



MEETING SUMMARY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS FLOODING TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 29, 2019

A meeting of the Charter Township of Texas Flooding Task Force was held on August 29, 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
- Travis Bartholomew, RCKC Deputy Director
- Jack Levy, Sen McCann District Manager
- Clare Todd, Bass Lake Representative
- Andrew Tata, Bass Lake Representative
- Len Bosma, Eagle Lake Association
- Kalamazoo County Commissioner Christine Morse
- Dan Moyle
- Gerry Robbins, N Eagle Lake Dr. Representative
- Nate Henschel, Congress Upton's Office
- Kendra Gwinn, Portage Public Services Director
- Amy Coon, Eagle Lake Association
- Jim Roberts, Crooked Lake Association
- Russ Walters, Crooked Lake Association
- Dian Latora, Pine Island Development Representative
- Mark Rose, Vineyards Representative
- Texas Township Trustee Tim Brown
- Texas Township Trustee Nick Loeks
- Texas Township Superintendent Julie VanderWiere
- Texas Township Supervisor John Hinkle

2. FLOODING STATUS

Jim Roberts (Crooked Lake) reported that Crooked Lake is 20.50 inches down; 16.5 inches from highest point. Weeds are growing because of all the nutrients from the grass. They have lost about 100 trees across the lake from his property.

Gerry Robbins (N. Eagle Lake Drive) advised that they are drier now. Mother Nature has decreased ground water but the next 2 inch rain and we will flood again. We will be flooded if there is a 8-10 inch rain,

Dian Latora (Pine Island Development) advised that they are down but we attribute it to summer evaporation. We are down 18"-2" on our end and the other end is down about 1'. We are concerned for the fall.

Mark Rose (Vineyards Development) stated that the surface water is down. All the water is still going into Eagle Lake. They are all still pumping from their basements. He asked Jeff VanBelle when their drainage project would happen.

Amy Coon (Eagle Lake) stated that Eagle Lake is still going down. She said it is noticeable when the pumps are off. They are starting to see some homes selling for a lot less. She stated she is curious about the loss in property values.

Jeff VanBelle provided the following update on the Drain Office Projects:



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Vineyards: They were able to get the last easement. They could construct but have run into some glitches with the contractor. He does not feel this will get done this year. May have to wait until next spring.

N Eagle Lake Drive: He reported that he went out on the Deloof Property to inspect the pond. His engineer prepared a report after the inspection. This is set up as a series of ponds. If we were to build a system that is what we would do. If OP Ave did not exist the pond would still flow to Eagle Lake. DNR permit was issued to expand the pond to accept the additional water from Whispering Pines. While they were constructing this they hit a spring in 1989. If that development didn't go in it would still drain to Eagle Lake. He advised that Eagle Lake needs to get down to 900 WSE before he can start the drain project.

Jeff VanBelle went on to say that Mr. Deloof has filed a claim with MRTF for harassment. He is going to press charges for trespassing for anyone on his property without permission. Do not go on his property, he will prosecute.

Gerry Robbins commented that he has been talking with Jeff VanBelle. The N Eagle Lake Drain project was approved in October, it did not go in. The current RCKC culvert actually flows backwards. The drain project will not go in until next year. Heavy rains will flood us. Until that happens what can we do to mitigate?

John Hinkle stated that if there was a solution that would be considered.

Gerry Robbins asked if there could be a controlled outflow.

Jeff VanBelle stated that those ponds flow 1-2-3. There is a 24" culvert that people are plugging up. This will not stop it. The only thing I see can be done is to route the water where it wants to go.

Gerry Robbins asked Tom Wheat if he could go look at this and determine a solution.

Tom Wheat stated that they have not been asked but from what he knows; water will go where it wants to go.

Jeff VanBelle commented that they are looking at a possible control structure on the Ellis property. But they are not finding any other solution.

