2011 Flood Report: Response and Recovery

Developed by the ND Department of Emergency Services

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The 2011 flood impacted every river basin in North Dakota, shattered 21 peak records, displaced residents in 28 neighborhoods, and swamped 4,100 homes and businesses alone in Minot. As of November 1, 2011 the disaster is expected to cost $195 million in individual and housing assistance and $320 million in damages to public infrastructure. And those are just a few of the numbers. The flood’s final cost will easily exceed $1.4 billion.

The numbers tell the story, but no more than the people of North Dakota who are working together to develop and implement recovery strategies. The commitment of a dedicated group of local, state, federal, and private partners is the driving energy behind the difference the North Dakota Recovery Task Force is making to support communities with recovery. This report, The 2011 Flood: North Dakota’s Strategic Plan for Disaster Recovery, outlines the collaboration taking place by the Task Force to help restore the quality of life of our residents and, in doing so, ensure our state’s recovery and future growth.

As MG David Sprynczynatyk discusses in the Moving Forward section, agreement on the vision for the desired end state is essential for communities to rebuild, become more resilient, and be better prepared to respond to future events. Achievement of this vision will require a coordinated effort among agencies on all levels of government. MG Murray Sagsveen, the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator, discusses how moving forward will require giving rivers adequate space to safely flow through cities, constructing appropriate flood protection, and developing green spaces for communities to lessen the costly impacts of flooding.

The Disaster Analysis section describes how the flood battle unfolded, from the first report of flooding in mid-February in Belcourt to today, 10 months later, as James River communities address high flows from two dams. Other sections discuss efforts to protect residents from flooding in future years and rebuild their communities. Task Force Priorities outlines progress by public and private partners to achieve ambitious short- and long-term priorities.

It will likely take a decade to fully recover from the impacts of the 2011 flood. But as MG Sagsveen has said:

“A successful recovery requires time, resources, commitment, and thinking outside the box. I am confident that when we look back, several years from now, we will be able to say, well done.”
Moving Forward Together as a Statewide Community

By Major General David Spryncznatyk, Adjutant General, North Dakota National Guard; Director, North Dakota Department of Emergency Services

What happens in flooded communities does not stay in those communities. Decisions made before, during and after flooding have an impact that ripples beyond neighborhood boundaries, and across the entire state.

Dr. Teri Hurly faced a tough decision after the Mouse River flood destroyed her west central Minot home in June. She was in the midst of restoring her mid-century home in a family-oriented neighborhood when floodwaters filled her garage to the roofline and swirled to nearly six feet on the main floor. “It was such a lovely home,” recalled Dr. Hurly, a Family Medical Arts physician. “I could sit in my kitchen and watch people walking their pets.” She followed her grandchildren down bicycle paths in nearby Oak Park, spent summer evenings on her porch, and watched ducks and geese float down the Mouse River, just 30 feet from her home. At Halloween, no less than 400 trick-or-treaters showed up at her door.

Today, this once lively neighborhood remains eerily quiet after Mouse River floodwaters swamped homes, many of which are stripped to the frame. Dr. Hurly reluctantly abandoned plans to restore her home. “We only spent three days removing debris and then quit as we saw that my neighborhood was proposed for demolition,” Dr. Hurly said. “I couldn't let my friends risk injury or spend any more energy when we figured it was going to be torn down.” Not knowing for certain whether her property will be acquired for levee right-of-way, she cannot move forward with plans to rebuild in north Minot.

Decisions by local and state officials to establish the city’s new floodway and incentives to rebuild have a direct impact on retention of residents and community viability. A thriving community benefits the state and its citizens, and is integral to a vital economy, even as the western side of the state enjoys an economic boom.

Throughout the state, residents and officials are grappling with similar challenges that Dr. Hurly faces during our statewide recovery from a season of record flooding in the Red River of the North, the Devils Lake Basin, and the James, Sheyenne, Mouse and Missouri river basins. The cost of recovery will easily exceed $1.4 billion to rebuild our communities and house displaced residents. The cost is immeasurable in terms of personal losses.

Investing in the recovery of our flooded communities requires a collaborative effort of public and private partners to help restore the quality of life of those impacted by this historic disaster. This collaborative effort ensures our state’s recovery and future growth.

A Season of Record-Breaking Flooding
Flooding in the state’s river basins greatly challenged our state’s citizens and their local and tribal governments; preliminary data from the U.S. Geological Survey data indicated the state dam and river levels exceeded 21 peak-of-records. Many stories throughout our state demonstrate how all of us either directly suffered the consequences of this year’s flood or know a friend or family member who did. We can prepare for natural disasters, but we don’t know the full impact and repercussions of an event until we experience it.

The national media focused its news stories on the Red River Valley in March as floodwaters rose to harrowing levels. In June, local, national and even international media attention turned to the Missouri
and Mouse rivers as swift currents undercut the foundation of a young couple’s Burleigh County home and caused it to sink into the river, and as floodwaters inundated 4,100 Minot homes and businesses.

Numerous eastern North Dakota communities have dealt with many floods over the past 18 years, honing their flood-fighting skills and quickly adapting to nuances of the flood. However, communities like Williston, Minot, Bismarck, and Mandan, where major flooding seldom occurs, entered a new paradigm this year as residents quickly joined forces to protect their communities and homes.

Through improved forecasting by the National Weather Service (NWS) and pre-planning by agencies, the state took the initiative to have the supplies and materials necessary to respond when the state received its first of nearly 680 requests for assistance. Along the Red River, Cass County alone incurred $1.9 million in emergency response costs and built 31.48 miles of levee. Residents of 28 neighborhoods throughout the state evacuated their homes, impacting approximately 12,000 people in Minot alone. The Mouse River reached record levels at gauging points throughout the basin. As Todd Sando, State Engineer for the N.D. State Water Commission, said, “The daily flow for the Mouse River at Sherwood at the height of flooding was greater than the average annual runoff.”

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) responded to record inflows by opening the Lake Sakakawea spillway gates for the first time in history on June 1, 2011. More than 150,000 cubic feet per second of water forced the evacuation of nearly 900 homes in Burleigh and Morton Counties, displacing residents for up to three months. Todd Sando offered this perspective: “We shattered the record by 13 million acre feet that flowed past Bismarck-Mandan, 60 percent greater than the all time flood volume.” Rising floodwaters caused significant bank erosion, created new river channels, and formed a delta south of Bismarck-Mandan.

The rapid rise of Devils Lake that began in 1993 continues today. Another record was set with inflows of 595,000 acre feet, greater than the 1997 or 2009 volume. Thousands of acres of prime farm land now lie underwater. Nearly 600 structures have been relocated. Hundreds of miles of roadway are either under water or have been elevated, and many roads are acting as dams by holding back water. Local, state, and federal governments have made substantial investments and continue to monitor these roads to ensure they maintain their engineered integrity.

Jamestown residents are seeing record flows as the flood fight continues. The USACE forecasts that up to 900,000 acre feet will flow through the city of Jamestown this year, well in excess of the record flow of 530,000 acre feet in 2009. Flood protection will remain in place in many areas until mid-November when water is expected to drop below the flood pool elevation at the Jamestown and Pipestem Dams.

Moving Forward Together
The flood disaster hit specific communities, but its devastation expanded statewide. The magnitude of floodwaters resulted in a Presidential Disaster Declaration that provided public assistance for 44 counties, four tribal nations, and individual assistance to nine counties and one tribe.

To move forward, an agreement on the vision for the desired end state is essential for communities to rebuild stronger, become more resilient, and be better prepared to respond to future events. Achievement of this vision will require a coordinated effort among agencies. It will require working in concert on all levels of government to effectively leverage our resources, and it will demand continuous communication and coordination.

A state-led North Dakota Disaster Recovery Task
**MOVING FORWARD**

Force is leveraging the expertise of 32 state, six federal and three private partners to help local and tribal communities address critical recovery issues, from rebuilding infrastructure, providing consumer protection, removing 61,000 tons of debris, conducting 3,000 electrical inspections, to identifying economic incentives to spur growth and retain citizens. While it is critical that state and federal governments provide support, recovery is ultimately the responsibility of local and tribal governments. A shared vision of the end stage ensures success.

Full recovery from a disaster of this magnitude will take nearly a decade and require our continued focus on the end state. Our multi-faceted recovery is focusing on a number of key issues, beginning with affordable housing. The state was already dealing with an affordable housing shortage before the flood, which escalated the crisis. Mouse River residents whose homes were flooded for longer than three months are struggling to make their homes habitable before construction season ends. Those less fortunate in making timely repairs incur the costs of both a mortgage and rental until their homes are safe. As the early months of winter are upon us, only one half of the 2,400 temporary housing units are ready for occupancy. The target date for completion is the first week of December 2011.

Housing that is within the financial reaches of our residents is essential for retaining our workforce. It requires a deliberate and expedited approach to expanding infrastructure in order to support community expansion. Investors need to feel confident there is a demand and that financial incentives are in place to develop an adequate number of units.

As we move forward, we will continue to identify and invest in solutions to reduce the threat of flooding and protect our citizens, such as the $1.8 billion, 36-mile flood diversion designed to protect Fargo-Moorhead. Within the past year, the North Dakota State Water Commission has invested $100 million into projects in the Devils Lake Basin, beginning the construction of two more outlets and a control structure. The North Dakota State Water Commission is ahead of schedule and under budget in building the East Devils Lake water outlet.

This spring, Fargo damages could have been six times greater had we not leveraged Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) dollars to acquire homes in floodways. From 1993 through 2010, the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDES) has facilitated in excess of 250 HMGP projects at the cost of more than $123.7 million. In addition, NDDES facilitated 28 other mitigation projects totaling in excess of $13.7 million, funded by other mitigation program sources. These projects have included more than 1,300 home acquisitions/demolitions and acquisition/relocations, countless retention ponds, drainage system improvement projects, burial of overhead power lines and more.

Successful recovery requires perseverance, fortunately a trait we share as a state. Deanne Criswell, Federal Recovery Officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, summarized it well when she said:

"The level of involvement demonstrated throughout North Dakota to assist those who suffered a significant loss is a testament to the resilience of its citizens and a model for communities around the nation... North Dakota will recover and become even more resilient into the future."

It is my firm belief that when we all work together toward a common objective, with the right resources, the fortitude and courage it takes to move ahead, while at the same time preparing for any future flood threat, we will be successful in meeting our goals for recovery.

David L. Abler, Governor
■ MOVING FORWARD

A Look Down the Road
By MG Murray Sagsveen, State Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Office of the Adjutant General

North Dakota’s city and transportation infrastructure, built around the needs of the state’s citizens to live and prosper, was established during an extended dry cycle when cities perched on the shores of lakes and rivers and roads were constructed on dry lakebeds. During that period, the state’s attention was focused on drought-related challenges. However, North Dakota is now experiencing challenging water management issues caused by an extended wet cycle – which some have called the “new normal.” Rivers and lakes, which previously provided water supplies and recreation, are now destroying property and causing financial distress. Roads and highways, which were often dusty – but reliable, may now be flooded and impassable.

Major General David Sprynczynatyk has summarized the property losses and personal tragedies associated with recent flood events and outlined a concept for future recovery efforts. We must now, recognizing that we may be in an extended wet cycle, develop a “master plan” of structural and nonstructural measures to minimize the social, economic, and other impacts of potential future floods.

We must, among other needs for the long-term recovery:

- Give rivers adequate space to safely flow through our cities. This may require the relocation of homes and businesses to surrounding upland and the adoption of more stringent floodplain ordinances.
- Construct appropriate flood protection structures – but at the same time, North Dakota residents must understand that no structure provides 100% protection against all events.
- Consider the gradual conversion of populated riparian land to “green spaces,” which can become neighborhood and community centers.

Concerning the more short-term recovery, MG Sprynczynatyk has also correctly noted that our “multi-faceted recovery is focusing on a number of key issues, beginning with affordable housing.” This is especially true in the Mouse River Basin. The Minot Air Force Base, regional medical facilities, Minot State University, and local businesses are currently facing unprecedented staffing challenges because of the current housing crisis. Minot will not fully recover until this housing crisis is resolved.

