



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Phone: 970-336-7204

Fax: 970-352-0242

1150 O Street

P.O. Box 758

Greeley, CO 80632

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Jennifer Finch, 970-336-7203

FLOOD RECOVERY CONTINUES; PROJECT WORKSHEETS IDENTIFY NEEDED REPAIRS TO COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE

WELD COUNTY, CO – Six months after the devastating 2013 flood, recovery continues in Weld County. The county is well on the way of identifying repair projects and submitting Project Worksheets to FEMA for reimbursement. Project Worksheets are used in the application process for FEMA’s Public Assistance Program. The Worksheets identify repair projects, scope of work and estimated costs. Project worksheets may contain several small projects or encompass a large project.

Weld County conducted more than \$12 million in emergency repairs to roads and bridges, ensuring that those made impassable by the flood impacts were re-opened. There are more than 130 sites on Weld County roads and bridges damaged by the flooding and submitted to FEMA for federal assistance to restore to pre-incident conditions.

County staff is currently working with FEMA on Project Worksheet development. The county estimates 35 Project Worksheets will be submitted for flood repairs. This will include Hazard Mitigation Proposals to make improvements to these sites that would reduce the risk of flooding in future events.

“Our Public Works staff, our Emergency Management staff and our consultants have been working daily to identify repair projects, estimate costs and gather the documentation needed to submit projects to FEMA for reimbursement,” said Weld County Commissioner Chairman Douglas Rademacher.

FEMA representatives have indicated that initial drafts of Weld County’s Project Worksheets may be formulated by mid-April and funding approvals for the emergency repairs by the end of April. Additional work needed to complete the restoration of all roads and bridges will be determined by Weld County engineers in the next few months and submitted to FEMA for funding at that time.

When FEMA approves a Project Worksheet, they obligate 75% of the funds needed for the project; the state and county then become responsible for the remaining 12.5% each.

The county is also working on several road repair projects with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Roads that were built with FHWA funds are not eligible for FEMA funds so the reimbursement process for repairs to these roads is a separate process. The county has identified seven FHWA roads/bridges damaged by the flood and has conducted approximately \$2.5 million in emergency repairs to return those facilities to service. Additional work needed to complete the restoration of FHWA roads and bridges will be determined by Weld County engineers in the next few months and submitted to FHWA for funding at that time. If these projects are approved by FHWA, the county will be responsible for up to 20% of the project cost.

Debris removal has been another part of the recovery process. Last year, the county made vouchers available to residents impacted by the flood. Through these vouchers, the county paid the landfill fees for residents needing to dispose of flood debris. The county also contracted with a company to assist with debris clean up along county roads. In total, the county spent approximately \$308,000 for removal of flood debris.

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