

GRAND FORKS COUNTY SPECIAL MEETING – February 22, 2011 – 4:00pm
Topic: Grand Forks County Flood Update

The Board met pursuant to adjournment with Commissioners Malm, Schmisek, Pic, Murphy and Knauf present.

Jim Campbell, Emergency Management Director, introduced Greg Gust, Warning Coordination Meteorologist of the National Weather Service, Grand Forks.

Mr. Gust presented the attached spring flood outlook for the Red River.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to approve the Chair's signature on the following Grand Forks County Emergency Declaration. Motion carried.

GRAND FORKS COUNTY EMERGENCY DECLARATION

WHEREAS, Grand Forks County has the potential for damage to roads, bridges, culverts, farmlands, homes, businesses and other public facilities from overland flooding and the flooding of tributaries to the Red River of the North as it reaches or exceeds flood stage;

WHEREAS, the impact of these potential damages may threaten the health, well being and public safety of citizens in Grand Forks County; and

WHEREAS, the cost of cleanup, repair and replacement of such damaged facilities may be in excess of available County resources.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Grand Forks County, a municipal corporation by and through the Board of County Commissioners, Grand Forks County, North Dakota, declares Grand Forks County, its cities, its public and private areas, to be an emergency area and orders the activation and utilization of the Emergency Operations Plan, its procedures, attachments and appendices to monitor the situation, develop a detailed damage assessment, alleviate hardship and initiate appropriate relief actions and mitigation measures by departments and agencies of local government to limit the hardships and impact of the emergency upon the citizens of Grand Forks County.

DATED at Grand Forks, North Dakota, this 22nd day of February 2011.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Murphy, to authorize the Chair to sign a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Grand Forks for the 2011 Emergency Flood Fight. This Agreement will not be enacted without prior Commission approval. Motion carried.

Mr. Campbell presented a map showing the elevations of Shady Ridge Court and 62nd Avenue. Mr. Gust said he believes there is a 98% chance that these roads will be under water.

Sheriff Rost notified the board of the flood plans of the Sheriff's Department.

Richard Onstad, Highway Superintendent, presented the 2011 sandbag distribution center contact numbers. He also has a contact name for each of the 41 townships in Grand Forks County. The Highway Department has barricades and warning signs available for the County roads. As soon as roads are closed, the County map will be updated and the first responders

will be notified and the Grand Forks County website will also be updated with this information.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Schmisek, to hire Glenn Schmitz and Steve Schumer on a temporary basis to manage the sandbag distribution centers in Grand Forks County during the 2011 flood fight, if needed. They will be hired at the temporary Highway Department rate. Motion carried.

Bret Burkholder, Correctional Center Administrator, said the Correctional Center would be able to help Cass County if they need it this year.

Ed Christ, Social Services Assistant Director, informed the board that Social Services is ready to assist, as needed, at the Grand Forks Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Timothy Haak, Public Health, reported Public Health will be providing staff to Grand Forks EOC. Public Health will be a staging area for medical supplies for the State. Public Health is ready for any medical or health issues that may come up.

Becky Ault, Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Director, said PSAP's role will be taking care of the communications and warnings of the Emergency Operations Flood Response Plan. The City Watch program has been enhanced so notifications can be given to warn individuals geographically, by zone, if there is a need for evacuation. PSAP will incorporate Weather Track which will allow citizens to sign up to receive automatic notifications from the Weather Service.

Greg Gust said the next flood outlook will be March 3, 2011.

Ed Nierode, Director of Administration, will research possible locations the County Offices could relocate to if needed. He will bring back information to the next meeting.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:57pm.

Gary Malm, Chair
Grand Forks County Commission

Debbie Nelson, County Auditor