2. Flood Mitigation Project Update

Review of Lake Drawdown vs Expectations

Tom Wheat explained that the water keeps going down. The original projections were at the 3000/1500 rate and the 1500/750 rate. Our results are right in the middle as expected. Pine Island is included in the graphs. If we continue pumping at the same rate, Eagle Lake will reach the permit limit in July 2020 and Crooked Lake will reach their permit limit in March 2020. We do have concerns about pumping during the winter that we are going to have to work out. Right now Crooked Lake is responding better than Eagle Lake.

Gerry Robbins asked what averages are being used for the graphs? He then asked why not use the average of the last two years of rainfall?



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Tom Wheat responded that they are using the average rainfall for the area, not the last two years because that is not normal rainfall for this area.

Gerry Robbins then asked if it could be graphed using the data from the last three years?

Tom Wheat replied that he could ask Tom Smith but it would broaden the graph out.

Christine Morse asked Tom Wheat if he had thought about why Eagle Lake is not responding as well as Crooked Lake.

Tom Wheat responded that he would have to defer to Tom Smith. We did not do soil borings so it is difficult to say why. He added that Pine Island Lake is responding better than expected.

Dian Latora asked what happens if we hit the goal and Pine Island is still in trouble? We are seeing it go down but feel it's due to evaporation not the pumps. What happens if we still have 4-5 ft.?

Tom Wheat responded that we can continue to pump until the permit expires.

Derek Haroldson stated that the pump expires Sept 30, 2020. So you can continue to pump to maintain the permit levels.

Dian Latora inquired if that would benefit Pine Island?

Tom Wheat responded yes it would.

Len Bosma stated there are many subdivision residents that don't believe the pumping is helping them.

Dian Latora commented that they are all seeing the same results as last summer.

Gerry Robbins commented that there is water flow from many areas not just Pine Island. We have been flood by ponds above OP Ave, the Deloof Pond). N Eagle Lake Drive residents have flooded three times from that pond. A drainage district was created in September that was supposed to take care of the flooding but it couldn't be constructed. In 1989 Whispering Pines subdivision was constructed and both the DEQ and Drain Commission authorized road water to drain into the pond. Eagle Lake is not just getting overflow from Pine Island, it is also coming from North of OP. It is important to understand this.

Amy Coon inquired how the pumping is going to work through the winter.

Tom Wheat responded that the permit requires starting October 1 that the water levels must be consistent to protect the hibernating wildlife.

Derek Haroldson commented that the pump levels must maintain the water level consistency. We will be looking at the data and will be tailoring the pumping rates to keep it steady. Look at the WSE in the wetland and keep it steady through April 1.



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Russ Walters asked Tom Wheat if we will need to cut back the pumping rate during the winter.

Tom Wheat responded that we are still looking at this. Bass Lake Culvert being replaced will help both Bass Lake and the wetland. We will be asking to amend the permit to continue pumping continuously through the winter. If we get the permit it will be based on the data.

Amy Coon asked when things freeze how does work?

Tom Wheat responded that we don't want to shut off the pumps for 2 days in the winter because the pipes may freeze. If we can reduce the rate and continue pumping that will help the situation.

Derek Haroldson responded that the 48 hours off was primarily during the growing season. Permit does require it though. He would consider amendment if the Township asked for one.

Amy Coon stated that we should be considering this ahead of time.

Tom Wheat replied that the contractor is prepared either way but prefers to maintain pumping.

John Hinkle stated that the whole thing depends on the wetlands. Can DEQ give a conditional approval? When can this be addressed?

Derek Haroldson responded that EGLE needs a formal request. There are a lot of moving parts. We will try to keep the balance to continue pumping. We may be able to give a conditional approval based on the information that we already have.

Amy Coon urged everyone to look at the graphs. We rose steady all throughout the winter. We are all concerned that we are going to lose what we have gained.

Tom Wheat replied that we will pump through the winter.

Gerry Robbins commented that he agrees with Amy. Seems we need the Township to make a formal request and this needs to be done now. Tom Wheat should be looking at the process now.

