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Long Lake Request to Retain Mitigating Factors of Draft Permit HNR-EXFE-SV4Z9

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On behalf of Long Lake residents, we wish to express our trepidation and well-warranted reservations regarding the draft approval of the permit application to move water north from Crooked Lake in Barry County.

Our lake, water quality, natural habitats and property owners are taking on incredible, irreversible and unnecessary risks that have not been properly addressed or mitigated. We understand that the permit approval process has not been smooth, and ask your team to consider that the implementation and aftermath will likewise reflect the same nature of ill-preparedness that has been portrayed throughout the past 4 years of moving water all over Barry Township. All under the guise of saving people from flooding, a natural occurrence.

Long Lake is now set up to be another recipient of the many scenarios of what could go wrong. Which begs the following questions, and many more:

- Once the water is passing through Long Lake, will responsibility be taken by any party for unpredicted mishaps, directly or indirectly caused by the unnatural occurrence of 3 trillion gallons of water going through our lake?
- Will anyone care if our homes become rezoned as flood plains and our home insurances require flood insurance at a premium cost?
- What is the remediation plan if our properties flood, our wells suffer or our homes take on water?
- Who will replenish the nutrients that our wildlife feeds on and rely on to thrive, as they are diluted by enough water to more than fill our own lake basin a 2nd time?
- Who will equalize our home values during and after this unnatural action occurs? We will be "that lake that is now a river", and yes, our property values will suffer.

With these concerns, and many more, we ask that the following requests be accommodated to minimize & mitigate risk to Long Lake and the Chain of Lakes, including Jones, Wilkinson, and Cloverdale Lakes.

1. That the **Flood Relief Pumping Restrictions** and **Monitoring** as outlined in the Draft Permit Approval WRP026548 v1 on page 6 be adhered to by the applicants with **no amendments or changes**, but be implemented as written, accepting all safeguards described.
 - a. This will specifically include the statement in #31 stipulating that "one calendar year of baseline requirements for the [monitoring] parameters (*as listed*) are required before construction begins".
 - b. We feel very strongly about the one year of monitoring to set a baseline for the monitoring of the system in the future. We at Long Lake have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on weed management and millions on our sewer system to improve our lake and want the best possible outcome for our lake from this project.
 - c. That all monitoring be performed by a neutral and professionally prepared third party as allowed by the provisions of #35. We are in very clear opposition to using GEI personnel for any monitoring, as they are NOT a neutral third party. Having been hired to engineer the solution, we feel they are not objective in data gathering and reporting on their own designs. This would be a direct conflict of interests.
 - d. That all monitored information is made available to the public within 2 days of collection and published on a website by the professionally appointed 3rd party for a period of no less than 2 years.
2. That the control structures at Cloverdale and Long Lake outlets be allowed to continue to maintain manageable water levels for Long Lake, the downstream Shultz Lake and Dam and Fall Creek.
 - a. Future use of stop logs needs to be a continued safeguard at either or both locations – outlet of Cloverdale Lake and/or the outlet of Long Lake.
 - b. The Drain Commissioner should have control to put in or remove logs based on water height and rainfall.
 - c. The north end Long Lake box culvert height set at 906'3" should be further investigated it currently appears to be designed too low, endangering the increased flow downstream to landowners and land

managed by SWMLC and the USFWL. Additionally, Long Lake water levels could potentially fall too low to stay in range of the target lake level for Long Lake of 907'6".

d. Per the Draft Permit, #30c, pumping into Long Lake should cease at 908', and yet already the water has exceeded 908 (908'2" on 1/6/21) and the ***pump is still pumping water into Long Lake***. We need additional safeguards and assurances that the policies put into place will be recognized and adhered to. There is no real time process of monitor and control for our lake levels yet identified. Our lake level monitoring due to excess water from other lakes should not be our responsibility to monitor. Yet this past week, it was the residents who alerted the Drain Commissioner.

e. A legal lake limit should be pursued for Long Lake to establish targets for water management efforts by 2022.

Perhaps there is a philosophy not to have control structures, because it is not "natural" or naturally occurring. But consider that nothing about this transfer of mass quantities of water between watersheds and many lakes is "natural" and yes, it should be controlled. We must manage the mess we are making with nature. We cannot expect to make unnatural things happen naturally. We have a responsibility to reduce risk as we are able.

Thank you for your support in the interest of downstream recipients of Crooked Lake water..

Water Quality Committee, Long Lake Cloverdale Association

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