



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

November 27, 2019

Eagle Lake Texas Association
PO Box 283
Oshtemo, MI 49077

Dear Eagle Lake Texas Association,

Thank you for taking the time to contact me about the situation in Texas Charter Township. I am grateful for your correspondence and the opportunity to respond.

As you know, the Township over the past 18 months has grappled with above average rainfall and high lake levels. This spring I reached out to the Attorney General's office to review any and all options available to supply relief to township residents. Additionally, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) collaborated with local officials to fast-track a permit to pump water from Crooked Lake and Eagle Lake out to Bass Lake. Pumping began in late May, and lake levels dropped throughout the summer.

As part of the permit, the pumping would occur at a rate of 2000 gallons per minute (gpm) with an understanding that the rate would be reduced if it had a negative impact on downstream wetlands. As another part of the permit, the Township agreed to monitor downstream wetlands for effects of the pumping. During the summer, EGLE monitoring showed increasing biological stress included wilting, abnormal color change, and mortality of plant life in wetland areas around Bass Lake.

Together with water level monitoring data, which showed that water tables were not falling normally, the spreading biological stress indicated that the pumping rate caused a negative impact on downstream wetlands. Pursuant to the permit, EGLE sought a temporary reduced pumping rate of 1,000 gpm on Crooked and Eagle lakes. EGLE was careful to ensure that with consistent pumping, the reduced rate would continue to bring lake levels down.

The department is committed to working with Texas Township to balance the long-term protection of Michigan's natural resources with the need to mitigate the effects of the flooding. EGLE demonstrated this commitment by allowing an increase of the pumping rate from 1,000 gpm to 1,200 gpm with increased monitoring. I am confident that EGLE, while sustaining its mission to protect the environment, will continue to assist local officials in doing everything possible to supply relief to home and property owners. Please know that my office continues to monitor the situation closely.

I would like to thank you once again for contacting me. As I continue to work on sustainable solutions for Michigan, I encourage you to remain engaged with my administration regarding this or any additional concerns regarding state government you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gretchen Whitmer".

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan

OP: SMB