Wetland Stresses

Tom Wheat reported that GEI has been reporting wetland stresses in all monitoring points. The conclusion is that it may be the result of the pumping but there are other wetlands in the area that are also showing signs of stress. The culvert replacement will help upstream.

Clare Todd commented that the wetland stress on the east side of 8th street side of wetland. There is more plant growth and more density that wasn't there before. Believe it is from treating lawns.



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Bass Lake Culvert Replacement

Jim Roberts asked how long it will take to get the permit to replace the Bass Lake Culvert.

Derek Haroldson responded that it will have to go through the public notice process, so at least 30 days. This would not be considered a minor revision unless it meets bankful width of the culvert.

Julie VanderWiere asked isn't this considered an Emergency Permit?

Derek Haroldson responded that we must request an Emergency Permit for it to be issued that way. The permit would then be issued first then there would be public notice.

Tom Wheat asked if there was a downside to the Emergency Permit.

Jim Roberts stated that the culvert is already there so it should be a minor permit.

Tom Wheat stated that it is a larger culvert.

Derek Haroldson replied that all categories are based on bankful so it will depend.

Travis Bartholomew inquired if we could size it up so that is bankful width?

Tom Wheat stated that it would have to be resized.

Jeff VanBelle stated that Derek Haroldson should look at that before changing the culvert size and he can make a recommendation.

Clare Todd inquired if downstream impacts have been considered?

Tom Wheat replied that Tom Smith advised no increased impact downstream but will reduce Bass Lake and the upstream wetland.

Len Bosma urged Derek Haroldson to please also consider the impacts upstream as well as downstream. We have wetlands as well that have been impacted.

Derek Haroldson stated that they are looking at all impacts upstream and downstream. The applicant and engineers need to show this is an improvement. It will be weighed on impacts.

Len Bosma requested that EGLE expedite the review as this is still a crisis.

Derek Haroldson responded that they know this is very important.



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John Hinkle commented that this is not a secret. Congress and the Governor are all aware of our crisis and will continue to move this forward.

3. TOWNSHIP BOARD GUIDANCE ON PUMPING RATE FROM EAGLE TO CROOKED LAKE

John Hinkle reported that every board meeting they are receiving a report from Tom Wheat. So far they have taken Tom's recommendation.

John Hinkle reported that the township board approved 30k to fund the preliminary engineering study with the idea to get credit for funds. We are going to have a Town hall meeting to explain the plan and this will be held at KVCC.

4. UPDATE FROM LONG TERM SOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Len Bosma thanked everyone that is participating in the subcommittee especially Tom Wheat and Jeff VanBelle for their invaluable participation. We have determined a route utilizing horizontal wells which will not require filtration. They are working on easements and have talked about a timeline. They have had three meetings and the fourth one is scheduled. We are also working with Jeff VanBelle on a MOU for augmentation pump and the next steps for the petition.

6. UPDATE FROM CONGRESSMAN UPTON'S OFFICE

Nate Henschel, Congressman Upton's Office, advised that he does not have any updates right now. They are still talking to FEMA.

8. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Travis Bartholomew commented that N. Eagle Lake Drive and Treasure Island Drive they are close to being able to shut the road pumps off. He does not see RCKC being able to remove the gravel this winter though. We will need to work through the long term solution and evaluate the elevations. O Ave 4th-6th Street will remain closed; they will need to raise the road. P Ave is closed but this is a soft closure as people can get through it, but they do not anticipate opening it any time soon. S Ave project came in at 1.4 million dollars and they are not confident it will work right now. They are going to do a temporary project similar to 8th Street and then try to work on the permanent fix in 2020 budget.

He also advised that RCKC is having a 110 year celebration open house on October 10th from 3-5pm.

Christine Morse inquired if the long term solution would have any impact on the County budget? She asked to be kept into the loop as it moves forward, so the County can budget appropriately.

The next Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 26th, 2019 at 10:30am.

Submitted by Superintendent Julie VanderWiere