



MEETING SUMMARY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS FLOODING TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 19, 2019

A meeting of the Charter Township of Texas Flooding Task Force was held on December 19, 2019, commencing at approximately 10:30 a.m. at the Texas Charter Township Hall.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Hinkle opened the meeting thanking everyone for taking the time to attend. He then invited the Task Force members to introduce themselves. The following members of the Task Force were present:

- Engineer Tom Wheat, Prein & Newhof
- Derek Haroldson, EGLE
- Kyle Alexander, EGLE
- Travis Bartholomew, RCKC Deputy Director
- Jeff VanBelle, Kalamazoo Deputy Drain Commissioner
- Senator Sean McCann
- Kalamazoo County Commissioner Christine Morse
- Phil Deyoung, Eagle Lake Association
- Nate Henschel, Congressman Upton's Office
- Dan Moyle
- John Casper, Bass Lake Representative
- Chuck Buxton, Crooked Lake Association
- Veronnica Kenreich, Restorative Lake Sciences
- Russ Walters, Crooked Lake Association
- Len Bosma, Eagle Lake Association
- Dian Latora, Pine Island Development Representative
- Mark Rose, Vineyards Representative
- David Pawloski, Kalamazoo County Road Commissioner
- Spencer Jowkar, N. Eagle Lake
- Nick McLaughlin, Pine Island Lake
- Texas Township Trustee Tim Brown
- Texas Township Trustee Nick Loeks
- Texas Township Supervisor, John Hinkle
- Texas Township Superintendent Julie VanderWiere

2. FLOODING STATUS

Russ Walters (Crooked Lake) advised that Crooked Lake is 21.87 inches above the high-water mark, which is down from last week.

Chuck Buxton (Crooked Lake) stated that in the last 4 weeks we have received 3 inches of rain. The pumping is working. If we weren't pumping, we would be the same as we were in June.

Spencer Jowkar (N. Eagle Lake Drive) advised that there has been no change. The gravel road is pretty bad. They are worried about the flooding coming from North of the lake.

Dian Latora (Pine Island Development) advised that there have been no real changes. Pumping into the street is still occurring which is creating icy conditions. They too are worried about springtime.

Mark Rose (Vineyard Development) reported no change as well. He asked Tom Wheat if we can get to where we need to be by the time the permit runs out?



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Tom Wheat responded that the effective rate is 1400 gpm which is 70% of the 2000 gpm limit taking into account the required 2 days off period. We are currently working on new projections and will have them posted soon.

Len Bosma (Eagle Lake) reported that the situation is the same.

Amy Coon (Eagle Lake) stated we are at the same elevation as August 25th which is 7 inches higher now than last year this time.

Nick McLaughlin (Pine Island Lake) advised that they have remained nearly the same since Thanksgiving give or take a few 100ths.

3. Flood Mitigation Project Update

Derek Haroldson (EGLE) reported that they continue to review monitoring data. The pump rates of 1000 gpm and 1200 gpm appear to be stable so EGLE authorized an increase to 1400 gpm. They will continue to monitor the levels and with the lack of rainfall they believe they will be able to get the true sense of the pumping impacts.

Derek Haroldson advised that they are reviewing the permit for the N. Eagle Lake Drain and the project seems to be pretty straight forward. They still have some minor questions on the permit and there will be public comment period as well.

Jeff VanBelle stated that EGLE came out on site to review the project. The Drain Office has some items to clarify. The plan is to build the project when the water levels recede.

4. UPDATE FROM LONG TERM SOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Russ Walters reported that Crooked Lake needed to obtain 167 signatures to meet the required percentage. They have met the 66% goal this morning.

Amy Coon reported that Eagle Lake is at 72%.

Len Bosma stated that the LLL subcommittee has not met in 1-2 months. He intends on holding a meeting soon to determine the next steps.

Christine Morse asked to be included in the meeting so that the County could be prepared to receive the petitions.

Jeff VanBelle stated that he would like the original petitions turned into him. Prein & Newhof will have to confirm the names to verify the accuracy.



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Russ Walters stated that he has been keeping track of all the signatures on a spread sheet. Some of the names have changed due to deaths and sales. He will need to go over the signatures with the person that is going to verify them.

