

The Barnes County Commission met in special session to discuss flood-related topics Thursday, March 18, with all members present.

Also present were Jeff McMillan and Jamie Smith of the Water Resource Board; Dave Majerus (mayor) and Paul Fischer (fire chief), of the City of Kathryn; Kim Franklin, EMA; Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent; Gene Bjerke, Sheriff; Brad Cruft, States Attorney; Theresa Will, City-County Health; Jason Thiel, MIS Director; Jim Verwey, VSO; Julie Nelson, PIO; and Jean Schlegel, Times-Record.

Mr. Johnson stated that three roads had been closed in the County so far, and reported on the general road and flooding situation. Township officers are being directed to contact the Highway Department with flooded roads and washouts so they may be added to the daily road report; Dispatch will also be notified for emergency vehicle purposes. A map has also been added to the County website showing road problems.

Theresa Will reported that she would staff an in-house call center if needed.

Chairwoman Schwehr opened the Clausen Springs Dam discussion, including issues of liability, responsibility of the various partners, and trigger points for a Kathryn evacuation.

Jamie Smith, Water Board secretary, explained that Moore Engineering is reinforcing and monitoring the dam on behalf of the Water Board, and that evacuation will be considered if the water runs on the spillway to the extent it causes erosion, which would be communicated to Mr. Majerus, with Mr. Fischer as second contact. They would then contact Barnes County Dispatch to activate the Code Red system to notify Kathryn residents of the evacuation. Majerus noted that during last year's event, officials also went house to house to ensure a successful evacuation.

Schwehr requested that Sheriff Bjerke and deputies also help monitor the site.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was closed.

Edward R. McGough
Barnes County Auditor

Cindy Schwehr, Chairperson
Barnes County Commission