The staggering rise of Devils Lake is now impacting the entire Devils Lake Basin and, if it continues, could place communities along the Sheyenne River and Red Rivers at additional risk. Accordingly, recovery planning must address the possibility that Devils Lake may continue to rise and discharge into the Sheyenne and Red River systems.

These recovery efforts will take significant funding, effort, time, and collaboration by numerous federal, state, and local government agencies. It can be done...and it must be done.
ANALYSIS OF THE FLOOD

By Justin Messner, Public Assistance Specialist
N.D. Department of Emergency Services

Preparedness
The State of North Dakota has in recent history flooded more years than it has stayed dry, and with above normal precipitation and saturated soil conditions experienced during late summer and fall of 2010, the stage was set again for a large scale 2011 spring flood.

Flood preparedness efforts began in the fall of 2010 based on early flood predictions by the National Weather Service (NWS), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and N.D. State Water Commission (SWC). Emergency operations needed to begin early to account for possible failures or setbacks, ensure usable resources were available, provide enough time for assistance to be deployed, and to construct the required protective measures as needed.

ND Department of Emergency Services (NDDES) staff members encouraged and helped coordinate preparedness measures across the state in anticipation of a significant statewide flood. NDDES staff conducted a statewide inventory of local, state, and federal flood fighting resources and updated private vendor lists; coordinated with local jurisdictions to identify potential areas of concern, resource gaps, and flood preparedness activities; and assigned missions to state and federal agencies.

Local jurisdictions reviewed and updated their flood plans to fill any gaps identified in past disasters, held preparedness meetings with local citizens, and conducted resource inventories before the snowmelt even began. Once the snowmelt started, communities staged large scale sandbagging operations with volunteers helping fill sandbags and placing them around homes and buildings. Local jurisdictions also requested N.D. National Guard (NDNG) assistance and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Technical and Direct Assistance for the construction of temporary levees. The St. Paul and the Omaha Districts of the USACE ultimately provided Technical Assistance and Direct Assistance to 14 counties and 28 cities before and during the flood fight.

With resources inventoried, plans updated, and assistance at the ready, the state was prepared for flood fight 2011.

Response
The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) raised its operations level in accordance with the severity of flood emergencies across the state. When the SEOC reached Level I Activation (Full Activation with 24/7 staffing), liaisons from agencies including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), USACE, SWC, NWS, NDNG, ND Department of Transportation (NDDOT), ND Highway Patrol (NDHP), ND Department of Human Services (NDDHS), ND Department of Health (NDDoH), and the ND Department of Agriculture’s Division of Animal Health staffed the SEOC to quicken the response.

“Words cannot describe how truly difficult and trying the flood of 2011 turned out to be. This was not a typical flood by any stretch of the imagination; the water did not come and go right away. It was truly an unprecedented, enormous flood.”

Curt Zimbelman, Mayor of Minot
time within their respective agencies in case of emergency. At the height of the disaster, there were approximately 80 people staffing the SEOC ready to respond, assist, and assign missions as needed.

On February 14, 2011, the SEOC received their first report of flooding in the city of Belcourt, at a time when the majority of the state’s snowpack had not even begun to melt. This was considered an anomaly, but a strong indicator that the state was going to have a difficult flood season when flooding occurs this early.

**Mouse River**
The NWS subsequently issued its first flood warning on February 17, 2011, along the Mouse River in response to the high Lake Darling releases needed to create space for flood water storage. In March, forecasts for significant runoff above the Canadian Rafferty and Alameda dams in the Mouse River Basin also initiated high releases to draw down their reservoirs in preparation of spring runoff. Eventually, so much runoff water entered the Rafferty and Alameda Dams that they began an “inflows must match outflows” period of releases to prevent their reservoirs from overflowing. This created extensive flooding along the Mouse River, including the City of Minot, Burlington, Velva, and Sawyer with floodwaters not beginning to recede until early July.

As soon as a second threat to the City of Minot arose, state and federal resources were deployed. NDNG assistance was requested for Quick Reaction Forces, Traffic Control Points, and dike patrol; the State Water Commission and the NDDOT deployed flood response resources, and the USACE helped place dikes in strategic areas throughout the city; and other state agencies and counties that could help provided additional materials such as filled sandbags and sandbag machines. But even with the assistance of state resources, the small time frame to complete all the flood preparations left a large area of Minot flooded with hundreds of homes underwater and thousands without a place to live. The city is still recuperating after the devastating amount of damages they sustained, with thousands still homeless and living in temporary/transitional housing, or staying in hotels provided by the FEMA Temporary Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program.

**Missouri River**
Bismarck/Mandan nearly became the same story as the snowpack in Montana and northern North Dakota melted and rushed water into the Missouri River Basin. The Missouri and Yellowstone River basins received 150-300 percent of normal snowpack during the 2010 winter and 2011 spring. In addition, over 800 percent of normal precipitation fell across portions of the upper basin during the second half of May, with above normal precipitation continuing into early June. With these large amounts of water draining into Lake Sakakawea, the elevated lake levels forced new record releases from Garrison Dam. The highest amount of releases from Garrison Dam in 2011 was 150,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), which more than doubled the previous record of 65,200 cfs set in 1975.

Records were shattered along the Missouri River in its entirety, starting with Williston where the old record of 28 feet set in 1912 was exceeded by a crest of 30.53 feet on June 21, 2011. The Missouri River at Bismarck/Mandan rose to its highest level this spring since the Garrison Dam was completed in 1953 when
■ ANALYSIS OF THE FLOOD

it reached 19.25 feet on July 1, 2011, major flood stage is 19 feet. These record levels affected every area along the river’s path including Lake Oahe and surrounding communities in the Standing Rock Reservation, as well as numerous states the Missouri River flows through on its way to the Mississippi River.

SEOC staff assigned missions to the NDNG, NDDOT, and USACE to build protection measures along vital areas of the Missouri River. Protection measures used in the Bismarck/Mandan areas were definitely more effective, although many homes were simply too close to the river to properly protect. Hundreds more homes received damage through ground water saturation. The floodwaters in many areas within Bismarck/Mandan only began to recede far enough for people to access their flooded homes starting in mid-August through September. Most homeowners in these areas are still working to clean and repair their homes to pre-flood conditions.

James River
As much as the heavy snowpack and persistent rains affected the Mouse and Missouri River basins, the same is true for the upper James River basin defined as the area above the City of Jamestown. The spring melt of a heavy snowpack produced significant flooding and runoff into the Jamestown and Pipestem dams. The latter half of June and all through the month of July saw persistent heavy rains in the upper James River basin which kept summertime runoff high enough to prevent the Jamestown and Pipestem Dams from lowering through normal means such as evaporation. The last weekend in July produced one of the heaviest precipitation events with well over four inches of rain covering a wide area that drained into the two reservoirs, and this last storm in July sent both Jamestown and Pipestem dams uncomfortably close to their emergency spillways and prompted the USACE to plan for unprecedented high releases out of both dams well into October and early November.

The unusual pattern of heavy rains in the James River Basin ended after July and more seasonally normal patterns were observed. This has allowed the reservoirs behind the dams to be lowered enough to allow an incremental decrease in reservoir releases to a normal amount by the middle of November. While both dams received significantly above normal runoff in the springs of 2009 and 2010, this year was unusual with respect to the middle and late summer rains that produced what will eventually be considered one of the top three runoff years on record for this area. It is expected that the 2011 water year will set the new record for runoff above Jamestown, and for the amount of river water that passed through Jamestown in the James River. The waters in the Jamestown area are still too high for the removal of the emergency protective measures that were placed by the NDDOT and local contractors.

Sheyenne River
In the Sheyenne River Valley, the high amount of runoff entering into Baldhill Dam also initiated high releases which caused the Sheyenne River to reach its second highest crest on record in Valley City. The Baldhill Dam releases created such a swift rising of the Sheyenne that every available resource needed to be used to quickly place dikes, HESCO barriers, and sandbags to prevent the Sheyenne from flooding a majority of the city. Valley City was threatened again in August due to heavy local rains in the middle-Sheyenne basin. But due to the quick response by
ANALYSIS OF THE FLOOD

state agencies and the assistance of the USACE and NDNG, the city was protected from becoming another disaster such as Minot.

Red River of the North
The Red River Valley began its flooding on March 22, with Fargo reaching flood stage on March 29th. Due to a rather wet summer, Fargo experienced 150 days above flood stage this spring and finally dropped below flood stage on the 27th of August. Fargo is constantly threatened every year with flooding due to the topography of the Red River Valley. With the consecutive years of flooding in these areas, communities within the Red River Valley such as Fargo and Grand Forks have become exceedingly efficient at battling flood waters. Grand Forks has protected itself efficiently from flooding since the unfortunate 1997 disaster when the city was completely consumed by floodwaters. Soon after, Grand Forks had permanent control structures built that have protected the city ever since. And the City of Fargo, since the 2009 flood when the Red River unexpectedly continued to rise after a late melt, has increased its flood fighting abilities each year. Although damages were still sustained on roadways and in some rural homes through the Red River Valley, communities are aware of what to expect and have learned to protect themselves accordingly.

Devils Lake Basin
Lastly, the Devils and Stump Lake areas which are continuously rising every year went into freeze-up during the 2010 winter at 1451.6 feet. Substantial snowpack melt and near normal precipitation made its way from the upper basin into the combined lake system starting in mid-April culminating in the new average level of 1454.30 feet on the 27th of July. Evaporation and limited pumping through the west end outlet lowered the lake to an anticipated freeze-up height of about 1453.5 feet.

Recovery
On April 26, 2011, Governor Jack Dalrymple requested a joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) with FEMA to begin applying for a federally declared disaster. With the results from the PDA, the N.D. Governor’s Office submitted a Disaster Declaration Letter explaining the events that occurred in our state, ranging from the amount of preparation put into protecting public infrastructure, to the amount of damages that had already been sustained. On May 10, 2011, President Obama declared North Dakota as being in a state of disaster and FEMA assigned the state Disaster number 1981. With the declaration for Disaster 1981, FEMA’s Public Assistance (PA) Program and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) were instated to assist 44 counties and four tribes with disaster recovery and reimbursement of flood damage costs. Of those counties and tribes, nine counties and one tribe were approved for the Individual Assistance (IA) program to help homeowners and businesses affected by the flood damages with financial assistance as well.

The FEMA PA Program works to reimburse the costs for repairing public infrastructure ranging from roads, bridges, drains, parks, buildings, and electrical damages, to the placement and removal of flood protection measures such as dikes and barricades. The initial joint PDA estimated roughly $50 million worth of flood related costs and damages. However, the PDA was completed before flooding in the state had finished, and with 267 current applicants and an already awarded federal share of $65 million from the FEMA PA Program, the disaster has surpassed
**ANALYSIS OF THE FLOOD**

the PDA amount and will continue to grow until the disaster recovery process is finally completed. An initial estimate of Public Infrastructure costs has been totaled at $320 million.

Since North Dakota is one of the few states that participate in state-managed disasters, the NDDES has Project Specialists visit sites across the state in federally declared counties to document damages, collect paperwork such as time cards, equipment records, journal vouchers, receipts, and employee policies to create Project Worksheets (PWs). PWs contain an explanation of why damages occurred in these specific areas, what damages were sustained, and what the scope of work should entail to bring these damaged sites back to a pre-disaster condition. When a PW is completed and reviewed, it is then entered into the Federal Emergency Management Mission Integrated Environment (EMMIE) system. The PW goes through another set of reviews that includes Quality Control, Hazard Mitigation, Environmental and Historic Preservation, and if the PW is considered eligible, it becomes obligated meaning FEMA will reimburse their share of the damage costs. Generally the federal share is 75 percent, with the state paying for 10 percent and the local jurisdiction where the damages occurred responsible for the last 15 percent. However, when a disaster becomes large enough, such as Disaster 1981, FEMA will take a 90 percent share, with the state contributing seven percent and local jurisdictions responsible for the remaining three percent.

