

Crooked Lake Flooding Task Force November 26, 2018

Prairieville Township Hall 5:30 pm

Meeting Summary - DRAFT

Sharon Ritchie called the Committee Meeting to Order at 5:30 pm and thanked everyone for attending, committee members and citizens, too. She stated the Objective of the Task Force: Collaboratively, through public and private resources, develop short and long-term solutions. At the previous meeting, November 8, it was stated that the Task Force would be modeled after Texas Township Crooked Lake Task Force. 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.

When attendees were contacted about the meeting, the Purpose was to discuss: 1. Scope of Committee 2. Learn Current Status 3. Decide Next Steps 4. Determine Timeline

Sharon then Introduced Task Force Members: State Representative Julie Calley, Engineer Brian Cenci, Engineer Nick DeSimpelare, Commissioner Vivian Conner (absent due to training), DNR Matt Diana, Drain Commissioner Jim Dull, Commissioner David Jackson, Road Commission Brad Lamberg

Barry Township Supervisor Wes Kahler (absent), DCLA Jim Minich (absent due to visitation), Sewer SWBCSWA Scott Monroe, Prairieville Township Supervisor Jim Stoneburner, DEQ Audrie Kirk, Parks John Hoek, then she asked if others should be included. It was decided that Sharon will send Meeting Summary to MDOT Jim Davis.

Before discussing Purpose of this meeting, Sharon asked to discuss her role. She volunteered to contact people and arrange this first meeting, and stated she was happy to facilitate, too. However, she wanted to know what the Committee would like her role for this meeting and future meetings. It was decided that Sharon would continue as Chair of the Task Force.

Purpose of Meeting

1. Scope of Committee / Responsibilities

- Committee will share information, ask questions, in order to develop short and long-term solutions so that everyone is on the same page, and communicate information to be transparent in hopes to reduce rumors.

2. Current Status

Jim Dull, Brian Cenci, and Nick shared information regarding efforts for short and long term solutions. They have met with Four Township Watershed, reviewed 1959 DNR map, met with Geologist, and reviewed ground water data from Health Department. Items to consider include cost, permits, number people impacted (go through their land/easements/purchase), construction, and pumping costs. Brian stated that Drain Code law states that there can be no negative impact downstream. As they consider options they want no negative impact or minimal negative impact. It appears that it will be necessary to use pumps regardless of direction of water.

Brian said that one solution discussed has been to condemn or buy property, 5 million dollars. Permits and invasive species are items to be considered, too.

☐ Injections Wells – Brian has contacted EPA and Nick said it would be very, very expensive as they are very, very deep, 1200 feet

☐ Hold on 40 acres for 60 days, close to Crooked Lake, have permission from property owners (Jones and Boze) for this short-term solution so it could be done, need soil boring, and the engineers are working with WMU and MSU to obtain data regarding ground water flow to better understand ground water movement in this area, as they ascertain how much water this area can hold. This option could be short and long term solution, depends on flow, seepage or infiltration, pumping or storage area, 10-20 mil liner would hold water and prevent from coming back into Crooked Lake, topography sets up well, there is a depression. Although there is no outlet for this option, Jim Dull has obtained permission from Deb Knight, will contact others, to move to Delton Drain, there is enough passage if go to Cloverdale. This short-term solution for the winter is projected to lower the lake by six inches. By making this a wetland, we might be eligible for a grant, and could actually make money by selling this in the future when long term solution is in place.

☐ Water to Springbrook, Commissioner Jackson asked about Trout Stream, and was told that it is fed by groundwater, water might need treatment prior to discharge, and culvert size is important. This might be long-term, some outlet, impact minimum, the water would infiltrate the ground water with minimal overflow to Springbrook to minimize the negative impact.

☐ Prairieview Dairy – In the past they had pump in Lower Crooked Lake; Jim has contacted them

☐ Farmers – Jim will contact them about pumping in the Spring; Road Commission installed culverts and repaired road this summer for this purpose

Information needed regarding: Is Crooked Lake spring fed, information regarding north – south flow

3. Next Steps – Sharon explained that she would ask each committee member for update and allow time for questions or input from other members to ensure that everyone is on the same page

Brian, Jim and Nick will follow-up on each option and report at the next meeting

Commissioner Jackson said it was important to reduce cost as \$238K has already been spent, and pumping

three miles would be costly. Communication is key and would like meetings to be noticed in advance to allow participation. He recognized that The Local Grind did not allow for a lot of residents to attend. Sharon said that the purpose of the Task Force was to be transparent and have timely information available to residents to reduce rumors and provide facts. And, Prairieville has agreed to host future meetings.

John stated that the flooding caused the Parks to cancel bass tournaments this year which caused a loss of revenue. If the water remains high next year, they will need to discuss if they will cancel again next year.

Scott asked if MDOT should be invited; Sharon will email Jim Davis

Brad asked about cost

Brian stated that property owners near Glasby Lake have agreement (Pressley and Hull) and the water level varies around Glasby Lake (Floria Rd, M-43, etc.)

Jim said it would nice to share information and meeting date

Matt said he is concerned about fisheries and ecological issues and wants to minimize the impact and avoid problems in permitting process.

Audrie said that she is a part of a team which includes Luis her supervisor, assistant chief of fisheries, Amy Berry, and she acts as a sounding board and reviews permits. She has received modification request for dam on east side of M43, which is temporary. Originally issued for December 1st, modification until 2019, lessen impact. Audrie said that she needs property authorizations, and Brian said he had 9 of them and plans to get the rest tomorrow. Jim said that one property owner asked for more water in Glasby Lake as he no longer has beavers. Audrie also discussed DEQ credits for wetlands, and the possibility of selling this land in the future.

Brad said that is able to expedite within a day. This year he worked on 2 roads and rushed to complete.

Julie said that this is a local control issue, but she is happy to participate and fight bureaucracy if needed. However, she was pleased to see two agencies at this meeting (DEQ and DNR)

Jim said he will not meet with Pleasant Lake December 1st; there are 12 property owners and they don't believe they could get all of their permission. He has also talked with Sarah Nelson about US Fisheries Grants for Wetlands.

4. Determine Timeline – Short and Long-Term Solutions

Based on the above discussion it is impossible to state the dates for short and long term solutions. However short-term solutions are planned for this winter (property has 60 day hold), and Spring pumping by the farmers.

As for long-term, Brian stated that it is complex since we are part of two watershed, Grand River and Kalamazoo. Goal is to infiltrate as much water in ground as possible to reduce impact downstream or on environment.

Transparent, timely Communication was discussed. Sharon has contact information for Committee Members to provide meeting information. A link will be on Township websites to provide meeting summary and future meeting dates. Although some citizens may not have ability to check website, hope is that other citizens will provide that information to provide current status and reduce rumors. Sharon will contact Prairieville tomorrow to get website established. She will also contact Barry since Wes wasn't at meeting.

The Task Force will meet December 17, 5:30 pm, Prairieville Township Hall. If unable to attend, committee member will provide informatio to Sharon prior to the meeting in order to share with committee, or have someone attend in their place to provide information. Jim Dulll expressed gratitude for assistance. Adjourned.