John Hinkle gave a shout out to Chuck Buxton who worked diligently obtaining the signatures for Crooked Lake and helped them meet their goal.

5. FEMA GRANT APPLICATION/HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

John Hinkle advised that the Township contracted with Prein & Newhof to write the FEMA grant and complete the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Hazard Mitigation Plan addresses the Natural Hazards that could occur in the township.

Tom Wheat stated that the grant application needs to include a current approved HMP. Kalamazoo County's HMP is not current which is why we will have to create one for the Township. The HMP has been submitted to MSP and we are waiting for comments. Once we address the comments from MSP, we will send the plan to FEMA for review. On a concurrent and parallel path, we made application for the FEMA grant and we are currently working with the State Mitigation Officer to review the grant.

If we are awarded the grant this will impact how we approach the long-term project, but not how the project is designed and built.

Len Bosma asked if it would be beneficial to get endorsements for the County and State for the FEMA grant.

Nate Henschel responded that Congressman Upton is submitting a letter of support on behalf of the Township for the FEMA grant.

Len Bosma stated that it would be an opportunity for the Governor to weigh in and lend support as well as the County.

Christine Morse stated that she would talk to the County Chair about supporting the grant.

Senator McCann stated that he would be happy to help in any way that we can to support.

Tom Wheat advised that they will reach out to those agencies to determine if it is beneficial for the grant to show support from the County and State.

Nate Henschel stated he would reach out to his FEMA contacts as well. Congressman Upton sent a letter to the Governor requesting the pumping rate be increased back to 2000 gpm. He advised that the initial talks were positive.



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6. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Nick McLaughlin questioned if there were early reviews on the impacts of the 1400 gpm?

Derek Haroldson responded that it seems to be the same trend, but it is early. We need more time to properly review.

Tom Wheat reported that the hand measurements seem steady but one of the trolls seems to be out of calibration. They will work to get it back working properly. The first set of readings have been steady.

Nick McLaughlin commented that in discussion with his father, Dr. McLaughlin, about the rate increase and the potential impacts the increased data is helping to show the correlation. Is it possible to increase the pumping rate above 2000 gpm during the winter when the zebra mussels are not a concern because they are dormant? If the water is just a pass through and we can show no negative impacts can we increase the rate?

Kyle Alexander responded that if the Township wants to increase monitoring EGLE is happy to help with that. EGLE is also open to increasing the pumping rate if the data shows there is no negative impact. However, pumping around the filtration system has been discussed.

Derek Haroldson added that pumping around the filtration system has been discussed and it probably would not be allowed. The level of risk is too great.

Nick McLaughlin asked that the filter would have been required 12 months per year.

Derek Haroldson responded most likely and it was a moot point at the time because the water temperature was too high.

Nick McLaughlin responded that we are on a short timeline. Can we work shoulder to shoulder and review the data more regularly – daily or even hourly?

Tom Wheat responded right now it is weekly. The new monitoring wells are not network enabled because of cost. We can have discussions with EGLE, but we need to determine if we are going to gain anything with granular data.

Nick McLaughlin asked if it was possible to shorten the time frames that the data is reviewed so that the pumping rate could be increased when the data allowed for it.

Len Bosma asked if EGLE was reviewing the data weekly?

Derek Haroldson responded that EGLE looks at the data weekly. One week of data is not enough to make a decision. We would like to see 4 weeks of data to make an adjustment. If it continues to be stable, we may be more comfortable with 2-week determinations.



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Len Bosma made a request to increase the review to 2 weeks if possible.

Derek Haroldson responded that EGLE did not wait for the Township to request an increase. They contacted the Township to authorize the increase. We are narrowing what we are looking at because there is no growing season and no rain. If the levels remain constant, we will allow another increase.

Len Bosma inquired if hypothetically there was a pipeline through the wetlands could we increase the pumping rate?

Tom Wheat responded that the monitoring wells are in the Tamarack Wetland outside of Bass Lake so the wetlands would be too large to bypass.

Russ Walters inquired if there are issues with the River screen? They seem to be working on it a lot lately. Has it been down a lot and is Eagle Lake pump being shut down when Crooked Lake pump is down? He also asked about where we are at with budget and costs?

