

Crooked Lake Flooding Task Force
SUMMARY - February 25, 2019
Prairieville Township Hall 5:30 pm

Objective of the Task Force: Collaboratively, through public and private resources, develop short and long-term solutions.

Meeting Format: Since this is a committee meeting, we will not have Public Comment. However, when there are specific actions the public will have the opportunity to formally express their opinions and/or concerns at Public Hearings. Until then, please provide input to Supervisors, or if Task Force requests it.

Committee Members

State Representative, Julie Calley (prior commitment)	Barry Township Supervisor, Wes Kahler
Engineer, Brian Cenci / (Nicholas) Nick De Simpelare	DEQ, Audrie Kirk
Commissioner, Vivian Conner	Road Commission, Brad Lamberg (prior commitment)
MDOT, Jim Davis	Road Commission Representative, Brandi Casey
DNR, Matt Diana	DCLA, Jim Minich
Drain Commissioner, Jim Dull	Sewer SWBCSWA, Scott Monroe
Parks, John Hoek (prior commitment)	Prairieville Township Supervisor, Jim Stoneburner
Commissioner, David Jackson	Chair, Sharon Ritchie

Call to Order

Welcome and Introductions – Committee Members, Hydrogeologists, 41 residents and media rep were present

Approve Agenda – Motion Dave Jackson, Support Jim Dull - Motion Carried

Approve Summary Dec.17, 2018 Task Force – Motion Jim Dull, Support Dave Jackson – Motion Carried

Old Business

1. Communications

- Thanked Townships for website postings which included material by Drain Commissioner and Engineers from canceled January meeting
- Sharon contacted Consumers Energy to explain flooding situation and dependence on pumps working, and confirmed that they send advance notice for routine work that causes power outages
- Sharon read residents' comments obtained after December meeting (on website)
- Sharon also shared that residents state lake has gone up the past two weeks
- She hopes that during discussion, comments and/or questions will be answered

New Business

1. Jim Dull – Provided update regarding elevated lake level of 927.1 (legal lake level is 922.75-2017-2018 lake up 3”, 2018-2019 lake up 7”), and his actions to address flooding
– Stated total amount of disbursements to date (including any pending transactions) is \$404,841.91. He will provide copies of itemized disbursement details to members at next Task Force in March. Doug Kelly has started interim borrowing in the amount of \$400,000 with an interest rate of 2.1%, with 2 year borrowing period
2. Engineer - Presented information to obtain short and long term solutions (on website)
 - Darrell Jones property, 23.4 acres, \$105,000, is set for closing February 27, need permit easement, pumps, etc. - expect to lower lake 2-1/2”
 - Irrigation – Jim and Nick have been in contact with farmers
 - Discussed Tasks Completed since last meeting (on website)
 - Shared Next Steps (on website)
 - Brian said vegetative surveys are required for Upper and Lower Crooked Lake regarding invasive species. He contacted Progressive AE; due to vegetative cycle, it would take a year.

- Jim Minich said he had paperwork from when lake was treated, and Matt Diana said that would be helpful. Matt said you could pull log in two weeks.

3. Hydrogeologists –

Mick Lynch - American Hydrogeology Corporation

Al Kehew - American Hydrogeology Corporation (WMU professor of glacial geology and hydrogeology)

Provided information on piezometers which will show data for underground water flow which will be helpful to determine most efficient, cost effective long-term solution(s)

Surface gauges will be utilized at approximately 5 properties to determine lake levels

4. Update from Committee Members

- Matt Diana - In talking with Texas Township it is important to check for zebra mussels in the study.
 - Vivian Conner – she checks with Jim Dull twice a week and is hoping for solution
 - Jim Minich – There is an obvious flow, and Milo Rd has been raised, and asked if it couldn't be undone. Jim Dull stated different properties that they have looked at in that area. Brian said we can't look back 35 years to alter action; we need to look forward to solution.
 - Audrey Kirk – She doesn't have permit on her desk at this time. She shared timeline for permit processing and approval (on website), and stated that a complete application would expedite the service. Also, since DEQ approved two emergency permits in the , they will not approve another emergency permit. There are two offices that handle permits. Audrey stated that Crooked Lake is a priority, but she only handles part of the permits.
 - Brian said that it would be Spring of next year before a long-term solution is in place. They want to insure that there is minimal impact downstream, and will be working to obtain easements, but if not eminent domain would be considered to effect a solution.
 - Wes asked how many homes are affected by flooding on Crooked Lake; Brian said 250.
 - Jim Dull said that they have assisted homeowners off Floria with damage from flooding, one with Stay Dry and one with BailTek.
 - Dave said that he has toured the area and is concerned that it is not lower, and that there is not a long term solution in place. He wants to see results for the expenditures
 - Brandi said that the Road Commission is again willing to provide sand and empty sandbags to residents. Sharon spoke to Brad and he is willing to provide signage to warn of water over road.
5. Communication Recap – Sharon expressed gratitude to task force members for addressing residents concerns through discussion, and for being available after meeting to talk with residents
6. Website Postings – Summary and related material will be posted as soon as possible
7. Next Steps – Discussed during discussion and on website
8. Timeline for short and long term solutions – as discussed – and on website

