

Crooked Lake Flooding Task Force
SUMMARY – March 25, 2019
Prairieville Township Hall 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

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

Format: Since this is a task force 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.

Task Force Members

State Representative, Julie Calley – Patricia Garber *
Engineers, Brian Cenci / (Nicholas) Nick De Simpelare
Commissioner, Vivian Conner - absent
MDOT, Jim Davis - absent
DNR, Matt Diana
Drain Commissioner, Jim Dull
Parks, John Hoek
Commissioner, David Jackson - absent

Barry Township Supervisor, Wes Kahler
DEQ, Audrie Kirk
Road Commission, Brad Lamberg
DCLA, Jim Minich
Sewer SWBCSWA, Scott Monroe
Prairieville Township Supervisor, Jim Stoneburner
Chair, Sharon Ritchie

Call to Order at 5:30 by Sharon Ritchie She shared that there is a Parks Meeting at 6:30. The Task Force plans for a one hour meeting. However, the Task Force will continue as necessary to complete Agenda.

Review/Approve Agenda – Motion Jim Minich, Second Jim Dull – Agenda Approved

Review/Approve Summary of February 25, 2019 Task Force Meeting – Motion Jim Stoneburner, Second John Hoek - Summary Approved

Old Business

1. Communications- Sharon shared that she has received communication regarding meeting format. She shared that a Task Force is a work group comprised of experts in specialized areas, created as a result of an unexpected, unanticipated need, to acquire knowledge on how best to respond to the event. The Task Force work is collective and addresses objectives of the group. This team has agreed to meet once a month in this capacity for an hour. A committee is typically defined by organizational by-laws or charters to perform specified function on behalf of larger group. The Task Force is not part of local, county, or state organization, or subject to their rules regarding meeting format. To maximize the time the Task Force will not accept public comment.
2. Jim Dull provided update from last Task Force meeting:
 - Task Force information is on both **Township websites:** *prairievilletwp-mi.org* then select *Flooding Crisis* on left column to obtain Meeting dates and related Task Force information or *barrytownshipmi.com* then select *Meetings* at top, then *Crooked Lake Flooding Task Force* for related Task Force information.
 - He clarified that there are 250 properties on the lake, 192 have been impacted, to some degree. Due to rising water it is probably 197 now
 - He discussed the process of notification of property owners for the Board of Determination meeting. He said that people could come up and review that listing after the meeting. He will provide a copy to be posted on both websites for residents review. He has his business cards available for attendees.

New Business

1. Jim Dull
 - Provide update regarding current, elevated lake level, has surpassed 927.35, and actions to address flooding
 - Short-term solution(s) - N Side of Delton Rd – Jones Property
 - Permit Status – Has not been submitted; hopefully will submit tomorrow

- Easement Status – Need to secure easement
 - Date to Begin – Preparing land now, but need permit, easement, and pumps in place
 - Benefit – The 2-1/2 inches is conservative and will impact properties differently
 - Presented year to date disbursements
 - Distribute copies of disbursement details to Task Force Members at meeting
 - Did not distribute year to date itemized expenses. Brian will provide breakdown of Engineer expenses to be included with Drain Commissioner's information, which will be posted on website.
 - FEMA update – Jim Yarger was going to present Notice of Intent to Barry County Commissioners today for acceptance by the County. Wes Kahler said that he has submitted an application but does not have additional information. Sharon asked about the survey and who would be responsible for costs. Wes thought that they had the survey information. Sharon asked if County approved then would it be approved at Township level. Jim Stoneburner will talk to Wes. FEMA will be an Agenda item for next month, with update from Jim and Wes, with the pros and cons.
 - Jim said that as a result of MDOT letter regarding permit 56809 to remove the “dam” to restore drainage and prevent highway flooding the sand bags would be removed
2. Engineers - Presented tasks done to March 25 to obtain short and long term solutions
- Distributed copies of action bullet points to Task Force Members at meeting
 - Discussed Project Timeline and Flowchart
 - Jim Dull said that the meeting with DEQ and site walk went well to explore solutions
 - Brian discussed AIS testing on lakes. Sharon asked if they had tested Crooked Lake as the ice was about to leave. Brian said no, they have several lakes to test. Jim Minich provided historical information for Crooked Lake. Brian said it did not contain enough information; they have hired another firm to test all lakes.
 - Both North and South solutions were discussed
 - Jim Minich pointed out that best case construction would begin September 2020, with duration of 6-18 months ... and worst case construction would begin November 2021 with 6-18 months for construction.
 - Sharon said with the rising water (17 inches in the past 9 months) where is the water coming from? Jim Dull said that he didn't know. Sharon asked what is the likelihood that properties, homes, and environment will survive with the projected timeline. Jim said that they are still working with farmers to try and assist with water removal this year.
3. Updates from Task Force Members
- John Hoek said the Parks meeting begins at 6:30 and will discuss the Boat Launch Ramp, Bass Tournaments and No Wake. He provided a clipboard to distribute for people to indicate if they were interested in securing a No Wake sign
 - Matt Diana mentioned invasive species and, due to high water, we may find pike in our yard as it is pike spawning. Sharon thanks Matt for mentioning the filter for zebra mussels, which is delaying water removal on Crooked/Eagle Lakes in Texas Township.
 - Jim Minich said that they may have a special DCLA (Delton Crooked Lake Association) meeting to secure residents input on how they would like DCLA to proceed
 - Audrie mentioned that she has no application on her desk, but has blocked off 4 hours daily to review permit, since we are in crisis. She did suggest that we request a Public Hearing and Brian indicated that the Engineer would request it up front. Audrie said to review flowchart on website regarding process.
 - Scott asked about pumping. Short-term will require pumping. Either north or south solution could require pumping or gravity.
 - Jim Stoneburner said that if the park was closed boaters would still access the lake, as was the case last year when bass tournament entered through Barry Township site.
 - Jim Dull said that a permanent No Wake would require petition of both townships and difficult to lift permanent No Wake in the future. Bill Johnson stated that it is 50 feet from raft, dock, etc.

Updates from Task Force Members Continued

- Wes said he received letter from John Hoek, after their meeting, so has not been discussed at Barry township
 - Brian shared the benefit of short term solution and discussed assessment district that was overstated, but residents have right to appeal at the public hearing. Brian shared that the assessment would consider benefit, size of land, how use land, proximity, etc. He said County Roads, MDOT, Townships were in district, too
 - Brian said this would be a 20-year taxable event,(which could be paid in full to avoid interest) and would probably be on tax bill for December 2020. Task Force member asked about selling property. It was stated that selling would probably require a clear title.
4. Next Steps – Sharon said that it appeared that next steps were discussed; members agreed
 5. Website Postings – Sharon said that the following documents would be on the website: Meeting Summary, BOD mailing list, Maps distributed at meeting, Project Timeline and Flow-sheet, and Detailed Expenses. Sharon mentioned a memo from Engineer after last month's meeting and asked if that should be on the website, too. Brian said that he thought that would be helpful to explain the short-term solution and benefit. Members agreed that it should be posted. Due to the size of the maps and other distributed information, Engineer and Drain Commissioner will send electronic files to each Township for posting on website, too. Task Force members and community will be able to access files on either Township website

Future Meeting Date

April 29

May 20

Adjourned by Sharon Ritchie

* Note: Patricia Garber attended the meeting since Rep. Calley had a conflict. Unfortunately Patricia did not join the Task Force at table. However, she wanted to confirm that there is not legislation to address short-term No Wake on inland lakes, and expressed Rep. Calley's concern for the crisis and negative impact on our community.