



## MEETING SUMMARY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS FLOODING TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 10, 2022

### Via Zoom

A meeting of the Charter Township of Texas Flooding Task Force was held on October 10, 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
- Amy Coon, Eagle Lake Association
- Len Bosma, Eagle Lake Association
- Jerry Robbins, N Eagle Lake Road
- Dale Shugars, Kal County Commissioner
- Zena Vos, Kal County D/Drain Commissioner
- Jason Wiersma, Kal County Drain Commissioner
- James Baker, Kal Public Serv Director
- Travis Bartholomew, RCKC
- John Casper, Bass Lake Representative
- Acacia Costales, Rep Morse's Office
- Shawn Deverell, Sen Sean McCann's Office
- Russ Walters, Crooked Lake Association
- Texas Township Supervisor Nick Loeks
- Texas Township Superintendent Julie VanderWiere
- Stacy Hissong, (FSBR) Drain Office Attorney
- Dave Rachowicz, Kal County Parks Director

#### 2. STATUS OF FLOODING

Russ Walters (Crooked Lake) reported the Lake has been pretty stable and not as high as earlier this year. They are worrying about the levels right now but are concerned about what will happen in the winter.

Amy Coon (Eagle Lake) reported that the measurement this morning was 899.54, which is 3.36 inches from the legal lake level of 899.26. They are excited to see how close they are to reaching the LLL.

Jerry Robbins (North Eagle Lake Drive) reported that the NE corner of North Eagle Lake is doing great.

John Casper (Bass Lake) advised that Bass Lake has been stable and there are no issues to report.

Nick McLaughlin (Pine Island Lake)- reported that the water keeps going down a bit.

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

##### Update on EGLE Public Hearing:

Tom Wheat reported that the Public Hearing was held last Thursday, 7 people made comments at the meeting and EGLE received 4 or 5 written comments. Tom thought the meeting went well.



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Derek Haroldson commented that he thought it went really smooth. There were significantly less people attending than the first public hearing, which had approximately 400. Around 40 people registered for the hearing and 32 attended. Tom Wheat gave a presentation and Julie VanderWiere attempted to read a letter for the Township but was having connection issues. Tom Wheat read the letter on the Julie's behalf.

Len Bosma inquired if Derek or Tom could summarize the comments received

Derek Haroldson responded that in general some of the comments dealt with the proposed lake levels. Others were questions about the downstream impacts and the proposed monitoring particularly during the rainfall events and levels. During the Public Notice comment period they received about 10 comments.

Russ Walters asked if the comments on the LLL will be addressed since this project has no bearing on the LLL which were established by the Court.

Derek Haroldson responded that they are taking everything into consideration and recognize that those levels have been set by the court.

#### EGLE Permit Status:

Derek Haroldson reported that comments were being taken until Oct 16<sup>th</sup> on the public hearing. EGLE could take action on Oct 17<sup>th</sup> however, he doesn't think they will be ready to take action on that date though. They will be completing their review and doing follow up. After public comment has closed, they will move to the heart of the review especially since the project has changed with the backwash going to the sewer instead of to the lake. They will make a decision as soon as possible though.

Russ Walters asked if anyone in the agency had comments that are of concern? EGLE has had this for a long time now and has had a great deal of time to review.

Derek Haroldson advised that the Backwash change was received just before the public hearing, so they still need to review. Obviously they need to focus on the impact of the aquatic invasive species. But the project has not changed much from the short-term project.

Russ Walters stated that in the corporate world you get an initial reaction. He wondered if Derek you got an initial reaction from the rest of his team and if he sensed that there is support? He then added that this is taking a long time, and wanted to know what they needed to focus on?



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Derek Haroldson responded that the folks are familiar with what the project is, now that the filter has been included, that takes care of one the biggest concerns. But, once this is in place, they need to better understand how it is going to operate so we need to make sure that the review is thorough.

Jerry Robbins stated that he appreciates Derek's response, and Russ's comments. He inquired what the change to the backwash was.

Tom Wheat reported that they re-evaluated the backwash going into the lake as it did in the short term. The short-term was designed to go back into the lake because of the cost to send it to the sanitary sewer system. Now that the water is going to have less suspended solids and the sewer is close by and the capital cost was going to be less, they changed the recommendation to now have it go into public sanitary sewer system. This reduces the capital cost and helps the public opposition to the backwash going back into the lake as well as not having a pipe go into the lake that will require maintenance.

Jerry Robbins stated that this will be a permanent decision. The Drain Commissioner will have the ability to make adjustments as the project moves on, correct?

Stacy Hissong responded that she wanted to understand his question and added that any major change to the project would have to go back to court.

Jerry Robbins asked if as the Drain Commission monitors the project and everything is going well, can changes be made.

Jason Wiersma responded that they would work with EGLE on any requested changes

### Project Design Update:

Tom Wheat reported that by the end of October we should have a complete set of construction plans that they could take to bid. However, they would not put it out to bid until the EGLE permit has been issued, in case there are some required changes.

Nick Loeks asked once it is put out to bid how long will it take?

Tom Wheat responded that they planned on posting the project for bid for 30 days. Once the bids are received, the process will then be handed over to Stacey Hissong to handle the Special Assessment.

Stacey Hissong advised that they will hold a Public hearing on the costs, then it will need to be approved by the County Board

FEMA Grant: Tom Smith reported that he really doesn't have any new news. They did respond to all the additional comments by FEMA. FEMA has indicated that it looks good, but we don't know for sure yet.



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He advised that we submitted for \$2.3 million with a 25% match. He also advised that they are looking at another grant but not sure how that will work, if we don't get the additional monies.

**4. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

Len Bosma advised that we had a meeting with Associations, Drain Office, Nick and Julie to discuss the augmentation wells. The Assoc and the Twsp advocated that the wells be operated like they have been operated in the past. He thanked the Drain Office for having the meeting, it appears that the Drain Commissioner is also going to advocate for the same operation of the pumps.

Russ Walters stated that they did discuss a formal agreement with the Drain Office on the operation of the augmentation wells. He asked when they were going to see the formal agreement for the Assoc to review.

Stacey Hissong responded that they will get the Assoc something in the following week for to review.

Russ Walters responded that it isn't a hurry, he is just out of town and will need some extra time to get it to his board for review.

Stacey Hissong said we don't see anything inconsistent with the operation of the augmentation wells but ask that Derek lets us know if something comes up.

**The next Task Force Meeting has been scheduled via Zoom for Thursday November 17, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.**

Submitted by Superintendent Julie VanderWiere  
October 10, 2022