

## 2020 Tittabawassee River Flood Update and Q&A (issue 2)

Good Afternoon:

Presently the river is continuing to rise as the water from the Tittabawassee dam system flows uncontrolled downstream. We are expecting this situation to continue through the evening and through tomorrow morning before reaching its peak. Given the unprecedented nature of this event, we do not have any models or past experience to base our projections upon, it's likely that this prediction will be inaccurate in some regard; however, we are relying on engineers and other experts to give us their best predictions under very difficult circumstances.

We know that there are a lot of questions about the ongoing developing situation with the flooding of the Tittabawassee River. We have put this Q & A together to provide you with some answers:

- ***Donations?*** – As this event unfolds and more of our residents are impacted by the rising waters, we will let you know of the needs as they arise as we know that our community members will be anxious to support one another. For now, we can use food donations for those individuals sheltering at our local Swan Valley High School. Donations should be non-perishable food products that do not require refrigeration. You can drop off your food donations directly to the High School.
- ***Is there any risk to our water system?*** – The water system is secure and operating properly at this time. Of course, we cannot predict the full and final impact of this disaster, so if anything changes we will let you know at that time.
- ***When will the river crest?*** – There is not a solid answer to this question; however, the best guess that we have is around 8:00 a.m. Thursday (5/21).
- ***When can I cross the bridges?*** – The short answer is that it will be several days from now. The long answer is that it all depends upon how long it takes for the water to recede and for the bridges to be properly inspected to ensure that they are still safe for passage.
- ***Will trash collection still occur?*** – In those areas where the trash trucks can still get through, then recycling, yard waste and trash should still be collected. In areas that are flooded or have any water over the roads, please hold your trash until next week's collection as the trucks are not authorized to enter any flood zone or water on the road.
- ***Where can I find a shelter?*** – You can shelter at the Swan Valley High School at 8400 O'Hern Road or Hemlock High School at 733 North Hemlock Road.
- ***Avoid Gratiot Road*** – Please avoid Gratiot Road as we are getting significant traffic jams due to gawkers driving around looking at the water levels. These backups are interfering with emergency personnel and vehicles being able to move around the community to provide service to residents who are in need and to get to locations where the equipment is needed.

- ***Sanitary Sewer*** – Our sanitary sewer system is running at full capacity. We are concerned about the amount of flood water getting into the system. If the infiltration exceeds our pumping capacity, it could cause backups in homes, so anything you can do to minimize your use over the next 48 hours would be greatly appreciated and would help both you and your neighbors. Thomas Township transports all of our effluent through pump stations and force mains to Saginaw Township’s Treatment Plant on the other side of the river. We do have one lift station on North River Road near State Street that is at risk of flooding. We are monitoring the water levels closely and will take the appropriate actions necessary as the situation plays out.

***Final Note.*** Please continue to watch or listen to your local media stations for more up to the minute news and reports. We are trying to provide as much information as we can as we learn it, but we are also in the midst of working through this emergency, so with limited staff and resources, our first priority is to provide the necessary services to keep our community safe and running. Sometimes that prevents us from sharing information as quickly as would like. We do appreciate your patience and thank you very much for your support.