Jeff VanBelle responded that there are contingencies built into the budget. Balkema know they have to keep the pumping operation running during the winter months.

Russ Walters stated that people are concerned about cost increase of the project. We can't afford for it to change. We made promises during the LLL campaign.

Julie VanderWiere responded this is a project that has never been done before. There have been unforeseen costs, we are putting our best foot forward to work through this project. I do not know exactly where we are at with the budget at this point, but we will review and report back.

John Hinkle commented that we are suffering from trauma fatigue. We know people are hurting. We continue to work hard to resolve this. We need to continue to work together to get thru this. Dispel the fears- we will continue to address.

Tim Brown stated that in 2019 we discovered that 2000 gpm works. What is the story for 2020? We need to get back to the number that works.

John Casper stated that Bass Lake is holding its own.

Travis Bartholomew commented that the Road Commission is pumping Treasure Island however, they can't continue to run the pumps all winter. They determined that the cul-de-sac is lower than the lake level. He asked the Township to authorize the raising of the cul-de-sac to prepare for the pumps having to be turned off. The Township approved the project and RCKC raised the cul-de-sac 18 inches. The pumps are currently running, and the residents are helping to maintain them. He wanted to thank everyone that made it happen.

Tom Wheat commented that we are still have issues with illegal pumping into the sanitary sewer system, most likely from illegal sump pumps. Currently the 12th Street Interceptor is pumping 800,000 – 900,000 gpd and normal is 400,000 gpd. We need to stop this because the pumps can't keep up and there will be backups if the



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pumps are overwhelmed. There are three potential ways the water is infiltrating the system: 1) inflow into manhole covers 2) broken clean outs 3) illegal sump pumps. They used CCTV to determine where the increased flows are coming from and we will be contacting those property owners requiring them to stop.

David Pawloski thanked Julie for the eNewsletter sent out weekly and he thanked John for his comments.

Russ Walters also thanked Julie for the weekly update and thanked EGLE for the increased pumping rate.

Len Bosma thanked the residents on Eagle and Crooked Lake for signing the petition. He thanked Congressman Upton's office for the continued support and thanked EGLE for the promise to review and increase the rate when possible. He also thanked Prein & Newhof for the work on the grant. He stated that their letter to the Governor asked her to come visit the township and see what people are going through. She has not responded; he is #2403 on the list for a request for her to visit.

Nick McLaughlin stated that he is looking forward to getting rid of the water.

Christine Morse thanked RKC for raising the cul-de-sac. Marie Rogers was very appreciative and commented at a recent County Commission meeting. Christine was also happy that the petitions were obtained.

Derek Haroldson stated that Eagle Lake is down 10 inches, Crooked Lake is down 15 inches and Pine Island Lake is down 3 inches from the start of pumping. This year has been historically wet. The pumping still has been able to provide some relief. We will continue to help.

Jeff VanBelle stated he was at a meeting in VanBuren County, they are pumping there too. We think that Mattawan flooding is correlated to Texas Township flooding. He shared that a beaver dam was pulled out on 131 and it brought down Harrison Lake 2 ft. We will continue to work all angles to find solutions to this crisis.

Marika Ruhrop commented that for those of us that have water in our homes. We need to know what we are looking at; are we 5 years out, 3 years out? We need to communicate to the community our homes have zero equity. People are going bankrupt and they have no value in their homes. If you can't live in your home, you shouldn't have to pay taxes.

John Hinkle responded that we know it is really bad out there right now. We continue to work to help with relief but there is no certainty. We are working hard to relieve the situation.

Jeff VanBelle stated that this could persist. We might be in a 10-year cycle, but we are only in year 4. Lake Michigan is projected to reach all time high in 2020. This pushes up from the aquifer. This could hamper our efforts, but I still believe in the project.

Tom Wheat provided an estimated time frame based on the LLL. They hope to construct the project in 2021, but there is a gap between the short-term expiration and the Long Term. Because of this, we don't know what will happen with the levels during this time.



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

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The next Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 10:30am.

Submitted by Superintendent Julie VanderWiere