



## MEETING SUMMARY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS FLOODING TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 14, 2022

### Via Zoom

A meeting of the Charter Township of Texas Flooding Task Force was held on April 14, 2022, commencing electronically via Zoom at approximately 10:30 a.m.

#### 1. INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Nick Loeks opened the meeting, thanking everyone for taking the time to attend. The following members of the Task Force were present

- Engineer Tom Smith, Prein & Newhof
- Engineer Tom Wheat, Prein & Newhof
- Derek Haroldson, EGLE
- Kyle Alexander, EGLE
- Amy Coon, Eagle Lake Association
- Shawn Deverell, Sen Sean McCann's Office
- John Casper, Bass Lake
- Len Bosma, Eagle Lake Association
- Phil DeYoung, Eagle Lake Association
- Mark Worden, RCKC
- Jerry Robbins, N Eagle Lake Road
- Nick McLaughlin, Pine Island Lake
- Jason Wiersma, Kal County Drain Commissioner
- Zena Vos, Kal County D/Drain Commissioner
- Russ Walters, Crooked Lake Association
- Acacia Costales, Representative Christine Morse's Office
- Texas Township Supervisor Nick Loeks
- Texas Township Superintendent Julie VanderWiere
- Stacy Hissong, (FSBR) Drain Office Attorney
- Kyle O'Meara, (FSBR) Drain Office Attorney

#### 2. STATUS OF FLOODING

Amy Coon (Eagle Lake) reported that this morning Eagle Lake measured 900.52, which is 2.64 inches higher than last month but 4.2 inches lower than 4/14/21.

Russ Walters (Crooked Lake) reported that Crooked Lake is a little higher but not currently a concern. He is hoping for dry weather.

John Casper (Bass Lake) reported that Bass Lake is doing great.

Nick McLaughlin (Pine Island Lake) reported that Pine Island Lake is coming up a little bit. They still need the lake to come down about 2'. They are worried about the impact of Spring with no ability to pump.

#### 3. DRAIN COMMISSION UPDATE ON LONG-TERM PROJECT/NORMAL LAKE LEVEL

- Status of Design and Permitting Tom Wheat reported that we shared at the last task force meeting that EGLE said our original project would be permissible but too risky. We had to abandon that option and pursue an option that reduces risk. The option that we are moving forward with involves pumping and mechanical filtration similar to the short-term project except that the infrastructure will be permanent but out of site with



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the exception of the filtration building. This building will not be a pole barn but a block utility building.

The routing for the project will be similar to the short-term project. We will be using an infiltration bed in Eagle Lake to filter the water that will be pumped to Crooked Lake. We will not be using gravity fed system as originally planned. There will be some cost savings with the reduced size of the piping due to the mechanical pumping being added. Once filtered through the lake bottom, the water will be discharged into Crooked Lake.

There will be an infiltration bed also in Crooked Lake, where the water will be pumped to the filtration system that will be on Mr. Block's property. The short-term project used the River Screen as a pre-filter, the infiltration bed will filter to greater level.

Prein & Newhof has had further conversations with EGLE about the new project which has been productive. The discussions included invasive species and EGLE indicated that the new plan was good and has been proven to work.

The new plan has cost implications. The original plan using gravity and infiltration was approximately 1.6 million, but this did not include the cost of the Normal Lake Level Study. The cost for the new project using the pump and mechanical filtration is approximately 2.4 million and this includes the \$772,000 FEMA grant.

Stacy Hissong responded that we are making every effort to make this affordable to the residents. We can use Part 307 and assess the DNR, County and the Township. We are estimating that the riparian property owner costs will be just a little under \$4k and the backlot property owner cost will be \$1k, these numbers are exclusive of interest. As with other Special Assessments, this can be paid off without accruing interest or paid each year with interest. They are still evaluating with the Drain Commissioner how many years the assessment will be.

Tom Wheat explained that they reviewed the parcel counts and believe they are pretty accurate. There are some picnic lots on Eagle Lake that will need to be reviewed.

