

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**WORK SESSION**  
**MEETING WITH MELODY LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS**  
November 26, 2018  
5:30 PM  
Harris County Courthouse, Room 223

Commissioners Present: Harry Lange, Susan Andrews, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston, Jim Woods.  
Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; John Taylor, County Attorney; Nancy McMichael, County Clerk.

Also in attendance: Brian Kimsey, of Carter Engineering; and approximately 25 owners of property in Melody Lakes.

**CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Lange called the meeting to order; thanked everyone for being in attendance; said that the purpose of the meeting was to further discuss with the owners of property in Melody Lakes the issues regarding the Melody Drive dam, which has been classified as a Category I by EPD, and the resolution for same.

Michael Varnum, spokesperson for Melody Lakes Community Outreach Task Force (MLCOTF), distributed an alternative proposal for consideration regarding the dam issues.

Brian Kimsey, upon review of the alternative proposal, said that the draw from the lake has to be two-thirds the lake volume within 10 days; that while the proposal is similar to Option #2 (as provided and discussed during previous meetings), the four 2x4 culverts will not meet Safe Dams requirements; and that a siphon would be easier to use in maintaining the water level.

Mr. Varnum said that with those comments, the MLCOTF is going to have to regroup and revise its proposal.

Mr. Kimsey said that he would make the appropriate calculations related to the proposal and should be able to complete same by the end of December. Chairman Lange said that Mr. Kimsey would perform the calculation, let the County and MLCOTF know the result, after which the results would be taken into consideration (as Option #7) by the Board. Mr. Kimsey said that a letter will soon be forthcoming from EPD regarding the need for a definite date for submission of the design plans; that once he completes his calculations regarding Option #7 and the Board chooses an option, the geotech work will be necessary; that the design plans could probably be submitted to EPD by June or July 2019, under review by EPD for 90 to 120 days; and that upon approval, bidding will be necessary and the project could probably be completed in the summer of 2020.

Comments from property owners in attendance included:

- ▶ siphon system sounds plausible
- ▶ the MLCOTF meets regularly, does its homework, and will work with the property owners
- ▶ concern about the cost being passed onto the property owners
- ▶ concern about the possible liability exposure
- ▶ can't get flood insurance for her property
- ▶ what about other dams that are similar in height and size
- ▶ what is the method of deciding how to use property tax revenue (to which Commissioner Andrews invited the citizen to attend the budget sessions in 2019)
- ▶ resources for grants
- ▶ the MLCOTF searches for grants, and such discussion could take place during a MLCOTF meeting

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Lange thanked all for their comments and adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.