



MEETING SUMMARY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS FLOODING TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON May 23, 2019

A meeting of the Charter Township of Texas Flooding Task Force was held on May 23, 2019, commencing at approximately 10:30 a.m. at the Texas Charter Township Hall.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor John Hinkle opened the meeting, stating that the Township is working hard to resolve the flooding issues and we are empathetic to everyone's situations. He thanked 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 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
- Len Bosma, Eagle Lake Association
- Jordan , Restorative Lake Sciences
- Kalamazoo County Commissioner Christine Morse
- Nick McLaughlin, Pine Island Lake Representative
- Kendra Gwinn, Portage Public Services Director
- Jim Roberts, Crooked Lake Association
- Russ Walters, Crooked Lake Association
- Amy Coon, Eagle Lake Association
- Dian Latora, Pine Island Development 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

Mark Rose (Vineyards Development) advised that the flooding is the worst it has ever been. The retention pond is at the highest point. Someone put a pump in the pond to Chianti that is flooded. Pine Island Lake has overtaken the road on PQ Avenue. Chianti Circle has a sink hole that has returned. He is not sure what the status of the Drain Office project is.

Dian Latora (Pine Island Development) reported that more basements are flooding. People are installing elaborate drainage systems that are pumping water into her backyard. Homes are being vacated; there is a pool about to collapse. She believes the water has risen about 1 foot.

Amy Coon (Eagle Lake Association) reported that they are all at a breaking point. Lake went up another 3 inches or more. Homes are being devastated. We have so far to go. We knew we would get through another spring. She stated she was thankful for all of the volunteers from Byholt and the Churches. She feels like the Governor should be here to see what is happening. We need to continue looking at the long term solution. It is not going to go away.

Jim Roberts (Crooked Lake Association) reported that Crooked Lake is up 37" above the high water mark, even with the pumping. The level has increased 4" from the last Task Force meeting. When it rains Crooked Lake goes up 1" and Eagle Lake 2". He has been to the County Commission meeting and Christine Morse has tried to get us some help but no one is willing to help.



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Nick McLaughlin (Pine Island Lake) reported that there is a second Pine Island evacuation and that was he and his family. He had some aerial photography taken if anyone is interested in seeing it.

3. CONTRACTOR SCHEDULE

Julie VanderWiere reported the following on the schedule:

- The Contractor is setting up the pump at Eagle Lake
- They will be connecting the electric for the pump
- They will be starting to work at the Crooked Lake Market. They are on schedule to start pumping next week.

4. GEI WETLAND AND LAKE MONITORING

Derek Haroldson, EGLE, reported that he met with representatives from GEI and the Township last week to review the monitoring plan. The plan that was presented was accepted.

Tom Smith advised that they will continue to monitor the reports. The capacity today is about 3" at the Bass Lake Culvert.

Jim Roberts asked what the capacity is. We had 6" last week and now we are down to 3".

Tom Smith responded that this is partly due to all the rainfall we have had recently.

Dian Latora asked Tom Smith if he felt the pumping will help Pine Island.

Tom Smith responded, Yes but I can't tell you when. We don't know what the weather brings. The last month has been brutal.

Len Bosma questioned about the jack and bore at the Crooked Lake Market and whether that was an easy job or are there concerns?

Tom Smith responded that there are unknowns but no specific concerns.

Len Bosma stated that there are rumors about a gas line and that we will not be able to connect. And he inquired about how long it will take to connect the electric.

Tom Smith replied that he couldn't exactly answer that.

Len Bosma asked Tom Smith since you were not able to predict the ground water; will you be amending the drawdown prediction once you are able to?

Tom Smith responded yes; once we get real data we will update the graphs.

John Hinkle stated that we are pushing everybody as much as we can to complete the installation portion of the project. We are paying attention and are working to complete this and we need to continue to all pull in the same direction.



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5. NEW LIFE CHURCH/THE BRIDGE CHURCH/ BYHOLT SAND AND GRAVEL

John Hinkle also gave a “shout out” to New Life Church, The Bridge Church and Byholt Sand and Gravel for their volunteer and donation efforts. All of their assistance is very much appreciated.

6. CANCELLATION OF RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

John Hinkle announced that the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony has been cancelled although finally getting started pumping is a great milestone.

7. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Travis Bartholomew reported that crews are working to keep a few roads open with only one access. Three roads are currently closed. They continue to struggle with people moving barricades. This is a safety issue and will result in RC having to do a hard closure on some of the roads. He advised that in Prairie Ronde Township, 8th Street is closed again between S Avenue and U Avenue. This is south of where they constructed the emergency lift. RC is looking at another temporary lift but they are dealing with beaver issues as well. The road projects for 8th Street and S Avenue scheduled for 2019 have been pushed back to 2020 due to working through EGLE approval process.

John Hinkle thanked the Road Commission for all of their efforts in this flooding crisis.

Jeff VanBelle stated that he is concerned that we are not working on permanent solutions. A house not even on the lake on PQ had a foundation crack this weekend. There is a lot of pumping going on and this is pitting neighbor against neighbor. We are reaching out to other contacts to try to figure out a solution.

Dian Latora asked Jeff VanBelle where they were at with the Pine Island Development Drainage District and solution.

Jeff VanBelle responded that they need a place to put the water. The retention basins are becoming lakes due to the water table.

Nick McLaughlin asked if there was a way to get water from Crooked Lake to Bass Lake in an environmentally safe way for the long term solution.

Jeff VanBelle responded yes there is and we need to start working on that.

Jim Roberts stated that we need to recognize everyone that provided easements for this project. Their property needs to be cleaned up. He advised that someone was looking at the pump and filter at 10pm last night in Bentwood. We might need to have security in Bentwood.

