



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 24, 2023

SUBJECT: Agenda Item for April 3, 2023 Commission Meeting: 2023 Spring Flood Update and Emergency Declaration

Cass County has experienced significant winter precipitation and the National Weather Service probabilistic forecast was updated on March 23rd with major flooding predicted. River Flood Stage Forecast:

1. The month of March was the 3rd snowiest March on record. The March 9th flood forecast listed 10% chance of hitting 36.6' in Fargo with major flooding on the Sheyenne River and Maple River.
2. On March 23rd the NWS put out an updated forecast. This forecast has a 10% chance of hitting 37.8' in Fargo with major top five flooding on the Sheyenne River near Harwood and near Maple River near Mapleton.
3. The current NWS flood outlook anticipates the Red River in Fargo to crest the week of April 10-16 or 17-24 with the higher likelihood on April 10-16. The Sheyenne at Harwood is expected to crest the week of April 17-24

I am requesting the Cass County Commission authorize the chairperson to sign the Emergency Declaration based on the National Weather Service flood forecast and the need for flood preparation and interagency coordination.

SUGGESTED MOTION: Authorize the chairperson to sign the Emergency Declaration for the spring 2023 flood emergency.

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EMERGENCY DECLARATION

WHEREAS, Cass County has a high soil moisture content from precipitation received during the winter of 2022-2023; and

WHEREAS, above average snow fall has increased the potential for significant spring flooding due to spring thaw and anticipated precipitation; and

WHEREAS, the impact of this thaw, runoff, and precipitation threatens the health, well-being, 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 24th day of March, 2023.

APPROVED:



Chad Peterson, Chairman
Cass County Commission

ATTEST:



Brandy Madrigga
Cass County Finance Director