Combined with the PA Program is the HMGP which is used to help mitigate damages from occurring in the future if improvements to damaged sites are considered cost effective. This year alone, the FEMA HMGP is estimated to provide $80 million for mitigation efforts across the state and help prevent additional damages when North Dakota will eventually flood again. HMGP funds can be site specific, such as improvements to roads or buildings, but funds can also be used for buying or relocating homes that are within floodways to help protect human life and safety.

The IA Program was also approved in our state for nine counties and one tribe, with approximately 14,378 IA applicants working directly with FEMA IA teams. The IA Program works closely with homeowners, and the Small Business Administration, a section of the IA program, works directly with businesses that have been affected by flood damages. Currently in North Dakota, an estimated $195 million will be applied to the Individual Housing Program, Housing Assistance and Other Needs

Referrals, while the Small Business Administration will have an estimated amount of $236 million loaned to businesses and homeowners. Between Ward and McHenry Counties, which had high amounts of homeowners that needed to be evacuated because their properties were going to be completely flooded, FEMA’s IA Program has brought in an estimated 1,200 temporary/transitional homes, with an additional 1,100 anticipated to be brought into North Dakota for those citizens who lost their homes and had nowhere else to turn.

Three consecutive years of major flooding in North Dakota have left many homeowners and counties monetarily unstable because they have had to continuously repair and replace their properties. Most jurisdictions don’t have the means of repairing
their damages every year because they do not have access to needed resources such as an adequate labor pool, equipment and materials, or financial options for extensive recovery projects caused by yearly flooding. Rural communities are forced to improvise to protect their properties while waiting for flood waters to subside and roads to be made passable. In addition, the constant flooding has taken a substantial toll on agriculture which has lost millions of dollars in revenue due to harsh winters, slow receding floodwaters, and constantly saturated fields. And even though they do not have the finances, many jurisdictions are still heavily invested in large project repairs for which they will not likely receive reimbursements for until the projects are completed which can take upwards of three years.

The State of North Dakota has been trying to lessen the effects of flood damage costs this year when Governor Jack Dalrymple signed into law Senate Bill 2369, which provides emergency funding totaling $31 million to help local governments cover the costs of statewide flood-fighting efforts, flood damages and the removal of excessive snow. That amount is enough to assist, but not cover the amount of costs that have been incurred this year alone.

A delay of the Federal Disaster Relief Fund, as occurred this year, can only mean more difficulties for North Dakota in the future. The state is already affected yearly which can be proven by the 30 declared emergency and disaster declarations the state has received since 1993. That equates to 1.67 disasters each year for the past 18 years.

Withholding funds for the repairs that North Dakota desperately needs will only create more costs in the future, while increasing the financial difficulty for the citizens of our state because they don’t have the means to live normally without additional assistance. In many ways, preventing the distribution of relief funds will leave the citizens affected by floodwaters in 2011 few choices in solutions to return their lives back to normal.

- **DISASTER BY THE NUMBERS**

Too much water for too long – 2011 was the year of record for unprecedented, prolonged flooding in North Dakota.

The flood fight began in mid-February when Willow Creek flooded in Belcourt. It continues 10 months later, this time in the James River Basin, where flood waters are not expected to drop below flood pool elevation at the Jamestown and Pipestem Dams until mid-November.

All corners of the state, east, west, north and south, battled floodwaters in all river basins -- the Red River of the North, the Devils Lake Basin, and the James, Sheyenne, Mouse and Missouri. Communities waged successful battles; some, like Fargo, won. Others, like Minot, lost. It simply came down to more water than current infrastructure and flood protection could handle.

**The numbers tell the story:**

- According to preliminary data, floodwaters shattered 21 peak records.
- Flooding forced the evacuation of 28 neighborhoods throughout the state, including 12,000 Minot residents.
- Mouse River floodwaters inundated 4,100 Minot homes and businesses
- The Minot Broadway Bridge crested at 1561.72 feet MSL, which surpassed the old record of 1558 feet MSL set in 1881.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) opened the Lake Sakakawea spillway gates for the first time in history on June 1, 2011.
- The Missouri and Yellowstone River basins received 150-300% of normal snowpack during the 2010 winter and 2011 spring. In addition, over 800% of normal precipitation fell across portions of the upper basin during the second half of May, with above normal precipitation continuing into early June.
- The old record of 28 feet from 1912 for the

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MISSOURI RIVER AT WILLISTON

Missouri River at Williston was exceeded on June 9, 2011, and eventually shattered by a crest of 30.53 feet on June 21, 2011.

Since the Garrison Dam was built, the Missouri River at Bismarck exceeded the all-time flow of 150,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) – 13 million acre feet, forcing evacuation of nearly 900 Burleigh and Morton County homes.

The USACE forecasts that up to 900,000 acre feet will flow through the city of Jamestown this year, well in excess of the record flow of 530,000 acre feet in 2009.

Devils Lake continues its record-setting ascent – rising to 1454.30 feet on July 27, which equates to 595,000 acre feet, greater than the 1997 or 2009 volume.

Red and Sheyenne River flood levels and flows were generally among the top three highest, basin-wide.

Fargo experienced 150 days above flood stage this spring and finally dropped below flood stage on August 27.

Cass County incurred $1.9 million in emergency work costs and built 31.48 miles of levee.

Fargo officials used 1 million sandbags in its flood fight and estimate another 5 million would have been needed if not for the acquisition of homes in flood-prone areas.

Burleigh County and the city of Bismarck used 11,269,800 sandbags, and placed 2.87 miles of dike, and 2.65 miles of trap bags and HESCO barriers.

Mandan and Morton County used 2,936,000 sandbags, 2.1 miles of HESCO, and 4.3 miles of clay and earthen levee.

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was in operation for 181 days, necessitating 31 days of 24/7 staffing (Level 1 - Full Scale activation).

The SEOC staff included 80 people from the N.D. Department of Emergency Services (NDDES), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), USACE, N.D. State Water Commission, National Weather Service, N.D. National Guard, N.D. Department of Transportation, N.D. Highway Patrol, N.D. Department of Human Services, N.D. Department of Health (NDDoH), and N.D. Division of Animal Health.

Thirty-two state agencies support disaster recovery through the North Dakota Disaster Recovery Task Force.

The State Electrical Board conducted 3,000 inspections in Minot.

Staff from seven state agencies of the One-Stop Contractor Licensing Center logged an average of 10,396 miles and nearly 200 hours traveling for 47 days between Bismarck and Minot.

The One-Stop Contractor Licensing Center issued 4,094 IDs/licenses, and registered/licensed 505 contractors. Background checks resulted in arrests of 23 individuals.

Mouse River cleanup required removal of 61,000 tons of debris; nearly 6,000 white goods, 90,000 containers of paint and household cleaners; 15,000 gas cans; several large containers including 3,000 to 5,000 gallon propane tanks; 215 lead-acid batteries; 550 cubic yards of electronic waste; and insulation from 220 households.

As of October 27, 2011, the USACE had spent $40,100 for temporary housing, $7,400,000 for debris removal in Ward County and $580,000 for McHenry County.

NDSU Extension Service in Minot housed more
DISASTER BY THE NUMBERS

than 500 pets and a cactus collection at the North Central Research Extension Center.

As of October 25, Job Service has paid $2,102,501 in benefits; 1310 people have been approved, and 541 individuals who were unemployed due to flooding were able to file regular state claims. Job Service approved 539 claims for regular unemployment insurance for individuals who lost employment due to the flood.

N.D. Department of Human Services received a $817,611 federal grant for crisis counseling; as of October 21, 2011, 1,791 people received individual crisis counseling; and 1,597 received group crisis counseling.

Total Registrants for assistance – 14,378

Individual Assistance Paid to flood victims – $95M

Small Business Administration (SBA) – Has loaned $236 million in low interest loans

The 211 Hotline has taken over 5,016 flood related calls.

Incident Periods:

State Declaration Timeline:
January 11, 2011 -- Governor Jack Dalrymple issued a spring flood emergency declaration for the Spirit Lake Nation and Benson, Nelson, Ramsey and Towner counties.

February 10, 2011 -- Governor Dalrymple issued a statewide flood emergency declaration

May 10, 2011 -- Governor Dalrymple proclaimed a statewide flood disaster in North Dakota.

Federal Declaration Timeline - 3318-EM-ND,
Emergency Protective Measures
April 7, 2011 -- President Obama approved a limited emergency declaration for Direct Federal Assistance for Barnes, Cass, Richland and Traill Counties.
April 13, 2011 -- Declaration expanded to include Grand Forks, Pembina, Walsh and Ward Counties.
April 15, 2011 -- Declaration amended to include Ransom County.

May 6, 2011 -- Declaration amended to include Benson, Eddy, Nelson, Ramsey and Towner Counties and the Spirit Lake Nation.

Federal Declaration Timeline -- 1981-DR-ND, Major Disaster Declaration

May 10, 2011 -- President Obama approved a major disaster declaration (FEMA-1981-DR) for flooding in the State of North Dakota beginning February 14, 2011 and continuing in Barnes, Benson, Bottineau, Burke, Cass, Cavalier, Dickey, Eddy, Foster, Grand Forks, Grant, Griggs, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Nelson, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Ransom, Renville, Richland, Rolette, Sargent, Sheridan, Steele, Stutsman, Towner, Traill, Walsh, Ward, Wells, and Williams Counties and the Spirit Lake Nation, the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Reservation.

June 2, 2011 – Declaration amended to include Burleigh County

June 7, 2011 -- Declaration amended to include Billings and Divide Counties

June 23, 2011 – Declaration amended to include McKenzie County.

June 24, 2011 -- Declaration amended to provide the Individual Assistance (IA) Program to Burleigh and Ward Counties.
LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS

This summer, member agencies of the One-Stop Contractor Licensing Center logged an average of 10,396 miles and nearly 200 hours traveling for 47 days between Bismarck and Minot to provide public safety and consumer protection for their fellow North Dakotans.

It’s an effort Susan Scott, Workforce Safety and Insurance (WSI) Underwriting Supervisor, would gladly undertake again. “We rolled up our sleeves and got busy,” said Susan, who worked long hours along with staff from seven state agencies to license 505 contractors and their 4,094 employees. “Many contractors expressed their appreciation of the availability of the one-stop center as opposed to taking the additional time and effort to locate the agencies in North Dakota regarding compliance. Time was of the essence, and they were anxious to get to work and help the citizens of Minot and the surrounding areas.”

The commitment of employees like Susan Scott and those staffing the licensing center is the driving energy behind the difference the North Dakota Recovery Task Force is making to restore the quality of flood survivors’ lives. The Task Force draws on the expertise of 32 state, six federal, and three private partners to achieve its mission of guiding state level efforts, resources and programs to assist individuals, businesses and communities recover from the prolonged, catastrophic flooding that occurred in the Mouse, Missouri Devils Lake, Red River, James, and Sheyenne River Basins.

Collaboratively, Task Force members strategize how best to leverage their resources, from establishing the licensing center, securing temporary housing, deferring mortgage payments, guiding removal of more than 61,000 tons of debris, rebuilding flood-damaged infrastructure, conducting educational seminars for flood survivors, and securing low-interest loans for cash-strapped municipalities.

Goals

The N.D. Department of Emergency Services, under the direction of MG David Sprynczynatyk, assembled the Task Force in June 2011; agencies responded in force and established the following goals in support of flood-impacted jurisdictions:

- Ensure coordinated state recovery support for individuals, as well as local and tribal governments, through effective planning, program implementation, and policy development.
- Provide assistance to local and tribal governments with their efforts to help affected individuals and businesses by increasing awareness of programs and resources, communicating and coordinating among agencies, and making referrals when appropriate.
- Leverage economic recovery assistance programs designed to help local recovery groups or teams and their communities with their rebuilding efforts.
- Identify ways to protect existing infrastructure against future damages.
- Initiate processes through statutory and regulatory requirements, or other avenues, to ensure future development and protects against potential damage.

