

**COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION #2015-85-11
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE**

Board of Commissioners of the County of Wabash, Indiana.

That

President of the Board of Commissioners, OR
(Position or Title of Authorized Agent)

(Position or Title of Authorized Agent)

is hereby authorized to execute for and on behalf of the Board, any actions or documents, including grant and sub-grant or subrecipient applications and agreements, necessary for the purpose of obtaining federal or State financial assistance from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security or the Indiana Homeland Security Foundation.

Passed and approved this 24TH day of AUGUST, 2015.

This authorization may be revoked by the Board at any time by notifying the Indiana Department of Homeland Security in writing. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the Indiana Homeland Security Foundation may rely on this Resolution until notified that it has been formally revoked by the Board.

Certification

I, Linda Conrad, duly appointed

Auditor of the Board of Commissioners of the County

of Wabash, Indiana do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the resolution passed and approved by the Board on the

24TH day of AUGUST, 2015.

Linda Conrad
Printed Name

Linda Conrad
Signature

Auditor
Official Position

8/24/15
Date

RECEIVED

AUG 26 2015

Date: August 25, 2015

Linda S. Conrad
WABASH CO. AUDITOR

To: Indiana Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency

From: Wabash County Commissioners and the Mayor of the City of Wabash Indiana

Subject: Request for a federal disaster declaration for the June – July 2015 Flooding Damage.

June – July 2015 Disaster Impact Statement and Overview from Flooding.

On June 16, 2015 the Wabash County Commissioners declared a local disaster due to a major rainfall event which triggered flooding throughout Wabash County Indiana. The Wabash River that flows east to west through Wabash County encompassing the Town of Lagro, the City of Wabash and the small settlement of Rich Valley in the western part of Wabash County. The Wabash River at Wabash crested at a significant flood level of 19.64 ft. During the remainder of June and July 2015 rainfall was significant for Wabash County.

Overview

The reason for the damage lies with the continual heavy rainfall and the Wabash River being maintained at over 17 ft. for a long period time by the Corps of Engineers. Ground water and small streams were backed up for weeks. The Wabash River is controlled by the U S Army Corps of Engineers through the J E Roush Reservoir at Huntington and the Salamonie Reservoir at Lagro. As these reservoirs were receiving large amounts of water from runoff in other counties, the Corps of Engineers were forced to hold the Wabash River at the 17-18 ft. level. This affected the ability for the City of Wabash to begin repairs and required relief wells in the area of the sink holes so that work could be done. The Mississinewa Reservoir is in Wabash and Miami counties. This reservoir caused closing of roads and bridges in southern Wabash County due to water being held by the Corps of Engineers.

City of Wabash issues:

The City of Wabash experienced street closures, sewer breaches causing sink holes to develop in the area north of the Wabash River near the Wastewater Treatment plant. Four streets in this area are still impassable due to construction work on the sink holes and sewers. Repair estimates for the affected areas in the city are over 1 million dollars. The repair costs will have a major financial impact on the City of Wabash for the Street Department and Wastewater Treatment Department budgets and may require special appropriations and or borrowing by the city to pay for the repairs. The unfunded costs of the flooding damage will have a negative impact on projects that have been contracted for other ongoing budgeted road and wastewater treatment repairs in the 2015 budget year. Even if those projects are shelved the amounts that will be redirected to the flooding damage will be insufficient to fund flooding repairs. Sewer and street repairs are underway, but a final total of costs have not been received. The City of Wabash is less than 11,000 population and the tax base does not allow for unanticipated major emergency repairs.

Wabash County issues:

The Eel River that flows from east northeast to west southwest through northern Wabash County and has no flood control dams crested at 14.0 ft. at North Manchester. The Eel River flooding caused several road closures and damage to culverts and bridges and roads in the northern part of Wabash County. The Wabash County Highway Department has assessed damage and repairs have been scheduled or have been completed on areas of minor problems. The Town of North Manchester reported no evacuations or significant damage.

Preliminary damage assessment in Wabash County has shown damage to road surfaces (that will require re-paving), drainage pipes, washouts and culverts on small streams. Portions of twenty four (24) county roads were shut down for extended periods causing traffic to be re-routed. The effect of the flooding on the County Highway Department budget is significant. The total amount needed is unknown at this time. However, other road and drainage projects slated for 2015 will be pushed back due to budget constraints, which may cause safety issues on county roads.

In conclusion it is important that Wabash County receive a federal declaration from FEMA to restore our county/city infrastructure to working condition and address highway safety issues. By granting this declaration it will limit the hardship on Wabash County/City residents with an increased tax burden to pay for all the repairs needed.



Brian Haupt
President
Wabash County Board of Commissioners



Robert Vanlandingham
Mayor
City of Wabash Indiana

Prepared by:
Robert Brown, Assistant Director
Wabash County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency