



Annual Membership

Meeting & Election:

May 20, 2020 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom

President's Message



WOW, Covid-19 has really changed our world! I hope all of our Crooked Lake families are well and managing through these extraordinary times. Let's begin with a positive note. Last year at this time we were 37" above our high water mark (HWM); today we are 19" above the HWM. This means we are 18" lower than we were last year at this time which makes for a very good start to spring.

We have currently pumped 220,000,000 gallons of water out of Crooked Lake itself. If we had not been pumping it's been calculated that we would be 28" higher than where we began spring 2019; that's a scary thought. The short-term pumping project has been a success measured by these indicators alone.

Kalamazoo County Commission held a "zoom" meeting on April 7th at 7:00 p.m. to determine if the request to establish a legal lake level (LLL) for Crooked and Eagle Lakes should move forward to the next step, solicitation before the Circuit Court. After lengthy citizen comment and commissioner discussion the motion was approved by an 8 to 3 vote. The Kalamazoo County Drain office has been tasked to proceed with an in-depth study which will ultimately recommend a LLL to the Circuit Court judge. The drain office has contracted with Prein and Newhof engineering firm to assist and ultimately recommend a LLL. The drain office's long term solution to the flooding crisis will also be a part of the presentation at Circuit Court. Multiple public hearings will be held by EGLE, the Circuit Court and the Drain Office. There will be plenty of opportunity for all parties affected to provide input.

It's been a long haul, but I assure you the Texas Township Board, both lake associations and the drain office are working diligently to bring this crisis to a close.

As promised at our last year's annual meeting, this year's meeting will include a discussion on the removal of the "no wake rule" when water level reaches 15" above our high water mark. We estimate that occurring about the same time as our 2020 Annual Meeting. No decisions have been made and we welcome thoughtful and respectful input on what is best for this year's boating season. **The Crooked Lake Board is also considering a July 4th Boat Parade which will be discussed at the annual meeting.**

The Crooked Lake Board members held a "zoom" meeting last week and decided to hold the Annual Meeting on May 20th at 6:30 p.m. Since we have no idea if the Governor will allow a meeting of this size to occur or if our membership would be comfortable, we decided to make it a "zoom" meeting. So if you haven't or do not have the ability to access the internet, ask a neighbor or tech savvy relative to assist or share some space (6' preferably) so you can participate. I have learned that holding a zoom meeting with 50 or 60 people really is quite easy. The gold standard is "if Jim can do it, anyone can".

More information will follow on our Facebook page and website prior to May 20th. Please contact one of our Board members with any questions and we'll be happy to help. Have a safe and healthy spring -Jim Roberts

Lake Flooding Update *By: Jim Roberts*



What's next now that we have Kalamazoo County Commission approval to move forward?

- 1) Study what each legal lake level should be based on what we have done in the past. The lake board will have impact on this as we go through the process. Hopefully, it will be very close to how we have always maintained our water level prior to flooding. You will have the opportunity to express your opinion in a public forum in weeks to come. We will keep you informed.
- 2) After the study is complete the Drain Commissioner then takes it to Circuit Court for a judge to approve. Once approved it becomes a County Drain Commission project and the Legal Lake Level has to be maintained by the Drain Commissioner. This will ensure we don't allow this to happen again to future residents or generations.
- 3) The final step is to build the project. This involves burying the existing pipe from the short term project underground and letting it gravity flow when we reach our legal lake level. No pumps, no electricity, no filter. Filtration will be through a sand and gravel type system that will filter as good or better than the one currently being used. The water will take the same route: Eagle to Crooked, Crooked to Bass, and Bass through a series of streams to the Kalamazoo River.

ABOUT YOUR Crooked Lake Texas Association (CLTA) MEMBERSHIP

It is important to note that (almost) all lake residents are members of both our special assessment districts. These districts control the funding needed to operate our pump and laminar flow aeration project, as well as take care of any weed matters arising on our lake. Your CLTA board works with our township board to provide recommendations relating to lake matters and to create annual budgets for our special assessment districts.

The Board is committed to improving the water quality of Crooked Lake and enhancing the overall enjoyment of our lake to all residents. We implement activities such as the Annual Fun Day, publish newsletters and undertake various projects not covered by the special assessment district.

Based on anticipated expenditures, and an estimate of the # of participating members, the 2020 dues have been set at \$50.00. Since we now invoice the membership dues and property maintenance dues (\$50 and \$75, respectively) to all members of the Lake Association ramp, most dues are current for 2020 season. If you didn't purchase membership in the ramp last year and want to support our lake association, please contact our Treasurer, Rodney Nimt, at 269-353-1848 to arrange payment. Make your checks payable to: Crooked Lake Texas Association and mail to: CLTA Treasurer, 1441 East Crooked Lake Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. If at any time you have questions regarding dues or questions of a financial nature, please contact Rodney at the number mentioned above.