Objectives

The Housing Task Force for Disaster Recovery had
LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS

been meeting since March and was well positioned to assess needs, as were state and federal agencies staffing the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) during response. As their first task, the Task Force members established objectives in the areas of Consumer Protection, Environmental Health and Infrastructure, Individual Assistance and Disaster Housing, and Economic Recovery. Agencies agreed to the following objectives:

- Protect consumers by ensuring proper licensure of contractors and educating citizens about potential fraudulent practices.
- Assist local and tribal governments to remediate environmental hazards and ensure safe restoration of infrastructure needed for individuals to live healthy and safely.
- Secure adequate and safe housing for displaced citizens.
- Implement programs to ensure the wellbeing of citizens and economic viability of their communities.
- Develop a communications plan/public information strategy to identify how the task force will share critical information with agencies, organizations, business, and the public.

MOUSE RIVER INITIATIVES

Engineers, planners, and community leaders are setting records when it comes to a floodway for Mouse River Basin communities.

Project development by its in-depth nature typically moves at a slow pace. That’s not the case with the fast-tracked Mouse River floodway, which will provide timely and needed direction to Minot’s recovery. As Governor Jack Dalrymple has said, “The timing of this work is critical because this information is needed to help people make personal decisions about their property.”

Minot’s current flood control system was designed to protect against Mouse River flows of up to 5,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). That level proved inadequate this June when historic water flows of more than 27,400 cfs damaged approximately 4,100 homes and businesses. The goal is to develop options designed to protect residents from a flood of similar magnitude. The preliminary engineering will take into account levee alignment and property acquisition required for right of way.

Major Project Milestones:

November 3, 2011 – Issue Initial Concept Alignment and cost estimate for use during the special Legislative session beginning November 7

Week of November 7, 2011 – Public Input meetings

November 23, 2011 – Issue Preliminary Alignment and revised cost estimate for public agency use

Week of November 28, 2011 – Public Information meetings

February 29, 2012 – Issue Preliminary Engineering Report

Plans for the project began taking shape on August 17 when the N.D. State Water Commission (SWC) approved a request by the City of Minot and the Souris River Joint Board to develop a Mouse River Basin flood protection plan. The SWC reduced in half the time required for development of a request for proposals. Engineering firms were given one week to submit proposals. By September 22, 2011, the State Water Commission awarded the floodway design project to Barr Engineering Company, and approved $750,000 in funding for the project’s initial phase.
MOUSE RIVER INITIATIVES

Barr Engineering, one of seven firms considered to lead the project, agreed to provide a preliminary report about six weeks ahead of schedule. Barr Engineering of Bismarck/Minneapolis is collaborating with Ackerman-Estvold Engineering and Management Consulting, Inc. of Minot, Moore Engineering, Inc. of West Fargo and CPS, Ltd. of Grand Forks on project development.

On September 30, 2011, a delegation of impacted area representatives traveled to Grand Forks, toured the Grand Forks flood protection project, and participated in several meetings with City of Grand Forks staff members and public officials, where they discussed their project features and challenges, and offered suggestions to the Mouse River team.

The Souris River Joint Board met on October 4, 2011 to conduct field reconnaissance, review the flood control project development timelines, communications plan and organizational structure. An Enhanced Flood Protection Startup Workshop was held October 5 to 7, 2011 with representatives of the impacted areas to discuss priorities, challenges, and a variety of alternatives for flood protection throughout the basin.

The information/stakeholder input gathered at the startup workshop provided the foundation for assessments by the engineering team that developed the initial concept alignment and cost estimate for consideration by the state legislature during the special session. The initial concept alignment was scheduled for release on November 3, 2011 with public input meetings being conducted the week of November 7, 2011.

MOUSE RIVER BASIN RECOVERY STRATEGY

Mouse River Basin residents are mapping the future of their communities.

At the invitation of local and state partners, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) deployed a specialized team of planners to facilitate long-term community planning in the Mouse River Basin.

FEMA representatives have been coming to North Dakota since 1993 to assist with a myriad of flood response and recovery activities. 2011 found the citizens of North Dakota again fighting this all too common event with FEMA responding again and providing assistance.

Given the magnitude of the event, FEMA’s team expanded to include Emergency Support Function #14, also known as Long-Term Community Recovery (LTCR), to assist with planning and long-term recovery of the Mouse River Basin after flooding inundated the cities of Minot and Burlington, along with rural areas of Ward County. Experienced team members are working with local elected officials and citizen groups to develop a plan that will expedite the recovery process and bring these communities back to their normal, thriving activity.

LTCR works to promote successful long-term recoveries for communities suffering extraordinary damages. The team identifies and coordinates potential sources of recovery funding, and provides technical assistance in the form of impact analyses and recovery planning support.

An LTCR Assessment Team was assembled early in July, and began an initial assessment of flood-impacted jurisdictions. Based on the assessment,
MOUSE RIVER BASIN
RECOVERY STRATEGY

FEMA and North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDES) determined state and federal disaster recovery programs would adequately address the needs of all but one jurisdiction – Ward County.

Given the impact on the cities of Burlington and Minot, their close proximity to each other, and with each community facing very similar recovery issues, the team’s assessment indicated Ward County communities would benefit from development of a long term recovery plan. In developing the plan, recovery issues identified that have an impact on both jurisdictions can be addressed in a coordinated effort; including future planning on project development, especially those related to flood control and housing.

LTCR team members have joined forces with local and state partners, as active partners of the Minot Citizens Flood Recovery Committee and the North Dakota Recovery Task Force. The LTCR Team coordinated a federal-state partners conference in August to introduce State and Federal partners and begin the discussion of identifying plan implementation resources.

As LTCR coordinates with both local and state groups in identifying recovery issues and potential projects, LTCR also wanted to hear from residents about their ideas for their city’s recovery. In September, the LTCR Team held a series of open houses for residents of Ward County to attend and provide their ideas for potential recovery projects to incorporate into the regional recovery strategy. Based on feedback from these workshops, input from local officials and the recovery committee, the LTCR team developed a list of potential recovery projects to incorporate into the regional recovery strategy. A second series of community open houses were held in October 2011 for residents to attend and vote on which recovery projects, in their opinion, should be a priority for the cities to implement. The top recovery projects that residents voted for were developing affordable housing, creating a Mouse River Valley greenway with recreational amenities, and conducting a transportation study for the region.

The LTCR Team is tentatively scheduled to release a rough draft of the recovery strategy to the recovery committee and local officials to review on November 7, 2011. In early December 2011, the recovery strategy will be complete and to the cities of Minot, Burlington, and the Ward County Board of Commissioners for adoption.

“*The level of commitment from all those involved, before, during and after the flood has been the bright spot of this experience; a true testament to the strength of the residents of Minot. We saw families helping families, neighbors helping neighbors and strangers helping strangers. The members of this community really came together to help one another in their greatest time of need, and continue to do so. The City will rise above the devastation of the 2011 flood on the backbone of a community commitment to each other and to the region.***

David Waind, Minot City Manager
RESOURCES FOR READERS

Task Force Priorities
The inter-agency, state-led North Dakota Disaster Recovery Task Force established ambitious but essential short and long-term priorities to help local and tribal governments recover from our catastrophic flood.

Following is a summary of work achieved to date on short and long-term priorities:

Environmental Health and Infrastructure Committee

■ Short-Term Priority: Provide technical assistance to assist flooded communities with debris collection, disposal and sorting

N.D. Department of Health (NDDoH) -- Waste Management Division
■ Provided technical assistance during demolition of two Minot manufactured housing courts
■ Reviewed plans and issued a permit for McDaniel Landfill to accommodate inert flood-related debris
■ Provided guidance to Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative on disposal of thousands of creosote utility poles damaged by 2011 weather events
■ Provided information to Minot Solid Waste staff on wood processing and mobile home demolition material

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
■ Removed household hazardous wastes from the impacted area; decontaminated and prepared white goods and electronic waste for recycling; collected and processed orphaned containers; and conducted environmental monitoring and sampling in impacted and work areas
■ Removed hazardous materials from nearly 6,000 units of white goods, and turned the scrap to the city of Minot for recycling;
■ Processed more than 90,000 small paint and household cleaner containers, and small gas cans containing 15,000 gallons of gas, which was sent to a fuel processor;
■ Returned several large containers to their owners or sent them to a local Minot company for reuse;
■ Turned over 215 lead-acid batteries to the city of Minot;
■ Sent 550 cubic yards of electronic waste to a contractor for recycling; and
■ Collected asbestos insulation from 220 households.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
■ Provided oversight for debris removal, expending $7,400,000 in Ward County and $580,000 for McHenry County

N.D. Office of Management and Budget -- Risk Management Division
■ Assisted with documents necessary for debris removal under NDCC 37-17.1-21

N.D. Forest Service (NDFS)
■ Utilized flood mapping tools developed for remote sensing to assess Missouri and Mouse River systems to include: 1) estimate acreage of community forest resources impacted by peak inundation levels; 2) estimate acreage of priority riparian forests impacted; and 3) prioritize short-term and long-term survey and monitoring activities
RESOURCES FOR READERS

- Participated in the July 13, 2011, North Dakota Urban and Community Forestry Association meeting to discuss flood-related tree mortality, invasive species establishment, and hazard trees
- Coordinated with community leaders to tour and evaluate options for Minot’s Oak Park, Roosevelt Park Zoo, Jack Hoeven Park, and Minot neighbourhoods, and the Missouri River area to include Sibley Park in south Bismarck
- Conducted a preliminary ground survey assessment in Minot. Additional surveys are planned for impacted areas along the Missouri River. NDFS specialists are coordinating long-term monitoring assessments and will continue to assess wood utilization opportunities for flood-killed trees

Short-Term Priority: Provide technical assistance with environmental remediation – home safety, hazardous materials, and physical hazards

N.D. National Guard (NDNG)
- Provided environmental remediation technical assistance

NDDoH -- Waste Management and Air Quality Divisions
- Provided debris separation, asbestos, lead remediation, recycling, and disposal information to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and contractors
- Provided lists of recycling, hazardous waste, and disposal vendors and facilities
- Met with FEMA staff, contractors, and Minot Solid Waste employees to discuss air quality issues, as well as debris separation and management
- Identified potential issues with cleanup of the Mouse River Park

State Fire Marshal’s Office
- Provided technical assistance to local authorities regarding flood-related health and fire safety issues

Short-Term Priority: Identify resources to support vector control by local jurisdictions

NDDoH – Division of Disease Control
- Provided mosquito data to communities to demonstrate nuisance and disease vector species populations
- Provided guidance to communities on collecting surveillance data to monitor mosquito populations and disease transmission for mosquito abatement eligibility
- Provided technical assistance to communities requesting federal assistance for mosquito control and acted as the liaison between the state and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Division of Vectorborne Diseases

Short-Term Priority: Provide assistance with restoration of municipal and rural water supply systems, private wells, and water intake systems

NDDoH -- Water Quality and Municipal Facilities Divisions
- Provided technical assistance to flood-impacted communities, businesses, and individuals on water supply issues and wastewater disposal issues
- Continuing to assist with safe restoration of water supply and wastewater disposal infrastructure; wastewater transfer, treatment and disposal infrastructure -- Note: All communities and rural water
RESOURCES FOR READERS

systems are now operating and functional in areas where people are not still displaced by flooding.

