.

Nick McLaughlin stated we are all in the same boat. Water is 6-8" from our walk out level. He thanked everyone for their work and is looking forward to some relief.

Len Bosma commented that he hopes the Task Force will stay intact for the long term solution and suggested that it would not need to meet as frequently.

Diane Latora asked that now that the weight restrictions are lifted will the Drain Commission be coming back out to Pine Island Development?

Jeff VanBelle responded yes, we have been surveying but we need to break down like the Task Force to a short term solution and a long term solution. Easements to move water are difficult to get.

Rod Krapf commented that his property has been in his family for 101 years. Never have they had this high of water. He stated he is scared of rain events.

Russ Walters commented that we have discussed legal lake levels and there are many concerns. We need to start building a case as to why they are needed. There are concerns over cost, control to government and what does the legal lake level mean.

Jordan asked if there was an Early Detection Rapid Response program for Bass Lake?

Derek Haroldson responded that this was not part of the permit. With the limitations of the permit, we are not planning on any transfer of invasive.

John Hinkle asked when we would like to schedule the next meeting? It was determined to schedule the next meeting for May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 am.



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**The next Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 10:30am.**

Submitted by Superintendent Julie VanderWiere