Your annual dues will help pay for:

- Lake Quality Monitoring
- Michigan Lakes & Streams Dues
- State Licensing
- Miscellaneous Expense (buoys, etc)
- Riparian Subscriptions
- Water Level Management
- Fun Day Expenses
- Website Maintenance
- Boat Parade
- Welcoming Committee Expenses
- Newsletters & Special Mailing
- Legal Expense Fund

What Riparians and Boaters Need to Know—Michigan Executive Order No. 2020-42

MLSA would like to highlight some points in the most recent Executive Order titled "Temporary requirement to suspend activities that are not necessary to sustain or protect life" from Governor Gretchen Whitmer. These points may impact Riparian homeowners and boaters in Michigan through the end of April. This language comes directly from Executive Order No. 2020-42:

7 - (a) Individuals may leave their home or place of residence, and travel as necessary:

(1) To engage in outdoor physical activity, consistent with remaining at least six feet from people from outside the individual's household. Outdoor physical activity includes walking, hiking, running, cycling, kayaking, canoeing, or other similar physical activity, as well as any comparable activity for those with limited mobility.

(b) Individuals may also travel:

(1) To return to a home or place of residence from outside this state.

(2) To leave this state for a home or residence elsewhere.

(3) Between two residences in this state, through April 10, 2020. After that date, travel between two residences is not permitted.

(4) As required by law enforcement or a court order, including the transportation of children pursuant to a

custody agreement.

(c) All other travel is prohibited, including all travel to vacation rentals.

12 - No one shall advertise or rent a short-term vacation property except as necessary to assist in housing a health care professional or volunteer aiding in the response to the COVID-19 crisis.

This language comes directly from the FAQ section for Executive Order No. 2020-42:

Q: Does boating constitute "outdoor activity" under the new executive order?

A: Physical outdoor activity like kayaking, canoeing, and sailing is permitted under the order, but using a motorboat, a jet ski, or other similar watercraft is not. Any outdoor activity permitted under the order, including boating, must be done in a manner consistent with social distancing, and individuals should use only their own equipment to prevent the transmission of the virus through the touching of shared surfaces. Additionally, in accordance with section 2 of the order, persons not part of a single household may not boat together. While some boating is permitted under the

order, the provision of boating services or supplies does not itself constitute critical infrastructure work,

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and businesses and operations may not designate workers to come to work for that purpose. As needed, these businesses and operations may designate workers to leave their home for work if their in-person presence is strictly necessary to conduct the minimum basic operations listed in section 4(b) of the order.

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- 4) Actual construction of the project is projected to start spring of 2021 and be finished by the end of summer.

Thanks to everyone involved! Thanks to Bass Lake residents, our township board, the Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner’s office, Kalamazoo County Commission, EGLE (formerly known as MI DEQ), Kalamazoo County Road Commission, and both lake associations and residents. It’s been a wild ride, but I’m encouraged by the progress!

Our Shorelines in the Aftermath By: Rod Krapf

Now that we have been pumping for approximately 10 months and water levels have gone down to a somewhat manageable level, our shorelines have begun to emerge and we will need to do lots of repair. We should do this with the expectation that our annual rainfalls will not go back to normal. We can expect to be fighting higher lake levels for a couple more years. See the map below published by the Washington Post. Our shoreline repair needs to take this forecast of increased rainfall into account.

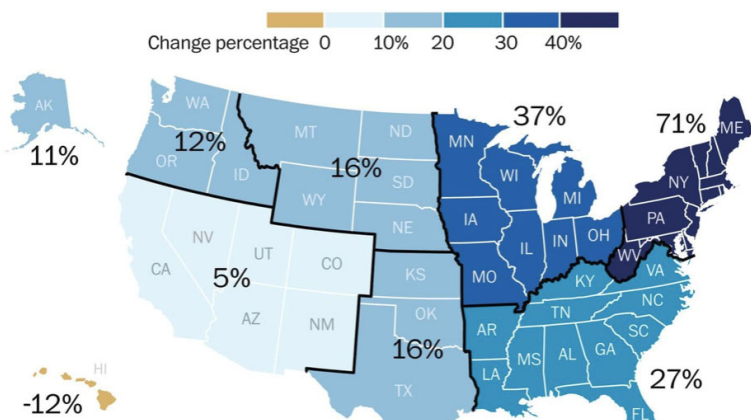
I have long championed the use of native plants in a 4 to 6 feet wide strip along the shore instead of lawn grass. Many residents saw their lawns and soil dissolve and break apart as the lake overran them. Native plants, including shrubs and grasses, have much deeper roots to hold soil in place. Many can withstand being submerged for a time. There are perennial wildflowers and blooming shrubs that can be both attractive and effective at holding the soil in place even when submerged.