Provided information on flooded well and septic system precautions to county health units and posted information to the NDDoH website

Supported restoration efforts of wastewater and septic systems

Short-Term Priority: Assist with safe restoration of utilities to include electrical, natural gas, furnaces, water heaters, piping, air conditioning, and other appliances

N.D. Department of Commerce (NDDoC), Division of Community Services

- Ensured availability of residential and consumer utility rebates

N.D. Department of Human Services (NDDHS)

- Developed and made available a Disaster Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for qualifying low-income individuals and families by working in partnership with Community Action of Minot and Ward County Social Services

Short-Term Priority: Support restoration efforts of potable water supply, sanitary drainage and plumbing fixtures within buildings

N.D. State Plumbing Board

- Coordinate with local jurisdictions to provide temporary permits for licensing plumbing contractors from other states
- Provide technical plumbing code support to state and local authorities

Short-Term Priority: Assist with safe restoration of utilities to include electrical, natural gas, furnaces, water heaters, piping, air conditioning, and other appliances

N.D. State Electrical Board (NDSEB)

- Continuing to assist City of Minot with electrical inspections with five state inspectors per week; conducted 3,300 inspections by early October; coordinating effort with Xcel Energy and Verendrye Electric Cooperative
- Conducting electrical inspections of FEMA Temporary Housing units in Ward, McHenry, and Renville counties
- Performing all of the City of Minot’s self wire interviews, test administration, and inspections
- Assisted the City of Minot with enacting the electrical inspection reporting system and provided temporary use of a NDSEB computer

Short-Term Priority: Analyze impacts to the transportation infrastructure.

N.D. Department of Transportation (NDDOT)

- Completed the assessment of transportation infrastructure on the Federal Aid System (FAS) including state, county, and city routes and bridges on the FAS system -- Note: Once levees are removed from the flooded communities, the remaining assessments can be completed.

USACE

- Supporting FEMA’s Emergency Support Function (ESF) #14 effort to facilitate discussions among residents
RESOURCES FOR READERS

from Ward County, Minot, and Burlington regarding traffic and transportation issues, needs and priorities within their communities

Supporting Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection project by identifying critical transportation routes, north/south access points, options for bridge elevation, and emergency operations procedures for road closures during flooding

**Long-Term Priority: Provide technical assistance to local and tribal governments with the identification of mitigation measures designed to protect infrastructure**

**N.D. State Water Commission**

- Providing funding and direction for the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project in which preliminary engineering will take into account levee alignment and property acquisition required for right of way -- Refer to Mouse River Initiatives section of the report.

**USACE**

- Provided guidance to the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection project regarding the permitting process required by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for placing fill in the waters of the United States
- Provided historical planning documents on the once-proposed Burlington Dam to help identify potential alternative projects for the Mouse River valley
- Completed and received approval of three Project Information Reports (PIRs) for the Mouse River Basin authorizing rehabilitation of existing federal works damaged during the 2011 flood event in the Burlington-to-Minot reach, within the city of Minot, and in Velva
- Collected data and began analysis of economic impacts sustained during the 2011 flood and economic impacts prevented by emergency works for gauging the effectiveness of their emergency operations and the potential economic risk of future floods

**NDDoH -- Water Quality and Municipal Facilities Divisions**

- Provided technical assistance to communities in the identification of measures to protect water and wastewater infrastructure from future flood events
- Assist flood-impacted communities with water and wastewater infrastructure restoration needs through the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund Programs

**Long-Term Priority: Address historical/cultural issues resulting from flooding, to include known and newly discovered archeological sites; records retention and protection; repair of flood-damaged public art, sculptures and monuments; and restoration of recreational areas**

**Indian Affairs Commission**

- Coordinating with tribal leaders from all tribal nations in North Dakota to assess flood impacts including impacts on historical and cultural issues
- Coordinating an assessment by a state delegation to analyze how Lake Oahe/Missouri River has impacted their sacred/protected sites and other impacted areas on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation
- Initiated planning efforts to evaluate potential protective measures for flood-impacted areas in the
RESOURCES FOR READERS

Standing Rock Sioux Reservation

Long-Term Priority: Identify green infrastructure solutions to include utilization of biomass, restoration of trees, forests, shrubs and lawns, and protection of wildlife

N.D. Forest Service (NDFS)

Submitted the following proposals to the US Forest Service - State and Private Forestry Western Competitive Resource Allocation Process for funding to assist with the flood recovery efforts:

- Riparian Forest Flood Assessment ($300,000) for: 1) survey and monitoring of impacted riparian forests, 2) establishment of demonstration sites to assess restoration practices, 3) development of a technical guide highlighting best management practices, and 4) educational outreach to landowners and managers

- Community Forest Flood Recovery ($300,000) for: 1) a flood damage assessment and monitoring plan, 2) a wood utilization feasibility study and biomass marketing strategy, 3) a disaster response plan for green infrastructure, and 4) grants provided to affected communities for green infrastructure restoration including tree removal and replacement

- Developed flood damage tree and shrub assessments in Minot and Bismarck to: 1) determine the number of flood damaged trees and shrubs, 2) estimate cost of removals, and 3) estimate cost of replanting

Long-Term Priority: Develop and implement a strategy for repairing disaster-impacted transportation infrastructure

N.D. Department of Transportation

- Developed a request in July to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for federal monies to assist the state and local governments in costs associated with the 2011 disaster – Note: The request accounted for incurred costs for emergency repairs on the federal aid system (FAS)

- Submitted a request in October for Emergency Relief (ER) funds to FHWA -- Note: Current assessments indicate a total estimated cost of $517.12 million; NDDOT requested $432.74 million for the federal share of funds.

- Completed the majority of emergency repairs to restore essential traffic as well as a small portion of the permanent repairs -- Note: The permanent repairs to the FAS are scheduled to be completed in 2012 and 2013. The majority of the infrastructure on the state and local system is anticipated to be repaired in 2012 with the remaining repairs to be completed in 2013. This is contingent on receiving federal funds.

Consumer Protection Committee

Short-Term Priority: Establish a One Stop Contractor Licensing Center

N.D. Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division (CPAT)

- Directed operations of the Minot One Stop Contracting Licensing Center during July 11 to September 8, 2011; participated as an agency as a licensing and registration role -- Note: The center issued 4,094 identification cards/licenses and registered and licensed 505 contractors.
RESOURCES FOR READERS

N.D. Office of the Tax Commissioner (NDOTC)
- Coordinated with other agencies to provide a single location for registering contractors in order to prevent fraudulent contractors from taking advantage of residents of Minot and the surrounding communities during the recovery process

N.D. Office of Attorney General – Bureau of Criminal Investigation
- Conducted more than 4,000 record checks on contractors and employees prior to issuance of IDs by the Licensing Center
- Provided on-site security with Special Agents to ensure security and to respond to any active, extraditable warrants; made 23 arrests
- Served as the initial contact for in-state and out-of-state sex offenders regarding the registration process
- Served as the liaison for various federal law enforcement agencies

Job Service North Dakota (JSND)
- Hosted the One-Stop Contractor Licensing Center at the Minot Job Service office
- Staffed the Center with two unemployment insurance tax representatives to help contractors with unemployment insurance tax requirements
- Loaned identification badge printer to the Center to support contractor registration

Secretary of State
- Provided licensing, registration, and issuing of identification cards to help expedite mobilization of contractors for recovery efforts

Workforce Safety and Insurance
- Provided licensing and registration of contractors to help expedite mobilization of contractors for recovery efforts

NDNG
- Provided administrative support and personnel to initiate identification card creation and organized individual flow through the process

Information Technology Department
- Provided network services, voice services, computer and printer hardware support and technical assistance to the One-Stop Contractor Licensing Center and State Response and Recovery Center located at Devils Lake -- Note:
- Addressed local and state agencies concerns related to potential protective measures against flooding. Ensured network connectivity for the Missouri River webcams and wireless network connectivity for the Bismarck-Burleigh County Emergency Operations Center.

Short-Term Priority: Provide consumer education to flood survivors and insurance companies

N.D. Insurance Department
- Continues to address calls from flood survivors concerned about damage from levees, sewer backup, falling trees, and levels of coverage
- Continues to coordinate with policyholders and companies to help achieve successful resolution of issues
RESOURCES FOR READERS

- Issued bulletin to insurance licensees providing guidance regarding claims handling, premium payments, vacancy provisions, and underwriting
- Provided guidance to property and casualty insurers
- Continues to coordinate with insurance companies regarding questions related to coverage, underwriting, renewal, and other policy-related questions

NDOTC
- Conducted a press conference in Minot in order to educate the public about the One Stop Contractor Licensing Center and the documentation to request when hiring contractors

North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Service

Mouse River Valley
- Distributed educational materials at Minot and Burlington shelters and businesses
- Provided multiple interviews, articles, and PSAs to local news media; shared information via website and Facebook
- Organized homeowner trainings on cleaning a flooded home, flooded trees and landscapes, and rebuilding and winterizing a flooded home
- Received $18,380 from 11 sources to purchase 1,415 copies of “Recovery After Disaster: The Family Financial Toolkit” for Ward County families
- Delivered food safety posters to mass feeding sites
- Arranged for a psychologist to talk with teachers and counselors before school started
- Housed more than 500 pets and a cactus collection at the North Central Research Extension Center

Missouri River Valley
- Sponsored public seminars in Burleigh County on flooded trees and lawns, flooded home cleanup, emotional recovery and resilience, and financial recovery after a disaster
- Received $1,000 from Bank of North Dakota to purchase 40 family financial toolkits for Morton and Ward County families and shared information with bankers, insurance agents, and Coalition for Financial Literacy
- Received $1,500 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to purchase 30 copies of the financial toolkit for Burleigh County families
- Sponsored flooded home cleanup training for contractors
- Supported a psychologist’s talks with elementary teachers and counselors in Bismarck

Devils Lake Basin
- Distributed Extension resources on cleanup, financial concerns and stress management
- Co-chaired the Sustaining Hope Amidst Rising Waters program for the public and pastors
- Posted Extension videos on local cable access stations

Statewide
- Developed 14 flood cleanup and recovery videos
- Developed new information on flood recovery checklists, such as preparing flooded homes for winter,
RESOURCES FOR READERS

dealing with continuing basement seepage, storing drywall, chain saw safety, protecting children after a flood, chlorine bleach safety, and flooded septic systems

- Provided online PowerPoint resilience and cleanup programs
- Unveiled Disaster Recovery Log Android phone application

**Long-Term Priority: Sustain consumer protection measures as flood survivors rebuild homes and businesses**

**NDOTC**

- Partnered with other agencies responsible for licensing and registering contractors in order to prevent fraudulent contractors from taking advantage of flood survivors

**Long-Term Priority: Provide consumer education training**

**NDSU Extension Service**

- Continually updating [www.ag.ndsu.edu/flood](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/flood), including an Ask an Expert widget

**Individual Assistance and Disaster Housing Committee**

**Short-Term Priority: Implement strategies for temporary housing — including activities prior to formation of task force**

**N.D. Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA)**

- Obtained occupancy waivers for federally-assisted rental units making them available to traditionally non-qualifying households
- Assisted local emergency response entities with inventorying and maintaining a list of unoccupied housing units that could be made available to displaced households
- U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Coordinating with NDHFA regarding Individual Assistance, temporary housing needs, immediate needs, and local recovery efforts
- Leveraged multiple funding sources to fulfill financing of a new lagoon currently under construction in St. Michael on the Spirit Lake Nation Reservation
- Coordinating with Devils Lake, Mouse River, Missouri River, and Red River of the North officials on the development of a long-term recovery strategy, including local staff capacity, addressing a much needed Federal Housing Administration (FHA) waiver, key Public Housing Authority needs, Fair Market Rents (FMR) waiver, operating funds, immediate and long-term affordable housing needs, infrastructure, and multifamily housing development tools

**Short-Term Priority: Monitor the needs of citizens through Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), N.D. North Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (NDVOAD) and other agencies providing individual assistance (IA) services**

**N.D. Department of Emergency Services (NDDES)**

- Coordinated with local officials in declared Individual Assistance jurisdictions to identify potential DRC
RESOURCES FOR READERS

- Locations and directed FEMA officials to assess needs/capabilities
- Coordinated with relevant state agencies for staff support within each DRC location in addition to staffing all DRC locations with temporary liaison personnel hired through NDDES, in addition to communicating information/resources of state agencies and programs
- Monitored DRC operations and coordinated with FEMA IA officials for needed actions (closing of DRCs, routing of DRCs, implementing additional sites, etc)
- Disseminated daily DRC reports to Governor’s office, state agency directors and staff involved in operations, and reported on activities/issues to agency directors/task forces/committees

NDHFA
- Worked with NDDES to ensure DRCs were staffed with appropriate agencies and services.
- Assisted with monitoring of DRC activities

NDDHS
- Serve as state liaison with N.D. Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NDVOAD)
- Assigned the case manager for the homeless at the Department’s North Central Human Service Center as liaison with the American Red Cross (ARC) shelters through Oct. 13, 2011 (when the ARC shelter closed) to help address shelter residents’ individual needs and to connect them with appropriate local resources; liaison continues with local partners to support individual and community resiliency and recovery efforts
- Provided state presence at DRCs to help serve people in visible emotional distress and to connect people to services

HUD
- Staffed DRCs and provide HUD program information regarding: 203 (h) FHA Loans for Disaster Victims; 203(k) FHA Loan Program for repair and rehabilitation; and special foreclosure relief and loan servicing options for Disaster Victims

Long-Term Priority: Implement the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program

JSND
- Administered the federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program for individuals in the following areas: Spirit Lake Nation, Barnes, Benson, Burleigh, McHenry, Morton, Ramsey, Renville, Richland and Ward Counties
- Requested and received Department of Labor approval for 30-day deadline extensions for the jurisdictions to give affected individuals additional time to apply for DUA benefits.
- Disseminated DUA information via press releases, website postings, local Disaster Recovery Centers, and the Joint Information Center
- Approved 1,301 DUA claims (out of 1,420 DUA applications)
- Paid $1,995,413 in DUA benefits as of 10/19/11 -- Note: Benefits will be paid through the week ending 11/12/11 to eligible individuals who continue to be unemployed due to flooding.
- Approved 539 claims for regular unemployment insurance for individuals who lost employment due to...
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the flood -- Note: Under federal DUA regulations, these individuals were eligible for regular unemployment insurance claims rather than DUA claims.