Stacy Hissong commented that there is roughly \$400k in contingency. If this is not used for the construction of the project it will be available for continued maintenance of the system.

Russ Walters asked if the water coming from Eagle Lake to Crooked Lake will be filtered from the lake bottom.

Tom Wheat responded that they know this is a concern for Crooked Lake residents. The plan is to use an intake bed in Eagle Lake which will be used as a filter.

Russ Walters asked if the infiltration bed was the same as what was being planned originally. The concern is that Crooked Lake will get new invasive species and Eagle Lake will get blamed.



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Tom Wheat responded that it is similar and that EGLE believes this will protect the lakes.

Stacy Hissong asked about the timeline if there are no “showstoppers”.

Tom Wheat responded that three major things need to happen:

Survey

Wetland Delineation

Survey the lake bottom to get a good design for the intake bed

They did submit for EGLE permit review several weeks ago, but the permit review process will start again as this is a new project design. EGLE doesn't care where the filtration building is located, they are only concerned about the flow, EGLE won't require building information.

Tom Wheat indicated that they would need spring/summer to complete the design work. They hope to bid the project out in late summer/fall and would be able to start construction immediately following. Most of this project can be constructed throughout the winter as well with the exception of PQ Avenue.

Stacy Hissong added that if we are able to bid out the project in late summer, they will be able to determine the financing and the first assessment payment would be on the Winter Taxes, if not then they may have to borrow for an additional year.

Tom Wheat also added that there are some supply chain issues right now but currently they are not aware of any specific delays that would impact this project. They will need to look at lead times before bid to allow for enough time to build the project.

Len Bosma inquired how the FEMA grant money is applied to the cost.

Tom Wheat responded that it was taken right off the top. If we were to get additional funds that would reduce the per parcel cost.

Len Bosma then inquired if all the easements had been obtained and whether the routing was the same as was planned originally. He also asked where the infiltration bed was planned to be located.

Tom Wheat responded that the routing is the same as what was originally planned for the long-term project, but it is not the same as the short-term project. He advised that the infiltration bed is in the lake.

Len Bosma inquired if the project would be maintained by the Drain Office and how would that affect the assessment.

Tom Wheat responded that there will be operating and maintenance costs as there were with the short-term project. We are designing the filtration building to be large enough to hold the pumps until they are needed as there will be years when they will not be in use. There will be electric costs and costs to have someone daily check on the system when it is in operation.



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Stacy Hissong added that if the construction of the project goes well, we should have \$300-\$400k left to pay for several years of operation and maintenance of the system. The DNR will theoretically pay 10 pts or 10 parcels because of the public access.

Tom Wheat added that on Crooked Lake the DNR would only have one parcel charge.

Len Bosma commented that the reason the original plan couldn't be used was because of the zebra mussel larvae as there are zebra mussels on Crooked Lake and not Eagle Lake currently. Will the filter bed be effective to prevent the spread of plant invasives?

Tom Wheat responded that yes, they are effective.

Len Bosma suggested that a footnote should be added on how effective the filter beds are in preventing the spread of invasives.

Stacy Hissong advised that they can add that to the Public Hearing presentation if there is one.

Len Bosma asked if the plan was to use the same filtration system.

Tom Wheat responded yes that the district owns the system.

Jerry Robbins asked who has oversight on the pumping and he commented that it was nice to know that the DNR is being assessed.

Tom Wheat responded that the Drain Office will have oversight on the pump operations.

Jason Wiersma advised that Julie VanderWiere and he were scheduling a meeting with the Lake Association Representatives to discuss the apportionment. He also advised that he is working on a grant to get boat wash stations for the lakes.

Russ Walters commented that Crooked Lake has had RLS mapping their lake bottom for several years, that information may be helpful to Prein & Newhof. He also commented that he has been told that Eagle Lake does have zebra mussels and that should probably be confirmed with RLS.

**4. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

None made

**The next Task Force Meeting has been scheduled via Zoom for Thursday, June 2, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.**

Submitted by Superintendent Julie VanderWiere  
May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022