



MEETING SUMMARY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS FLOODING TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 20, 2019

A meeting of the Charter Township of Texas Flooding Task Force was held on June 20, 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 Smith, Prein & Newhof
- Engineer Tom Wheat, 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
- Nate Henschel, Congressman Upton's Dist. Representative
- Mike Ryan, Congressman Upton's Dist. Director
- Nick McLaughlin, Pine Island Lake Representative
- Kendra Gwinn, Portage Public Services Director
- Jim Roberts, Crooked Lake Association
- Russ Walters, Crooked Lake Association
- Ken Toy, 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

Ken Toy (Eagle Lake Association) reported that prior to the large rain event last night, the lake was 33.5 and now the measuring stick is under water (the top is 36").

Jim Roberts (Crooked Lake Association) reported that last night before the rain the lake was 32.5" and as of this morning it was at 35.5". The turbidity of the lake is really bad as well.

Dian Latora (Pine Island Development) advised that the subdivision is bad, stating there are no words to describe it. She doesn't know how many houses we will lose today due to the extreme rain event. A 3" rain event equates to 6" additional water in her back yard in the retention easement.

Mark Rose (Vineyards Development) reported that Pine Island Lake is now part of the Vineyards. The water is rushing in. He inquired if PQ Ave could be built up to prevent the two from connecting. They currently have 15 houses pumping into the retention pond that is being pumped into Eagle Lake.

Nick McLaughlin (Pine Island Lake) reported that Pine Island Lake officially reached WSE of 905 this week but is much higher today.



MEETING SUMMARY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS FLOODING TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 20, 2019

3. FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT UPDATE

- **Permit Amendment-** Tom Smith reported that the Bass Lake Outlet in Rota Kiwan is experiencing some minor erosion. We will be revising the permit to add more rip rap.
- **Bass Lake Culvert Threshold-** Tom Smith reported that this week Tuesday it was discovered that the Bass Lake Culvert had exceeded the threshold limit. EGLE was notified and the pumps were turned off as a result. The pumps will remain off until the all of the thresholds are under their limits.

Tom Smith stated he was prepared to say he was positive about the pumps working. But we had received double the normal rain amounts in the last month. Now we are 2 ½ times the normal amount. Today we are well over 10 inches of rain. It is better than it would be if we hadn't been pumping.

He advised that we probably won't be able to turn the pumps on for several days until it calms down.

A question was asked if we couldn't let more water out of Scouters Pond. Tom Smith replied that this was not allowed for in the DEQ permit.

Tom Smith stated that the rain event last night equated to a 10 year rain event. This is substantial. Kalamazoo is flooded as well. Fortunate we didn't add to that by having the pumps on. Until this event, the levels have been holding everywhere except for Bass Lake.

Jim Roberts commented that Crooked Lake had been consistently losing ½ inch per day when the pumps are on and there is no rain. Tom Smith agreed with that assessment.

Nick McLaughlin asked if now would be a good time to ask about the FEMA Grant?

Len Bosma commented that the Long Term Solution is not on the agenda. Should we ask questions about that now?

Jeff VanBelle commented that the rest of the system is handling the pumping well outside of Bass Lake. However, we are still looking at other options.

Tom Smith stated that we need to move ahead for the long term solution.

Len Bosma reported that the subcommittee had a meeting. He thought they did reasonable well kicking it off and answering questions on SAD and Process. At the end of the meeting they determined they need answers on price of the project. Tom Wheat and Tom Smith are working on these figures. Jeff VanBelle will also provide some information on a potential district for the special assessment.



MEETING SUMMARY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS FLOODING TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 20, 2019

Russ Walters stated that they put together a list of questions that need to be answered before we can move it forward. Then we can start the petition drive. We are working together to move this forward.

John Hinkle stated that all this rain does not help.

4. ROAD CLOSURES

Travis Bartholomew (RCKC) reported that there are numerous road closures. Some are to the point where people are trapped on either side. They are struggling to assist with pumping other people's water. N Eagle Lake has two issues going on; it has almost topped the left side. RCKC is monitoring these roads daily to determine if they need to be raised again.

Tim Brown stated that Travis said Treasure Island is running out of options. That has to be a priority. I would like to see a plan.