N.D. Department of Agriculture
- Advised farmers and ranchers in impacted areas about the availability of DUA

NDHFA
- Worked with NDDES and JSND to ensure Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) grants were secured and DUA services were made available through the DRC

Long-Term Priority: Obtain federal funding and implement a crisis counseling program

NDDHS
- Received an $817,611 federal grant from FEMA and the federal Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration to provide confidential crisis outreach and emotional support to flood-impacted residents of Burleigh, Morton, McHenry, Renville, and Ward counties
- DHS has contracted with Lutheran Disaster Response to operate Project Renew. Through October 21, 2011, a total of 12,609 people received services from Project Renew
- Providing behavioral health professionals at NDDHS regional human service centers in Ward, Burleigh, and Ramsey Counties to serve as resources to help individuals and communities cope with flood-related losses
- Conducted a 2-1-1 radio campaign regarding availability of counseling services
- Made available the services of Dr. Andy McLean to local leaders, first responders, and the media to provide information about mental health needs, resiliency, and services available from public and private providers
- Developed a Coping/Resiliency PowerPoint available online at: www.nd.gov/dhs/info/floodrecovery.html.

NDHFA
- Coordinated with NDDHS to ensure crisis counseling grant funds were secured
- Worked with NDDES, NDDHS, and other local counseling agencies to ensure crisis counseling services were made available through the DRCs and other appropriate local outlets

Long-Term Priority: Obtain Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Assistance

NDDHS
- Issued nearly $500,000 in Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to qualifying Ward County residents through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in conjunction with Ward County Social Services
- Assisted 1,088 households (2,756 persons) who were affected by flooding and were not current program clients to purchase food
- Addressed food losses of 475 participating SNAP households in mandatory evacuation areas of Burlington, Foxholm, Minot, and Sawyer by automatically replacing 70 percent of the June benefit issued to them (totaled $95,000)
■ RESOURCES FOR READERS

■ Issued supplemental benefits totaling just over $51,000 to assure that 289 SNAP households in Ward County (680 persons) received the maximum benefit for their household size

■ Long-Term Priority: Provide direction and technical assistance for local and tribal donations management programs

NDDES

■ Provided continued awareness for its donation management system through news broadcasts, fact sheets, and its maintenance of the National Donations Management Network (NDMN) web portal for the state of North Dakota -- Note: NDMN is a virtual warehouse for facilitating the offering and acceptance of volunteer coordination, monetary contributions and donated goods. NDDES and NDVOAD partners provide direct coordination and assistance to initiate a locally controlled donations management system. ND Donations Management web portal: http://www.nd.gov/des/donations/

NDHFA

■ Reached out to disaster-affected communities to ensure local recovery teams and unmet needs committee systems were being developed

■ Long-Term Priority: Seek federal program waivers and additional funding on existing federal programs

NDHFA

■ Obtained occupancy waivers for federally-assisted rental units making them available to traditionally non-qualifying households

■ Asked the Governor to request the State’s senators to seek additional authority and special rules under the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and first-time home buyer programs -- Note: Legislation is still pending.

■ Long-Term Priority: Explore redirection of existing housing program funding

NDHFA

■ Created a set-aside of up to fifty percent for disaster areas in the allocation plan for the Housing Incentive Fund

■ Approved a forward commitment for a low income multifamily project from its 2012 annual authority under the LIHTC program.

■ Confirmed that certain Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) discretionary funds would be reserved and made available for flood recovery efforts

■ Coordinated with the N.D. Department of Commerce, Division of Community Services, regarding potentially leveraging the HOME Investment Partnerships Program

■ Exploring other programs that could be directed for housing needs

NDDoC – Division of Community Services

■ Providing Dedicated HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds to be used as gap financing in the development of affordable multifamily housing in Minot

■ Received $560,000 from the Governor’s Fund to help fund the Minot Stonebridge Farms Lift Station,
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which is a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project -- Note: The goal of this project is to provide needed infrastructure to facilitate the development of the Stonebridge Farms housing development which will provide quality housing opportunities to residents from flood-damaged homes and those working in the growing energy development economy. Phase One of Stonebridge Farms will include 52 units with a mixture of single-family homes, twin homes, town homes and apartments. Subsequent Stonebridge Farms phases may include up to 85 single-family homes.

Long-Term Priority: Assist local jurisdictions with development of housing replacement repair strategy

NDHFA

- Participating in the Minot Housing Recovery Committee weekly meetings
- Participating in the Bismarck/Mandan Recovery Committee and unmet needs subcommittee activities

HUD

- Coordinated with the Benson County Housing Authority replacement and relocation of homes
- Delivered a 125% FMR waiver to the Minot Housing Authority on October 30, 2011

Long-Term Priority: Create/update a matrix of programs and services covering long-term recovery

NDHFA

- Coordinated efforts to develop a matrix of programs and services that could be linked to or posted on www.nddisasterinfo.com website

Long-Term Priority: Encourage and assist with developing and conducting housing fairs, neighborhood meetings, or other appropriate forums, to provide one-stop shop or information dissemination, counseling, and consultation to individuals

NDHFA

- Held a Ward County informational meeting on July 28, 2011; reached out to other county communities to determine flood issues and need for help
- Held a Renville County informational meeting August 5, 2011; reached out to county communities to determine flood issues and need for help
- Assisted with the development of and participated in the Souris River Financial Awareness Resource Fair in Minot on August 11, 2011
- Assisted with the development of and participated in Community Flood Recovery Conferences held in Bismarck (August 31, 2011) and Minot (September 1, 2011)
- Coordinating with city of Minot to determine the need for and assist with conducting additional neighborhood informational meeting -- Note: Response still pending.

Long-Term Priority: Pursue continued funding, as required, for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) and Crisis Counseling

NDDHS

- Submitted an application to extend crisis outreach and emotional support services
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JSND
- Secured additional funding and extension of program operations
- Received Department of Labor approval for 30-day deadline extensions for Spirit Lake Nation, Barnes, Burleigh, McHenry, Morton, Ramsey, Renville, Richland and Ward Counties to give affected individuals additional time to apply for DUA benefits
- Received a uniform DUA application deadline of Sept. 22, 2011 (final date) for all affected areas to help eliminate confusion associated with varying deadline dates

Long-Term Priority: Sustain donations management operations

NDDES
- Maintaining a memorandum of understanding with AidMatrix for the administration of the NDMN web portal
- Continuing coordination with the state National Donations Management Team comprised of representatives from NDDES, NDDHS, and two members of the NDVOAD (Lutheran Disaster Response and N.D. League of Cities)

NDHFA
- Working in concert with local committees to encourage more donations
- Continuing to monitor local fundraising and donation operations

Economic Recovery Committee

Short-Term Priority: Identify available programs and disseminate information to consumers

NDDES
- Developed and coordinated the Souris River Financial Resource Fair held in Minot on August 11, 2011
- Participated on local Disaster Recovery Conference planning team hosted by Bismarck/Mandan Chamber of Commerce; held in Bismarck and Minot
- Culling reports from FEMA Individual Assistance registration, SBA Low Interest Disaster Loan approval and non-approval, JSND DUA registration/payout data, and data collected through Minot Area Community Foundation

Workforce Safety and Insurance (WSI)
- Facilitated input for the following websites: www.NDFloodinfo.com & www.NDdisasterinfo.com
- Provided oversight for the development and distribution of an informational flyer, North Dakota Disaster Assistance Guide
- Coordinated with NDSU Extension Offices regarding neighborhood meetings to discuss flood-related topics
- Participated in the Souris River Financial Awareness Resource Fair on August 11, 2011

N.D. Public Finance Authority (PFA)
- Coordinated with NDDES to distribute press releases and loan information to cities, counties, townships,
RESOURCES FOR READERS

- county emergency management, schools, and park districts
- Conducted teleconferences with the N.D. League of Cities, Association of Counties, and Township Association to discuss dissemination of the PFA Disaster Loan program
- Contacted impacted borrowers regarding potential PFA payment modifications within the existing terms of their loans
- Included a memo in State Revolving Fund (SRF) borrowers’ September 1 billings advising them they could contact the PFA for payment modifications
- Outlined the PFA Disaster Loan Program with county and state emergency management officials

NDOTC

- Continuing to work with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to educate flood survivors on the federal tax treatment of casualty losses and debt forgiveness
- Conducted seminars with the IRS September 27-29, 2011, to provide information on federal income tax treatment of flood related issues
- Planning additional flood-related seminars with the IRS at the end of November and December in Minot
- Continuing to partner with the IRS to provide tax assistance to flood survivors

Short-Term Priority: Coordinate assistance for agricultural producers

Farm Service Agency

- Evaluating the impact excess water had on the agriculture economy
- Providing data on numerous farm programs available to address the needs of agricultural producers
- Distributing newsletters to the media and NDSU Extension Service offices

BND

- Provided all ND Lenders information on the Farm Disaster Relief Program on June 15, 2011

N.D. Department of Agriculture

- Sent a request on April 7, 2011, by Commissioner Doug Goehring to the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) to allow livestock producers to use Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to hold cattle and sheep during calving and lambing season due to excessively wet conditions
- Advised producers to document losses due to storms and spring flooding and provide information to the NDSU Extension Service and North Dakota’ Stockmen’s Association
- Sent request, from Commissioner Goehring to the FSA, to allow farmers and ranchers who cannot access their summer pastures to graze their animals on CPR acres
- Sent request on June 9, 2011, to federal officials by Governor Jack Dalrymple and Commissioner Goehring to make an exception in the prevented planting policy for producers in the Devils Lake basin
- Sent request from Commissioner Goehring to USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) to reduce the penalty producers must pay if they hay cover crops on land for which they received prevented planting payments
- Conducted community forums in Minot and Towner on July 6, 2011, to obtain feedback from producers on the aftermath of the flood, update on recovery efforts, and identify needs and available assistance
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Conducted a community forum on July 7, 2011, in Mandan to get feedback from producers in the aftermath of the flood on what recovery efforts are or will be underway and identify needs and available assistance. -- Note: Area legislators, NDSU extension personnel, federal farm agency staff and commodity group representatives participated in both forums.

Activated the North Dakota Harvest Hotline on August 25, 2011, in response to delayed planting, for farmers who need combining services and independent combiners who are looking for work.

