

# The Eagle Lake Safety Committee Charter

## Introduction

Eagle Lake located in Texas Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan is an approximately 250 acre all sports lake. The Eagle Lake Texas Association (ELTA) is comprised of many year-round and seasonal lake residents along with residents who have lake access. The purpose of the association is to protect and improve the environment of Eagle Lake.

## Purpose

This charter creates a Safety Committee for ELTA to assess and recommend actions to the ELTA Board of Directors to improve the safety of Eagle Lake for all who enjoy it. The Committee Membership is open and will consist of volunteers who are dues-paying members of ELTA. Scheduled meetings will be arranged by the committee chair who will be elected by the committee members.

## Background

The revisions to the ELTA By-Laws empower the members to become involved in the management of Eagle Lake, and it brings along the responsibility for members to improve of all aspects of lake safety. This committee will provide recommendations to the ELTA Board that, if adopted, will help preserve and improve safety on and around the waters of Eagle Lake. The committee is aware that good safety improvements will best be achieved in cooperation with ELTA to all users of Eagle Lake, as well as governmental authorities responsible for the safety and improvement of Eagle Lake, including Texas Township, the State of Michigan and its Department of Natural Resources, and the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office.

## Issues

The safety issues to be assessed for recommendation improvements by the committee include:

- Boater's safety issues; and
- Boat ramp / DNR safety issues;

## Goals

The goals for the committee are to provide recommendations to the ELTA Board on how to implement safety improvement actions that best convey the information pertaining to the issues documented above:

- Work with governmental authorities, lake residents and the community at-large who enjoy and use Eagle Lake to assess and identify lake safety issues;
- Develop recommendations and action plans to improve lake safety;
- Communicate safety improvement action plans via information channels, including ELTA's Communication Committee and Newsletter, Texas Township, the State of Michigan and DNR and the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office;
- Make use of special writings and or meetings to provide details of critical messages, plans or outcomes;

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- Regularly solicit member feedback to ensure the desired result is being obtained;
- Listen well to the member responses and or queries, and assist the Board to address all issues in a forthright and timely manner.

## Scope

To meet the above goals, the committee will include the following objectives in their assessments for determining recommendations:

- Achieve a long-term focus by creating and establishing a coherent strategy for long-term safety, with the goal of making the lake community safer now and in the future.
- Identify short-term actions by determining cost efficient actions that implement and fulfill the long-term strategy.
- Provide user awareness by determining activities that educate all users of Eagle Lake on safety.
- Take into Eagle Lake user's diversity and demographic spectrum by determining beneficial actions that benefit the majority of the community, while also taking steps to ensure no user of Eagle Lake is excluded from communications.
- Apply relevant research by evaluating successful safety activities of other lake associations and other relevant bodies for determining new potential safety practices.
- Creating assessments by identifying and establishing baselines that can be utilized for monitoring and measuring safety.
- Being mindful of cost by identifying solutions that deliver the best benefit.

## Next Steps

To ensure that the Safety Committee fulfills its charter, it will follow the steps in the figure below to build and provide recommendations to the ELTA:

1. Identify issues – the committee will identify and monitor issues and concerns
2. Identify goals – the committee will identify and update goals as required
3. Review scope – the committee will be mindful of scope to ensure they remain within boundaries
4. Research solution sets – the committee will study and research feasibility and cost effectiveness of various solution sets that improve communications.
5. Determine options – the committee will prioritize and rank the most optimum solution sets
6. Provide recommendations – the committee will document its work and present written recommendations to the ELTA Board