



Crooked and Eagle Lakes - Lake Level Project

Dear Landowner:

Texas Charter Township has collaboratively worked with the Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner to establish lake levels on Crooked and Eagle Lakes under Part 307 of Michigan's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. This process was necessary to construct infrastructure to permanently control lake levels on both lakes to prevent future flooding and property damage after what occurred in 2018.

After hard work and input from residents and stakeholders, the Township and Drain Commissioner were able to establish lake levels on both lakes and received permitting approvals for a permanent lake level project. There will be an assessment hearing on May 17, 2023 at 10:00AM located at the Texas Charter Township Hall (7110 W Q Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49009) to review the proposed project and its costs.

In full transparency, the cost of construction of the project (approximately \$5,055,670) is higher than what was estimated by engineers due to, among other things, extraordinarily high demand for public construction projects. As stewards of public funds, we feel it is important to discuss the higher costs with property owners on the 17th, but also to note the following in advance:

1. Project engineers closely reviewed the awarded bid, and upon initial review, were able to discuss with the contractor to reduce original bid costs by around \$500,000.
2. The Township has a FEMA grant in the amount of approximately \$1,679,475 to offset costs that would normally be assessed to property owners.
3. County general funds will pay for around 12% of project costs and Township general funds will pay around 10% of project costs further offsetting property owner assessments.
4. The project will continue to investigate potentially more contributions from FEMA or public entities. If further contributions are received, assessment amounts will be reduced.
5. Project costs will be spread via multi-year assessments.
6. Estimated assessments amounts will be included on a hearing notice. You may coordinate prepaying your assessment by calling (269) 290-1363 to avoid interest charges. We request receipt of assessments prepayments by June 23, 2023.

For reasons including that it is unlikely that project costs will go down over time and to avoid losing the current project bid or delaying the project, there was a collective decision to move forward with the assessment hearing. We hope that information is helpful and do not hesitate to call (269) 290-1363 with questions.