Received unanimous adoption on September 21, 2011, by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) for Commissioner Goehring’s policy amendment, supporting changes to prevented planting provisions for producers dealing with excessively wet/flooding conditions that allows producers to plant a cover crop or forage without a reduction in prevented planting payments.

Short-Term Priority: Coordinate with the banking industry to support consumer concerns

NDDES

Coordinating with state and federal agencies to identify financial unmet needs

Provide direct interaction and technical support to Minot Lenders Subcommittee

Workforce Safety and Insurance

Coordinated, through the Economic Recovery Committee, regarding issuance of Minot area lenders’ Public Service Announcements informing customers about mortgage payment options

Coordinated Economic Recovery Committee participation in the Minot Area Lenders Task Force

Provided oversight for the development of the Flood 2011 Recovery – Where Do I Start? Pamphlet

Organized a Bank Work Group and an Unmet Financial Needs Work Group

N.D. Department of Financial Institutions (NDDFI)

Participated on conference calls and panels to advise financial institutions on issues from a regulatory perspective and to encourage them to prudently assist their customers and community during recovery.

Coordinated with the trade associations to help resolve issues related to tax effects of property abandonment/foreclosure

Bank of North Dakota (BND)

Business response

Provided North Dakota Lenders information on the Business Disaster Relief Loan Program on June 15, 2011

Participating in the Bismarck-Mandan Lenders Flood Group, which focuses on providing lenders the information needed to assist customers and to adequately reserves for losses that may occur in loan portfolios

Participating, and instrumental in the formation of, the Minot Area Lenders Task Force, which provides information to lenders and identifies gaps in federal programs

Residential response

Sent homeowner surveys to all flood-related residential mortgage customers on June 28, 2011, and, upon
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- request, provided up to three months of payment deferral
- Developed a Mortgage Payment Calculator to compare alternatives for financing options for home rehab or new home purchase available at www.bankdnd.nd.gov and www.disasterinfo.com
- Participating in the Minot Flood Recovery Housing Committee
- Coordinating with the Governor’s Office on options for homeowners to address gaps not met by federal programs; some options may require legislative approval

General Response

- Announced that student loan borrowers affected by the flood could request a payment deferral of up to three months
- Loaned millions of dollars to state agencies to help in flood recovery efforts

N.D. Bankers Association

- Prepared and distributed “Minot Flood Information Flyers” to Minot area lenders for distribution to their customers
- Sponsored the Minot Recovery “I am Coming Back” sign program
- Hosted a statewide bank flood update conference call
- Conducted a conference call with the State Bar Association of North Dakota (SBAND) volunteer lawyers/young lawyers who are providing help for flood victims
- Served as liaison for issues facing bankers and lenders
- Participating on flood committees with the Bismarck area lenders and the Minot area lenders

Credit Union Association of the Dakotas

- Sponsored a $5,000 media buy asking members to call their credit union regarding questions or financial concerns; many Minot CUs made short-term loans so members had available cash
- Collaborated with the National Credit Union Foundation on a nationwide fundraiser, which generated $36,000
- Supported Young Professional Credit Union Professionals (CUAP YCUP) “Fill the Boat Campaign” to raise $12,000 in contribution and supplies for flood survivors.
- Providing flood-related guidance to members and customers
- Running radio spots to inform borrowers to contact their credit union to find out what help the credit union can provide regarding their loans
- Lead sponsor for the Bismarck/Mandan Chamber of Commerce Flood Recovery Conference held in Bismarck and Minot
- Participating on flood committees with the Bismarck area lenders and the Minot area lenders

Independent Community Banks of North Dakota

- Facilitating communication to member banks and their customers on the recovery process including resources available for both individuals and businesses
- Providing input from members to agencies and recovery teams on issues faced by individuals and
RESOURCES FOR READERS

businesses, as expressed or observed by the membership
- Encouraging participation by members and their customers in assisting in the recovery process
- Providing information to regulators of financial institutions on the recovery status
- Facilitating the flow of regulatory information to member institutions

Short-Term Priority: Support flood-impacted school districts through low-interest loans and waivers

N.D. Department of Public Instruction
- Made available the School Construction Loan Program (NDCC 15.1-36) to provide low interest loans to school districts to finance building construction and renovation
- Issued a school calendar day waiver allowing Minot School District to start school later; assisted with annual approval and extension request
- Supporting infrastructure and building needs and assisting with school construction approval/requirements

Short-Term Priority: Implement low-interest loan programs and program support for municipalities

N.D. Public Finance Authority (PFA)
- Streamlined the Capital Financing Program Loan Application
- Providing political subdivisions financing with flexible maturities up to 5 years -- Note: The interest rate is the 3 month LIBOR (London InterBank Offer Rate) + 1.25% adjusted monthly with a floor of 2.25%.

N.D. Industrial Commission
- Facilitating the development of programs of subordinate agencies, including the PFA, BND and NDHFA

BND
- Providing the funding source for the North Dakota Public Finance Authority to provide financing to North Dakota political subdivisions to repair infrastructure

NDOTC
- Issued extensions/delayed filings for Ward, McHenry and Renville Counties, including the political subdivisions and communities in those counties; included business tax returns originally due the last week of June, Motor Fuels returns normally due July 25, and Sales and Income tax withholding returns normally due July 31
- Continues to work with the Governor’s office, county tax directors, and city assessors concerning valuations and abatements for Burleigh, Morton, Renville, McHenry and Ward Counties, along with political subdivisions within those counties

Short-Term Priority: Provide low-interest loans to individuals and consumers

BND
- Developing a loan program with the Governor’s Office and Minot area lenders to help flood survivors with their rebuilding effort
**RESOURCES FOR READERS**

**U.S. Small Business Administration**
- Approved $236,000,000 in home and business/economic injury loans to North Dakotans
- Providing presentations and data to consumers

**Long-Term Priority: Coordinate development of recovery strategies in partnership with local economic recovery groups**

**FEMA**
- Facilitating long-term community planning in the Mouse River Basin, along with conducting a series of community forums to elicit direction from community leaders and the public

**WSI and NDDFI**
- Coordinated needs assessment on August 22, 2011, with the Ward County recovery committee

**U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)**
- Evaluating leverage programs to generate jobs, help retain existing jobs, and stimulate industrial and commercial growth
- Providing a grant to Souris Basin Planning Council for Recovery Coordinators working in Minot and to assist outlying areas (24 months) - $578,919
- Reviewing application for Revolving Loan Funds by the Souris Basin Planning Council - $500,000 to supplement SBA and private bank financing
- Evaluating potential projects to develop infrastructure in Minot

**EPA**
- Identified several revitalization technical assistance opportunities that may be of value in the recovery efforts in the Minot, Burlington, Ward County areas
- Coordinating with FEMA regarding Stantec/Bonestroo plans to assist the City of Minot with its reapplication for up to $400,000 of federal funding for a community wide assessment grant through EPA
- Supporting FEMA’s efforts to conduct long-term community recovery planning in the Mouse River Basin

**Long-Term Priority: Support efforts by local communities to retain and expand existing business through development of business development initiatives**

**NDOTC**
- Coordinating with the NDDoC and local economic development groups to promote and leverage tax incentives available for new and expanding businesses

**WSI and NDDFI**
- Providing direction and support, as chairs of the Economic Recovery Committee, to initiatives that will be presented during the November 7, 2011, special legislative session

**Long-Term Priority: Identify mitigation measures to protect business infrastructure**

**NDDES**
- Supporting efforts by communities to identify mitigation measures designed to protect infrastructure and business.
**RESOURCES FOR READERS**

**Public Information Work Group**

- **Short-Term Priority: Develop and implement a strategy for effective dissemination of key messages for flood survivors**
  - NDDES, WSI and NDDFI
  - Coordinated development of a Public Information Work Group to develop a strategy to disseminate flood information to the public.

- **NDDOC**
  - Built a statewide website – [www.NDDisasterInfo.com](http://www.NDDisasterInfo.com) – as a one-stop resource for individuals and businesses affected by disaster events to answer three critical questions: 1) What funding is available for those impacted by disaster? 2) How do I recover after a disaster?; and 3) How do I prepare myself in case of a future disaster? The site incorporates social media elements on Facebook and Twitter.

- **NDDoC – Tourism Division**
  - Addressed calls and provided timely information to North Dakota visitors to include threats of flooding and road conditions through blogs, news releases and social media -- *Note: Press releases addressed, despite flooding, the availability of North Dakota attractions.*
  - Provided an RSS feed of North Dakota Joint Information Center

- **ND State Library**
  - Providing public information technical assistance and coordinating with local libraries to provide access to computers.

- **Short-Term Priority: Develop disaster related reports and informational brochures**

- **NDDES**
  - Coordinated with Task Force partners to develop informational brochures for flood survivors
  - Developing North Dakota Recovery Task Force reports

- **Long-Term Priority: Develop and implement a strategy for providing citizens with long-term recovery information**

- **NDDES**
  - Coordinating development of a long-term recovery public information campaign with Task Force partners

- **N.D. Housing Finance Agency**
  - Providing Individual Assistance and Disaster Housing Recovery Committee’s recommended public messaging and communications
Flood timeline

11/23/2010 - Representatives of 10 state and federal officials attended the first of several flood planning meetings.


2/10/2011 - A statewide flood emergency declaration was issued by Governor Dalrymple.

2/14/2011 - The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) received the first report of flooding, which occurred along the Willow Creek in the city of Belcourt.

2/10/2011 - A state agency spring flood briefing was held.

2/17/2011 - Canadian officials ramped up releases from the Rafferty and Alameda dams into the Mouse River.

2/25/2011 - Governor Dalrymple requested a federal declaration for North Dakota due to the strong potential for severe spring flooding, for 16 counties and two tribal areas.

4/3/2011 - For the first time in history, the USACE received permission to lower the pool level at Lake Ashtabula below the 1257 foot minimum level.

4/4/2011 - Governor Dalrymple made construction of an east end water outlet at Devils Lake a top priority in the state’s flood fight.

4/6/2011 - The Governor’s Office issued an executive order lifting weight restrictions and waiving the hours of service for commercial motor carriers involved in flood operations.

4/6/2011 - FEMA dispatched a 26-member Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) to North Dakota.

4/13/2011 - The Air Operations Branch reported a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter responded to an incident to airlift a mother and an infant.

4/13/2011 - Governor Dalrymple authorized Mercy Hospital in Valley City to relocate emergency services to Sheyenne Care Center if necessary.

4/28/2011 - Governor Dalrymple signed into law Senate Bill 2369, which provided emergency funding totaling $31 million to help local governments cover the costs of statewide flood-fighting efforts, flood damages and the removal of excessive snow.

4/27/2011 - Local, state, and federal officials started Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) to determine the scope and extent of flood damages.

5/5/2011 - Governor Dalrymple announced that the state will open a response and recovery center in Devils Lake on Friday, May 6.

5/11/2011 - President Barack Obama approved Governor Dalrymple’s request for a flood disaster declaration. The declaration and subsequent amendments resulted in 44 jurisdictions and four tribal nations being eligible for Public Assistance; and nine jurisdictions and one tribe eligible for Individual Assistance.
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5/24/2011 - Governor Dalrymple activated the North Dakota National Guard to help Burleigh, Morton, and Ward counties prepare for flooding.

5/28/2011 - Governor Dalrymple announced that President Obama approved part of his request to expand a federal emergency declaration for areas of North Dakota that face flooding along the Missouri River.

5/29/2011 - The ND National Guard reported about 1,500 members were activated to help with flooding operations along the Missouri River.

6/1/2011 - Waivers were requested from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid in support of the evacuation of Trinity Homes.

6/1/2011 - The City of Minot broadcasted a reverse 911 ordering mandatory evacuation for sections 3, 4, 7, and 8.

6/3/2011 - Most of the animals at Dakota Zoo and Roosevelt Park Zoo were evacuated.

6/7/2011 - The American Red Cross reports three shelters opened: Two in Burleigh County (Bismarck, including a staff shelter) and one in Ward County.