Travis Bartholomew stated he is confident they can keep it accessible. The issue is the pumping of resident's ground water as well. The plan to maintain access is to keep raising the road.

5. CONCERNS FROM BENTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD

John Hinkle stated that several concerns were brought to the Township at the last Township Board meeting and we are working to resolve as many as we can.

Julie VanderWiere stated that she would like everyone to know what the concerns are. She explained the following concerns:

- Increased Traffic
- Rancid smells
- The DEQ permit does not specifically permit the backwash

To address the concerns the Township has contacted KCSO and asked for directed patrol to ensure that trespassing enforcement is taken and to also monitor the increased traffic. Also, RCKC was requested to authorize road closed signage of Bentwood. This is being reviewed but may not be possible. Tom Wheat, Derek Haroldson, Julie VanderWiere and Restorative Lake Sciences all met with residents from Bentwood to review their concerns. Samples were taken from the Lake, the filtration discharge and the backwash discharge to determine the amount of TSS (total suspended solids). Once this is provided a course of action can be determined. Derek Haroldson has advised that he was aware of the backwash but this was not specifically called out in the permit. This may require a NPDES permit. The Bentwood residents are asking that the backwash be drained into the sewer system instead of the lake.

Ken Toy stated that Treasure Island has also seen a dramatic increase in traffic. Eagle Lake Association Facebook page posted a request for people not to go to Bentwood to check out the filtration system.

Andy Tata (BSA) reported that the Boy Scouts have also had a great deal of traffic, about 45 vehicles a day.



MEETING SUMMARY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS FLOODING TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 20, 2019

Pastor Dan Smith (New Life Church) stated that he lives near PQ Ave. He stated some people have bad intentions but others have no idea of what is going on. People want to see what you are going through and want to help. We need people to see it to understand.

Russ Walters reported that people from Bentwood attend the last CLTA meeting. Tim Brown was there and has a list of concerns. Resident on Bentwood don't want any part of the long term solution. Everything that happens has an impact on the future. The ongoing Long Term Solution involves some of that area. One thing leads to the next and we need to fix it so the long term solution can be implemented.

Jeff VanBelle stated that these homes in Bentwood are being impacted. He questioned if we could use a discharge bag or filter bag?

Derek Haroldson stated that we would look at options but need the results back from the TSS test first.

6. UPDATE FROM CONGRESSMAN UPTON'S OFFICE

Nate Henschel introduced himself as Congressman Upton's District Representative. He also introduced Mike Ryan who is Congressman Upton's District Director. Nate Henschel stated that they have talked to numerous constituents here in Texas Township. There have been many questions on FEMA. He explained a Major Disaster Declaration is by Presidential action, which has to be requested through the State. There have only been 4 declarations in Michigan in the last 5 years. In order to release funds it has to go through these processes. He also advised that there are grants but they are tied to Emergency Declarations through State of Michigan and you also need a locate State of Emergency to be declared.

He commented that our office has looked at other funding revenue streams but they are all tied to FEMA Funding.

Len Bosma asked are you recommending the State Declare an Emergency.

Nate Henschel responded that it has to start at the County first.

Mike Ryan responded that the County Emergency Manager has to declare first.

Nate Henschel then asked if there were any questions from the task force.

Len Bosma asked if their office was working with the State Representatives on this matter.

Mike Ryan responded that it has not raised to the level of FEMA yet.

Len Bosma then asked if they would be the advocate for us.

Mike Ryan responded in the affirmative. There was then a question whether the Army Core of Engineers could provide assistance. He state that the Army Core of Engineers only deals with coast lines and Rivers.

Jim Roberts commented that we have been to the County to ask for help.



MEETING SUMMARY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS FLOODING TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 20, 2019

Commissioner Morse responded that she has been told that we have not met the threshold yet but that she has had numerous discussions in reference to that.

Nick Loeks asked what was considered infrastructure. Roads, Sewer and Water? Are we able to include RCKC monies?

Jeff VanBelle responded that in 2008 the City of Kalamazoo needed to spend 10 million dollars and they did not meet the threshold.

