



Office of Governor Tim Walz &
Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

June 26, 2024

The Honorable Joe Biden
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C

Through: Thomas C. Sivak
Regional Administrator
FEMA Region 5

Dear Mr. President,

Under the provisions of Section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR §206.35, I request that you declare a disaster for both Public Assistance and Individual Assistance for the State of Minnesota. Starting in May and continuing through today Minnesota experienced extreme wet weather patterns, including historic rain across the state, multiple tornadoes, and hailstorms. There were three distinctive time periods during which portions of the state experienced significant damage. Those three incidents will result in state disaster declarations as supported by the details and evidence presented below.

Beginning on 11 June 2024, large rainstorms swept across the northern part of the state. Some areas experienced as much as six inches of rain in a 12-hour period. The most significant impacts occurred in northeastern Minnesota in St. Louis, Cook and Lake Counties. Following that, a series of storm fronts have swept across the state resulting in significant rainfall causing major flooding throughout the state. Many rivers continue to be in major flood stage and we estimate that they will remain so for at least the next 10-14 days, provided we do not have any more significant rainfall. The Mississippi River will crest this weekend at a record level in Saint Paul. Thus far, 42 counties have been impacted as a result of these storms. While most of these areas are still underwater, we have received initial damage estimates from a number of counties indicating that they will meet their county thresholds necessary to be eligible to be included in a Federal Disaster Declaration for the state. Additionally, the cumulative amount of these estimates show that the state will exceed our threshold of \$10,499,948.96.

Some of the economic impacts we are experiencing include a significant impact to tourism due to damages and closures on Department of Natural Resources parks and trails. This impact will be a blow to summer tourism and will begin as early as the 4th of July Holiday.

In addition, all 42 counties have experienced Individual Assistance impacts. Validation of damages to homes with basements is currently being conducted with supporting information by the American Red Cross, National Guard and the Civil Air Patrol.

Shelters have been established and are operating across the affected areas to support evacuations of displaced residents. Fortunately, there have been no reported deaths nor injuries. Local governments are fully utilizing their resources to protect life and safety in the impacted areas. Unfortunately, local government resources are not sufficient to address the threats posed by flooding and the recovery needs that will be coming. Several counties have declared local emergencies and have activated their emergency operations plan.

On June 22, 2024, I declared a peacetime emergency for the State of Minnesota in Emergency Executive Order 24-05. This has allowed for additional state resources to help in response and recovery. I have also activated the State's Emergency Operations Center, which is coordinating with state agencies, the National Guard, local impacted communities, and FEMA. All state agency resources are available to meet the needs of the emergency and are fully committed to the extent necessary.

The potential small business assistance, individual assistance, and support for farmers on top of the public infrastructure assistance that comes with a federal disaster is what Minnesota needs right now.

A disaster declaration will help Minnesota expedite its recovery. It will give confidence to Minnesota citizens, local and state officials that the federal government will help Minnesota respond and recover from this disaster, as it has in the past. I ask for your consideration of this request.

I designate Kristi Rollwagen- Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management as the Governor's Authorized Representative for this request. She and her team will continue to work with FEMA and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,



Tim Walz
Governor

Enclosures (images)



Figure 1-Cook, MN



Figure 2 - Near Biwabik, MN



Figure 3 - Near Biwabik, MN

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Figure 4 - Waterville, MN



Figure 5 - Waterville, MN



Figure 6 - Waterville

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Figure 7 - Rapidan Dam, MN



Figure 8 - Rapidan Dam



Figure 9 - I-90 near Magnolia



Figure 10 - Highway 60 near Heron Lake

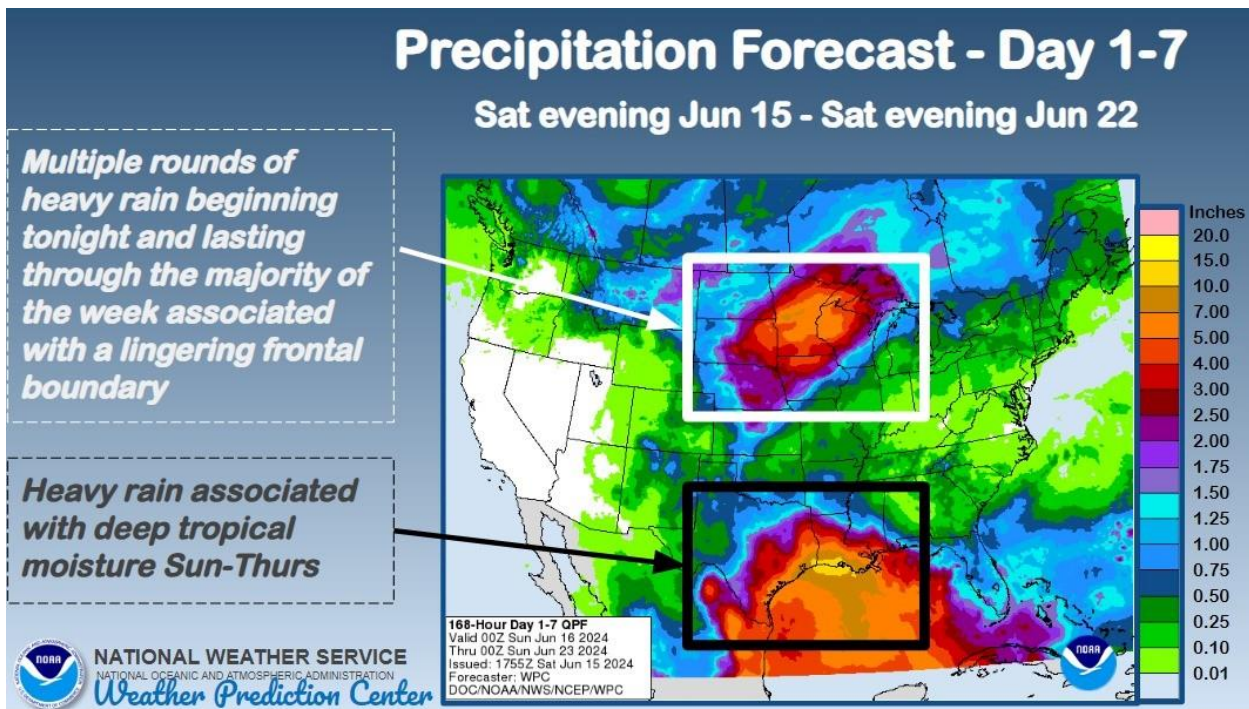


Figure 11 - National Weather Service Precipitation Forecast