6/20/2011 - ND National Guard Quick Reaction Forces (QRFs) responded to 21 reports of levee issues, e.g. seepage, and performed spot repairs.

6/21/2011 - The North Dakota Public Finance Authority (PFA) offered low-interest loans to flood-impacted jurisdictions.

6/21/2011 - Governor Dalrymple issued a mandatory evacuation order of the City of Burlington and surrounding area.

6/22/2011 - Governor Dalrymple issued a mandatory evacuation for the following areas: Renville County Mouse River Park; and several Minot neighborhoods.

6/22/2011 - The North Dakota State Water Commission authorized the state engineer to explore the development of a gravity flow outlet from Devils Lake.

6/24/2011 - The mayor of Burlington reported multiple failures of dikes along Burlington; projected flood zones within the city were inundated.

6/24/2011 - Trinity Hospital relocated its intensive care unit and neonatal intensive care unit patients.

6/25/2011 - Governor Dalrymple ordered a mandatory evacuation for the Velva area, Sawyer, and many Morton County riverside subdivisions.

6/26/2011 - Governor Dalrymple issued an evacuation order for dialysis patients in Minot currently located in long term care facilities and Trinity Hospital.

6/27/2011 - Job Service North Dakota announced availability of Disaster Unemployment Assistance
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(DUA).


6/27/2011 - The Division of Animal Health reported a rescue team from the National Humane Society arrived in Minot. Pfizer Animal Health division provided vaccines for sheltered animals.

6/27/2011 - North Dakota Tax Commissioner granted an extension to file the North Dakota business tax returns to individuals and businesses affected by Mouse River flooding.

6/27/2011 - NDDES conducted the organizational meeting of the North Dakota Recovery Task Force; 31 state agencies, 6 federal and 3 private organizations participate in the Task Force.


6/30/2011 - Governor Dalrymple rescinded the mandatory evacuation order for the community of Sawyer.

7/1/2011 - N.D. Department of Human Services (NDDHS) received Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to help Ward County residents affected by recent flooding who are not current program clients.

7/3/2011 - Governor Dalrymple requested the U.S. Department of Treasury Secretary approve a tax waiver that would allow people who are displaced by flooding to temporarily reside in vacant, low-income housing units.

7/11/2011 - The One-Stop Contractor Licensing Center opened in Minot.

7/13/2011 - The N.D. Department of Human Services received approval to extend the Disaster SNAP (food stamps) program through July 22.

7/13/2011 - N.D. Department of Health detected E. coli in floodwaters. The public was advised to consider floodwaters as contaminated.

7/17/2011 - The N.D. Department of Human Services received approval of a Disaster Crisis Counseling grant.

7/19/2011 - North Dakota Tax Commissioner granted an extension to file North Dakota tax returns for sales and use tax, motor fuels taxes, and income tax withholding for individuals and businesses affected by the recent Mouse River flooding.

7/20/2011 - Governor Dalrymple issued an Executive Order for Burleigh County making unauthorized access into inundated areas punishable under the Criminal Trespass law $1,000 fine and 30 days in jail.

7/25/2011 - Governor Dalrymple rescinded the mandatory evacuation order for Trinity Homes, Minot.

7/27/2011 - The State of Virginia responded to an EMAC request to support the provision of environmental health personnel to assist Minot recovery efforts.
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7/28/2011 - Evacuation orders for Trinity, St. Joseph’s, and Trinity Homes were rescinded by Governor Dalrymple.

8/3/2011 - Governor Dalrymple recommended the State Water Commission take the lead on developing a permanent flood control project in Ward County.

8/8/2011 - The president approved a 90 percent cost share of eligible disaster costs.

9/16/2011 - Governor Dalrymple lifted access restrictions and evacuations along the Mouse and Missouri Rivers.


10/4/2011 - A drop in Garrison Lake levels revealed damages to a McKenzie County bridge.

10/18/2011 - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced plans to gradually reducing releases from the Jamestown and Pipestem Reservoirs.

10/21/2011 - The National Weather Service 2011-2012 Weather Outlook indicated La Niña conditions will likely create a cold, wet winter in North Dakota.

10/26/2011 - U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack made disaster assistance available to North Dakota farmers and ranchers who have sustained crop production losses due to flooding.

Summary of Recovery Programs

Public Assistance Program

The Public Assistance Program reimburses the costs for repairing public or private non-profit infrastructure. The types of damages are broken down into five separate categories:

Category A: Debris Removal (Removing dikes, sandbags, barricades, mud and silt)

Category B: Emergency Protective Measures (Placing dikes, sandbags, barricades, and any other materials or work that’s required to prevent damages)

Category C: Roads and Bridges

Category D: Drains

Category E: Buildings Repairs/Replacements

Category F: Utility Damages

Category G: Parks and Recreation

Starting with requesting a joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA), FEMA and the State of North Dakota determine if there are enough damages for the state to qualify for disaster assistance. If so, the governor must send a disaster declaration letter explaining the events that have occurred in the state, ranging from the amount of preparation put into protecting public infrastructure, to the amount of damages that had already been sustained. When the
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President decides the state is eligible for disaster assistance and declares the state to be in a disaster, FEMA becomes involved and the PA Program begins to work on reimbursing flood damage costs.

Since North Dakota is one of the few states that participate in state-managed disasters, the NDDES has project specialists visit sites across the state in federally declared counties to document damages, collect paperwork such as time cards, equipment records, journal vouchers, receipts, and employee policies to create Project Worksheets (PWs). PWs contain an explanation of why damages occurred in these specific areas, what damages were sustained, and what the scope of work should entail to bring these damaged sites back to a pre-disaster condition. When a PW is completed and reviewed, it is then entered into the federal system entitled EMMIE (Emergency Management Mission Integrated Environment). The PW goes through another set of reviews that includes quality control, hazard mitigation, environmental and historic preservation, and if the PW is considered eligible, it becomes obligated meaning FEMA will reimburse their share of the damage costs. Generally the federal share is 75 percent, with the state paying for 10 percent and the local jurisdiction where the damages occurred responsible for the last 15 percent. However, when a disaster becomes large enough, such as Disaster 1981 (2011 Flood), FEMA will take a ninety percent share. For this disaster, the final cost share will reflect a three percent cost share for local political subdivisions.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

North Dakota has received funding to mitigate hazards since 1993. Mitigation is to purposely reduce or eliminate the effects of future disasters. Hazard mitigation efforts with the state are funded through five specific mitigation funding streams, each with their own specific parameters.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is made available to all eligible jurisdictions and private non-profits after a presidential disaster has been declared. However, eligible applications do not have to be a result of the disaster. The funding is directed to projects that will permanently reduce or eliminate future risk to lives and property, such as home acquisition from floodways and flood plains, lift station repair, sewer system and drainage system upgrades, water retention systems as well as back-up generators, early warning sirens, and mitigation
planning. The federal cost share is 75 percent; the state will cover 10 percent with the remaining 15 percent as a local responsibility.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM) is a non-disaster, nationwide competitive grant program funding eligible mitigation projects and hazard mitigation planning prior to a disaster event. Local governments must have an approved multi-hazard mitigation plan in order to apply for funding. If the national review panel selects an application, 75 percent of the cost is borne by the federal government and 25 percent by the local jurisdiction.

The Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA) is a non-disaster, nationally competitive grant program. Each state receives an annual allocation of funds based on a formula addressing the number of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) active flood insurance policies within the state. However, eligible projects may compete for un-subscribed funds. Projects are restricted to NFIP insured properties and are typically used for home acquisition and/or relocation projects. Costs are shared with 75 percent paid by the federal government and 25 percent non-federal share covered by the state and local jurisdictions.

The Repetitive Flood Claims Program (RFC) is available to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to structures insured under the NFIP that have had one or more claim payments for flood damages. Cost share is typically 75 percent federal and 25 percent state/local. Projects are considered through national competition on what will deliver the greatest return to the National Flood Insurance Fund (NFIF).

The Severe Repetitive Loss program (SRL) is available to reduce or eliminate long-term risk of flood damage to severe repetitive loss residential structures insured under the NFIP that will also result in the greatest savings to the NFIF. SRL properties must have at least four NFIP claims (building and contents) greater than $5,000 each and cumulatively exceeds $20,000; or for which two separate claim payments (building only) have been made that exceed the market value of the building and at least two of the referenced claims must have occurred within any 10 year period and must be greater than 10 days apart.

NDDES also maintains the State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP). This document is a risk analysis addressing 12 natural and man-made hazards that may affect this state. This plan must be
RESOURCES FOR READERS
maintained and updated every three years, in accordance with federal regulations. The existence of this plan authorizes the state to provide direct assistance through the Public Assistance program, Individual Assistance Program and Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program. Each county must also maintain a FEMA approved local MHMP in order to apply for and receive mitigation grant funds. Currently, 51 counties and four tribal nations either have, or are working to obtain, a FEMA approved MHMP.

Individual Assistance Program
Immediately after a declaration, disaster workers arrive and set up a central field office to coordinate the recovery effort. A toll-free telephone number is published for use by affected residents and business owners in registering for assistance. Disaster recovery centers also are opened where disaster victims can meet with program representatives and obtain information about available aid and the recovery process.

Local, state, federal partners will make available and announce various disaster assistance programs for individuals, families, and households. Individual Assistance (IA) disaster aid for these people generally falls into the following categories:

- **Disaster Housing** may be available for up to 18 months, using local resources, for displaced persons whose residences were heavily damaged or destroyed. Funding also can be provided for housing repairs and replacement of damaged items to make homes habitable.

- **Disaster Grants** are available to help meet other serious disaster related needs and necessary expenses not covered by insurance and other aid programs. These may include replacement of personal property, and transportation, medical, dental, and funeral expenses.

- **Low-Interest Disaster Loans** are available after a disaster for homeowners and renters from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to cover uninsured property losses. Loans may be for repair or replacement of homes, automobiles, clothing, or other damaged personal property. Loans are also available to businesses for property loss and economic injury.

- **Other Disaster Aid Programs** include crisis counseling, disaster-related unemployment assistance, legal aid and assistance with income tax, Social Security, and veteran’s benefits. Other state or local help may also be available.

- **Assistance Process:** After the application is taken, the damaged property is inspected to verify the loss. If approved, an applicant will soon receive a check for rental assistance or a grant. Loan applications require more information and approval may take several weeks after application. The deadline for most individual assistance programs is 60 days following the president’s major disaster declaration.

After a major disaster, disaster victims are informed about the available aid programs and urged to apply. To be eligible for the various Individual Assistance programs, disaster victims need to apply prior to the announced deadline. If they do not, the available programs will not be made accessible during the recovery process. Audits are done later to ensure that aid went to only those who were eligible and that disaster aid funds were used only for their intended purposes. These federal program funds cannot duplicate assistance provided by other sources such as insurance.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Task Force Coordinators & Staff

MG Murray Sagsveen - State Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Task Force Co-Coordinator, N.D. Office of the Adjutant General

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Col Mike Wobbema - State Recovery Officer, N.D. Office of the Adjutant General

Cherie Merrick - Recovery Specialist, NDDES

Consumer Protection Committee

Al Jaeger, Co-Chair - Secretary of State, N.D. Secretary of State

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Liz Brocker - Executive Assistant/Public Information Officer, OAG

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Chris Ludwig - Consumer Licensing Investigator, N.D. Department of Financial Institutions

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Doug McHenry - Premium Auditor, Workforce Safety and Insurance (WSI)
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Susan Scott - Underwriting Supervisor, WSI

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Ray Morrell - Individual Assistance Officer, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, NDDES
## Estimated Costs (millions) (as of October 25, 2011)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Current Estimate</th>
<th>State Share</th>
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<td>State Direct</td>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
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## Hazard Mitigation Grant Program - Received Funding

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<tr>
<th>Year/Disaster Number</th>
<th>HMGP Federal Dollars Received</th>
<th>HMGP - Federal Share</th>
<th>Year/Disaster Number</th>
<th>PDM Federal Dollars Received</th>
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<th>FMA Federal Dollars Received</th>
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