

Enclosure 3: Crisis Background Summary.

The residents of Crooked, Eagle and Pine Island Lakes along with several other smaller water bodies in Texas Township of Kalamazoo County, as well as many of the residents in the areas surrounding these lakes, are experiencing a severe, ongoing crisis flooding situation that began in October 2017. Rising ground-water levels due to well-above normal precipitation has raised the water level of Crooked Lake by over 43" above the normal level, and the water level of Eagle Lake by over 49" above the normal level; neither of which has an inlet or outlet. The flooding has forced the evacuation of eighteen homes located on or near the lakes, has led to the complete loss of eleven homes, and has caused significant damage/loss to roughly 70% of the other homes on the lakes. The emotional toll on many adults/children living in flood conditions for two years has been immeasurable.

Residents have used tens of thousands of sand bags and installed permanent seawalls to protect their homes and properties. Homeowners have installed several hundred sump pumps (in some cases 8 to 10 pumps in a single dwelling) to prevent their homes from flooding. Pumps are running non-stop, and resident's utility bills have become significant enough that the utility companies have been asked to consider rate adjustments. Storm, sanitary sewer and private septic systems have been brought to capacity. Emergency pumping has become necessary to keep sewer and septic systems operational to avoid a public health catastrophe.

Due to flooding, the Kalamazoo County Road Commission was forced to both raise and close several roads in the Township. Flood related damage/losses, reduced property values, road repairs, and damage to township infrastructure are estimated in excess of tens of millions of dollars. Final losses will not be able to be assessed until normal levels return. Damage and property losses have reached the point that the township assessor's office will be reviewing the assessments of the properties in the area. Property values are expected to decrease dramatically (as well as tax revenue). Property values are anticipated to be adversely impacted for the next five years

The "short-term" pumping solution implemented through a Texas Township SAD cost \$1.9 million. The "long-term" solution will cost another \$1.7 million of Township spending. However, until short-term pumping lowers water levels to pre-flood level, **construction of the long-term solution would not be economically feasible.** Currently, short-term pumping permits and easements **expire fall of 2020** and property owners are unlikely to renew existing easements. Given all that, the recent EGLE decision will not reduce lake levels to normal until May 2021 which then means the long-term solution cannot be implemented in 2020. Consequently, if the decision stands, hundreds of homes will remain flood-affected for as much as two more years. **Delaying the long-term solution for eighteen-plus months is simply untenable.**

Note: Because of Texas Township pushback at the monthly Task Force meeting on Monday, 28 October 2019, concerning the EGLE decision to lower the pumping rate, permit revisions were offered by EGLE to increase the rate from 1000 GPM to 1200 GPM, on condition that two ground-water monitoring test wells be put in place. Depending on subsequent field assessments of wetland conditions, EGLE will determine if/when the increase to 1200 GPM can begin. Frankly stated, this 200 GPM increase is simply not enough; as clearly evidenced by the rise in lake levels due to heavy rains occurring after implementation of the pumping reduction to 1,000 GPM mandated by EGLE on 25 September 2019.