Of course, such plants can’t hold back flood waters. Many residents on Eagle and Crooked Lakes are installing, or intend to install, waterproof sea walls. Please note, a couple of residents on Eagle Lake had their walls topped by the rising water, and one resident experienced this even after sandbagging the top of her wall. Also note that, such hard barriers cause a backwash when waves hit them that scours the lake bottom and can lead to erosion at the ends of the wall. Such barriers are best if softened with rocks piled on the lake side. And, letting non-invasive water plants grow in front of the walls will protect the lake bottom.

Some residents are planning to add more soil to raise their lawns higher above the lake. If you want to do

Observed change in very heavy precipitation

The map shows percent increases in the amount of precipitation falling in very heavy events (defined as the heaviest 1% of all daily events) from 1958 to 2012 for each region of the continental United States.



this, please use a silt fence between your yard and the lake. Otherwise, before any greenery you plant can get established, the rain will wash soil into the lake. The increased organic material will make more muck and fertilize the weeds in the lake, which we’ve been trying to control with a couple of herbicide applications and our Laminar Flow Aeration project.

And, speaking of fertilizer, it would be best if residents did NOT fertilize their lawns and shrubs this year, at least on the lake sides of their property. More fertilizer will wash into the lake even as the level gradually drops.

It will be lots of work and cost to repair our landscaping, docks, patios, decks and lake barriers, but if we do it well, we can better withstand future floods.

News & Views—

Crooked Lake Texas Association
2019-2020 BOARD of DIRECTORS
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Jim Roberts, President
1213 E Crooked Lake Dr
269-372-7084 or 269-217-2923

Chuck Buxton, Director
446 W Crooked Lake Dr
269-870-7774

Russ Walters, Vice-President
7414 Field Bay Avenue
269-372-4488 or 614-264-1717

Dot DeYoung, Director
8220 West Q Avenue
269-353-3647

Rodney Nimtz, Treasurer
1441 E Crooked Lake Dr
269-353-1848

Roy Holmberg, Director
432 W Crooked Lake Dr
269-375-3058

Rod Krappf, Secretary
43 N Crooked Lake Dr
269-375-9073

Lesla Newby, Director
7276 Bentwood Trail
269-760-0040

Judy Ford, Director
1381 E Crooked Lake Dr
734-347-0703

Sandy Steinbach, Director
184 W Crooked Lake Dr
269-568-0770



CLTA

Visit our Website:
www.crookedlaketexas.com

Please Minimum Wake!



YOUR LAKE ASSOCIATION GOALS... The Association's goal continues to be to protect our lake from invasive species, take steps to create a healthier lake, "which includes a better environment for fish, frogs, turtles and other friends", educate our residents on best practices when using the lake, bring a sense of community to Crooked Lake, and to enlist the help of lake management professionals to safeguard and improve waterfront owners' property values. We look forward to seeing you on the lake this summer. Let's enjoy a safe season on the lake.Jim Roberts, President, CLTA



2020 Access to the Boat Ramp

The Boat Ramp is open and available for use by **participating paid up** Association members. The Governor's Executive order regarding Covid-19 restricts the use of powered watercraft but does allow non-powered watercraft (i.e. kayaks, etc.). Dock installers are not allowed to install docks and Marinas are not allowed to deliver boats. We do not know how long these restrictions will be in effect. Please refer to the executive order for specific requirements and the timing of the restrictions.

All Lake residents are eligible to participate in the Boat Ramp program. If you have any questions please call or text Rodney Nimtz at 269-330-6949 or any Board member for details.

The Ramp is available on a first come first, served basis. It is available from Dawn to Dusk but no earlier than 7 AM or later than 9 PM. The gate is card operated and the participating member must be present to open the gate. Use of the ramp is limited to boats owned by participating members. Please keep noise to a minimum in consideration of the neighboring

property owners. Further details are contained in your membership documents.

Members are reminded of the following provisions of the ramp contract:

-Members have the right to utilize the ramp to put in and/or take out from the lake watercraft that the member owns or otherwise has a legal interest in (own, rent, lease, etc.)

-Members have the right to allow third parties providing services to your property to use the ramp in order to provide watercraft related service for the watercraft and shoreline as defined in the contract (examples: boat delivery services, marinas engaged to service a watercraft, companies engaged to install, remove or reposition a dock at the member's location).

- The member is responsible for providing the needed access to the third party, utilizing your access card.

Please address any questions to any of the board members. -Russ Walters