



MEMORANDUM

**Highway
Department**

Jason Benson, P.E.
County Engineer

Thomas B. Soucy, P.E.
Deputy County Engineer

Blaine Laaveg
Superintendent

TO: Cass County Commission

FROM: Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer *JAB*

DATE: March 14, 2022

SUBJECT: Agenda Item for March 21, 2022 Commission Meeting:
2022 Spring Flood Update and Emergency Declaration

Cass County has seen above average fall and winter precipitation. The National Weather Service probabilistic forecast predicts the 90% chance of major flooding on the Red River and tributaries. This includes a 50% chance of 35 feet on the Red River and 25% chance of 91.7 feet at Harwood which would be the fourth highest flood of record at Harwood. Due to these conditions, it is prudent that we prepare for major spring flooding.

I am requesting the Cass County Commission authorize the chairperson to sign the Emergency Declaration at the March 21st Commission Meeting. Overall, we don't expect significant flood fighting efforts on the Red River and Wild Rice River. In addition, many areas in rural Cass County should be spared flood concerns. However, the area along the Sheyenne, Maple, and Rush Rivers north of West Fargo to Argusville should expect major overland flooding and loss of access on many roads. Rural residents should also expect challenges along drainage ditches where multiple blizzards have hard packed the snow in the ditches making them susceptible to remaining blocked and frozen, causing overland flooding in areas.

SUGGESTED MOTION: Authorize the chairperson to sign the Emergency Declaration on March 21st based on the National Weather Service flood forecast, staff recommendations, and interagency coordination.

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EMERGENCY DECLARATION
RESOLUTION #2022-3

WHEREAS, Cass County has a high soil moisture content from precipitation received during the fall of 2021; and

WHEREAS, significant snow fall, along with increased frost depths, creates the potential for spring flooding due to spring thaw and possible precipitation; and

WHEREAS, the impact of this thaw, runoff, and precipitation threatens the health, wellbeing, and public safety of citizens in Cass County; and

WHEREAS, necessary mitigation measures, preparedness actions, and other responses must begin immediately to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the potential damage to public and private property in addition to roads are beyond normal anticipated and budgeted funds; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners declares an emergency and orders the activation and utilization of the Cass County Emergency Operations Plan, its procedures, attachments, and appendices to recover from the situation, develop a detailed damage assessment, reduce hardship, and initiate the appropriate relief actions and mitigation measures by departments and agencies of local government to limit the hardships and impact of this emergency upon the citizens of Cass County.

Dated at Fargo, North Dakota, this 21st day of March, 2022.

APPROVED:

Chad Peterson, Vice Chair
Cass County Commission

ATTEST:

Brandy Madrigga
Cass County Finance Director