Future Meetings Dates – 5:30 pm, Prairieville Township Hall

March 25

April 29

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Ritchie

Residents' Concerns for ~~January 28, 2019~~ February 25, 2019 Task Force Meeting

Can't handle More Water Into Crooked Lake – No outlet – Over 4 Feet Above Legal Lake Level

- Don't flood the lake through additional water from any source.
- If sand bag dam at M-43 comes out and we get spring rains it will be a disaster of biblical proportions. The lake has already gone up slightly in the last couple of weeks. There must be a solution (either short or long term) in place before all that water is allowed in here.
- If that sand bag dam comes out at any time before a solution is in operation it will be a disaster.
- Concern about Crooked Lake's flooding and the impact on homes and property; lake level is up and we have snow and rain to raise it further

Cause of Flooding

- It is important that the actual cause of the flooding be properly determined and clearly understood -
Floria Drain Sewer Other Sources...
- Source of all water coming into Crooked Lake must be identified and stopped; we have no outlet

Backwater

- High water impact has been devastating not only to the Cranes, but to other wildlife as well. Last year we had hundreds of toads mating for days in the shallow wetlands; this year there were none due to the flooding. The mudflats and wetlands are critical to wildlife habitat. The future of Sand-hill Cranes is mainly tied to fate of their habitat; important to conserve wetlands.
- Need a solution that protects the needs of our fragile environment and all of nature. We are fortunate to have DEQ and DNR present to be a part of the solution. Nature should be embraced and not forgotten.
- Concern with how low the lake level will be reduced, We live in the backwaters, and worry extreme lowering of the lake could dry up the backwater of Upper Crooked Lake.

Options

- Why does it have to be 'a' solution? Why not 2 solutions. For instance, pump some water south to Spring Brook (not to exceed 720 gpm) AND pump some into Darryl Jones property. Or get permission to put 'some' but not all the excess water into West Gilkey AND let the farmers pump some through their center pivots... it might save houses.

Fear of Additional Flooding

- Due to additional water coming in lake; there is no outlet .. lake keeps rising
- If pumps quit working, there will be damage due to flooding in homes
- Residents feel they can't leave home, need to be present for rising water and flooding
- If electricity is interrupted, pumps won't work, homes will be flooded
- Did not approve water coming into lake; do not want additional water; need lake level lowered soon

Restoration

- Will residents receive reimbursement for expenses related to the flood, in order to maintain homes, and to restore homes as they were prior to the flood?
- Concern about tax bills and lost property value

Short – Term Solution Alternatives under Current Consideration

1. Darrell Jones property
2. Irrigation

Long – Term Solution Alternatives under Current Consideration

1. Constructed wetland and infiltration field to the south
2. West Gilkey Lake & Indian Lake
3. Chain of lakes to northeast and Fall Creek

Tasks Completed Since last Meeting

1. Jones Property
 - a. Finalize purchase area with seller
 - b. ALTA survey
 - c. Part 327 Water Withdrawal Permit Application
 - d. Site meeting with Dewind Dewatering
 - e. Obtain quote for pump operation from Dewind Dewatering
 - f. Preliminary site plan
2. Infiltration Field
 - a. RFP for piezometer installation
 - b. Select contractor for piezometer installation – EDAC
3. Review historical local rain gauge data
4. Identify potential route, impacted properties and impacted wetlands from Long Lake to Fall Creek
5. Meeting with assistant director of MDEQ Water Resources Division on route towards Fall Creek

Next Steps

1. Jones Property
 - a. Obtain easement over adjacent property
 - b. Obtain easement over Boze property
 - c. MDEQ/USACE Joint Permit Application for wetland and inland lake impacts
2. Infiltration Field
 - a. Piezometer installation scheduled for end of April
 - b. Obtain permission from property owners adjacent to lakes south of Lower Crooked Lake where access for groundwater study will be necessary
3. Site walk with assistant director of MDEQ Water Resources Division on route towards Fall Creek
4. Obtain quote from Dewind for tying into private irrigation lines south of Lower Crooked Lake

Joint Permit Application Review Process

Arrange for an Optional Pre-Application Meeting prior to submittal of a final application, www.mi.gov/jointpermit