Russ Walters commented that the government has a process; we need to better understand that process. What is the threshold number? Is there a way around it? We all have spent 100's or 1000's of dollars to protect or save our homes.

Tom Rogers inquired why the \$1.5 million to be spent on the pumping project be counted as infrastructure?

John Hinkle commented that these are all good questions. We have asked and have been working with Upton's office and others.

Ken Toy commented that there are a lot of soft costs that we could get creative to meet that threshold. These would all add up.

Commissioner Morse responded that everyone wants low taxes, there aren't funds built into the budget for this. Maybe we should be adding funds as this could be due to climate change.

Russ Walters commented that money is a large part of this but it has taken over 1 year to start pumping. This has been an uphill battle to get where we are at now. He said he appreciates Upton's Office for coming today. We have stopped pumping for now and don't know when we can start again. We are asking everyone to be creative to keep this moving along.

John Hinkle commented that we are at our worst point and we need to keep persevering and not give up.

Jim Roberts stated that the permit allows us to raise Bass Lake 6". City of Kalamazoo indicated it has not been an issue. He asked Derek Haroldson if the DEQ permit could be changed to 8".

Derek Haroldson responded that raising the permit to 8" would not be just a revision to the permit. It is beyond the scope of this permit.

Ken Toy asked when Bass Lake was below the max last week, could we have increased the rate?

Derek Haroldson responded that Al Sabo has gone up 1-2". Atwater was looking good. Bass Lake was handling the flow. The wetlands are really wet right now. We may come to a point where we will have to stop or reduce due to impacts on the wetlands. He stated he has been happy with the timely data entry meeting the requirements of the permit.



MEETING SUMMARY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS FLOODING TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 20, 2019

Ken Toy asked if there was a point where we could increase the Eagle Lake Pump rate.

Derek Haroldson responded both pumps could run at 2000 gpm. We are not going to micro-manage the rate.

Tom Smith commented that we are looking at that and want both to go down at the same rate, which means we could increase the Eagle Lake pump rate.

7. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Pastor Dan Smith stated that his church is here to help. Please let them know if you need sandbags or basements cleared. Don't hesitate to ask for help.

Len Bosma asked Tom Smith or the Township when some of the answers are obtained to reconvene the subcommittee.

Someone in the audience asked where the State Representatives were?

Jack Levy (Senator McCann's Staff) responded that he has been attending meetings. They have been looking for possible grants to help the residents.

Ken Toy shared that many have been dealing with the Flood Insurance Game. If you applied for flood insurance after July 2018 they are denying the claims because it was an existing event.

Jeff VanBelle commented that a property owner on Pepper Street advised they received a payout of \$38k. Make sure you look at the coverage very carefully before you are purchasing flood insurance.

Tim Brown commented that he has been asked by many people the following:

1. The Drain Commission had authority to divert water over 1 year ago. Jeff VanBelle responded that was not true. The Drain Commission only has authority over county drains and legal lake levels. We have neither here. He reiterated that 65% of their projects are paid for by the residents.
2. Is it ok to pump water in storm drains? Jeff VanBelle responded that we do not see a good jurisdictional authority to stop it.
3. There was a connection between Crooked and Bass Lake. Engineering would not have come into play until recently.
4. Has the Township spent monies toward the flooding? Yes, we have, we also requested to add road funding to the Board Agenda.

Nick Loeks commented that we have money set aside for road projects.

Travis Bartholomew commented that the RC is looking at the numbers rights now to determine how much of the monies have been spent.



7110 WEST Q AVENUE
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269/375-1591
www.texastownship.org

MEETING SUMMARY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS FLOODING TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 20, 2019

Tim Brown commented that if we could go back in time, we would not have pumped water into the lakes.

Tom Smith responded that would not have mattered. It is a ground water issue.

Tim Brown stated that long term; we should establish a local emergency threshold.

Jeff VanBelle commented that we will be using the previous connection of the Crooked Lake to Bass Lake in the long term solution justification.

John Casper commented that up until today, Bass Lake had been handling the pumping well. That's why we can't increase 2 more inches. Portage Creek is over the threshold today.

The next Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 18, 2019 at 10:30am.

Submitted by Superintendent Julie VanderWiere