John Hinkle advised that he would like to acknowledge Pastor Dan Smith and his church for all their effort helping with bagging sand and delivering it to those in need.



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Aaron Collins stated that Rota-Kiwan is also private property. There have been numerous cars coming to check out the outlet. He advised to let him know if you are coming onto the camp property before you enter it.

Tim Brown reported that he contacted Boy Scouts of America to help with the sand bagging efforts. This would be a good citizenship lesson.

John Casper stated that he was pleased to see the results of the BTEX/PAH tests. He does have questions about the chemical treatments of the lakes and will be discussing that with Derek. He also asked what information would be available on the website as far as rainfall/draw down results etc...

Tom Smith responded that we will be updating the website regularly. We selected a local contactor for a reason, as they are aware of the criticality of this project.

Christine Morse stated that her heart goes out to everyone. She echoes Jeff and Amy- we want the County involved to move forward with the long term solution.

Amy Coon stated that ELTA created a committee to move forward discussion on legal lake level. She feels they have put together a good group. The first order is to contact Jeff VanBelle to work through the process.

Tim Brown asked Jeff VanBelle what is the first step for the long term solution?

Jeff VanBelle responded that petitioning to establish legal lake level is the first step. He has had a lot of conversation with Derek to work through this. But we need the legal lake level.

Len Bosma stated the Task Force is going to continue, why can't we work concurrently to keep the long term solution moving forward?

Nick Loeks stated the only way to start is by establishing legal lake level. He asked if it was a two-step process- legal lake level then establish the water shed area?

Jeff VanBelle advised that there is typically one process that establishes both with a waiting period.

Jim Roberts inquired if we needed to know the cost of the project first to proceed?

Jeff VanBelle responded: No, the short term solution was done under PA 188, not Part 303 which requires the cost to be known up front.

Amy Coon stated that cost is a big part. Tom Smith mentioned that there might be another avenue for a FEMA Grant.

Tom Smith responded: Yes, the grant process opens back up. However, we need to know the specific damage amounts.

Amy Coon asked if Tom Smith would work with Township, County or TBD about another FEMA Grant.

Tom Smith responded that is could be either one so it will be TBD.



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Jeff VanBelle responded that the district could be a tiered approach. He is aware of a drainage district that has 5 tiers.

John Hinkle responded that the long term solution is beyond the Township. That is why the Drain Office must be involved.

Jeff VanBelle stated they could provide a general synopsis but it would be subject to change. The long term solution will be gravity flow- we still think that will work.

Russ Walters stated that we have been talking about legal lake level for over 1 year now. We are still asking the same questions. We need to put something together today. He suggested John Hinkle appoint a small subset of this group to move it forward. It's time to do something.

Nick Loeks responded that there are two options: 2/3rds lake residents or County Commission action. The first thing that has to happen is the petition and cost is in the petition.

Russ Walters responded that we need a Q&A that includes what we think the project is and what we think it will cost.

Tim Brown responded as someone with contacts at the lakes, bring us the Q's and we will figure out the A's.

Nick McLaughlin stated that he heard Nick Loeks state that there are two decision points. It goes to the County to explore the solutions and cost. The next step is where all the information is needed to move it forward to court. There is no blank check.

Jeff VanBelle the Drain Office is very misunderstood. These laws were written a long time ago. I have no ability to expend funds for a study. The Township could have Tom Smith do it.

Amy Coon stated that they are moving forward but they need a synopsis to provide to everyone. They would appreciate any help the Township could provide in moving it forward.

Jim Roberts stated on behalf of Crooked Lake, we don't want the County to do it. We will do it by petition. We can have our lake association control the lake level. This is done in many places.

Jeff VanBelle stated that is correct but there will be criteria and guidelines but we can work through this. There could be a "Pump To" level and a Legal Lake Level which will be different levels. It is not a rubber stamp that everyone will be happy with the level that is determined.

Amy Coon asked if the levels could be determined before the petition.

Jeff VanBelle responded that could be done with a smaller group but those numbers could change.

John Hinkle suggested that we form a subcommittee now, containing representatives from Eagle Lake, Crooked Lake, Nick Loeks, Tim Brown, Christine Morse, and Jeff VanBelle as well as a representative from Restorative Lake Sciences.

Russ Walters stated he walked in thinking we were going to do a ribbon cutting. We need to celebrate small successes. We need to continue to work together. Don't want it to become lake against lake. He requested



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that people refrain from taking a boat over to the pumping equipment. We just can't afford to have any further delays.

Dian Latora stated that there is so much frustration that it is neighbor against neighbor.

Mark Rose stated that this is a big problem larger than the lakes. County, State, Federal Government continues not to help. He asked what we have to do to get help. If it was PFAS we would be getting help.

Len Bosma commented that he was glad the Task Force is continuing and that the ad-hoc committee was created.

Nick McLaughlin commented that Pine Island Lake is at your mercy. We will help in any way we can to move the legal lake level discussions forward as well as the long term solution.

Derek Haroldson expressed that we really feel for all of you. Yes it is bigger than Texas Township and is growing. EGLE is committed to working thru this. He stated his deepest sympathies for everyone that is struggling.

Jim Roberts asked Derek if the permit could be adjusted if we need more flow.

Derek Haroldson responded that it would depend on the overall impacts if it was a great impact it would have to be a new permit but if the impacts were minimal they could potentially make adjustments.

Gerald Robbins stated that we have no representation for the pond above us that is flooding us. The North East area of N Eagle Lake is a disaster zone and we are not being represented at this table. He inquired if the contractor would be working over the holiday weekend?

Tom Smith replied that he knows they will be checking on the project but did not know about how much the contractor would be working.



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The next Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 10:30am.

Submitted by Superintendent Julie VanderWiere