

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Antelope County Board of Commissioners  
Neligh, Nebraska

The Antelope County Board of Commissioners convened in special emergency session on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 1:00 PM in the County Commissioner's Room, Antelope County Courthouse Annex, Neligh, Nebraska. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Borer, with the following board members responding to roll call: Jacob, Bentley, Henery, Smith and Borer. Chairman Borer stated that the open meeting laws are posted on the east wall of the Commissioner's room with more copies available at the County Clerk's Office.

Meeting was called to address follow-up of the State of Emergency declared by Antelope County on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 regarding Weather, Flooding and Road Conditions, and to continue developing a plan to repair the numerous roads and bridges damaged. The development of a plan of attack.

In attendance was: Scott Gregory, N-O Public School Superintendent and Corey Furstenu N-O Public School Board Member, and Joan Wright, press.

Commissioner Henery stated Kelly Mueller has looked into having a fly over of the county to take pictures of the flood area. This would be 15,000 feet fly over. Discussion of advantages and disadvantages of the same, including timeliness of flying pictures. Motion by Commissioner Henery, seconded by Commissioner Smith to have Kelly contact and hire the flyover of the county as soon as possible. Voting aye: Henery, Smith, Bentley, Jacob and Borer. Nays none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Borer stated he has spoken to Senator Deb Fischer's Office and once the flood is declared over FEMA will cover expenses for 72 hours at 100%. They were not sure what actually declares it over. Discussion on declaration of Federal disaster and what that consists of. This flood will need to be declared before FEMA will provide money.

Commissioner Smith stated livestock facilities were the priorities. Various conditions on these facilities were discussed. Including the facilities that are not accessible by vehicle. Currently, Antelope County is looking for lagoon pumps to help alleviate some of the water on roads, property, and other areas not intended for water.

Casey Dittrich, Antelope County Road Superintendent gave an update of current conditions and operations of Antelope County Road Department. Dirt/Sand/Gravel are as listed:

- Klabenes - opened a clay pit east side of town (Miles Petersen Quarter)
- Dan Gadeken - as much clay off of that as we can - its needs to dry off
- Craig Mitties - all of his gravel is ours - it is pre-purchased
- Pollock - bought all of the crushed concrete
  - Loaded over half of our milling stash out of Oakdale. (it is mucky)
- Craig Smith - did some work at the airport - we can take some off there

The plan is to lay an underwater road by Billings tomorrow.

All residents are able to get to their homes as of yesterday at 8:00 PM.

Top priorities: People to their homes; 2) Livestock; 3) School Routes; 4) Mail Routes. There are 1280 miles of road in Antelope County. Casey is fielding 200 calls a day, and is not able to return phone calls. Currently, there are 150 events in 25% of the county covered. Casey is taking pictures and everything is stored on his computer. He believes this is the right thing to do.

There are 30-40 bridge approaches washed out. Probably over 100 major culverts washed out. Six (6) bridges were opened up yesterday. Needing dump trucks, there should be 26 trucks running on Monday. Invenergy donated a man and a maintainer. Mitties has sand gravel, we will use for fill and it should hold. Some roads are in pretty good shape. Grant, Burnett, Elm Townships looks good.

Dump trucks are needed. Good weather and time are also priorities. Charlie bought 10 rolls of snow fence.

Antelope County is good on machine operators. Boots on the ground is good, but we are needing machinery at this point. Casey wants to get a good workup of where everybody needs to be - he will work out tonight. The best way to contact Casey is by text message. The Road and Bridge Employees worked 12-hour days the last three (3) or four (4) days. Koinzan's offered their place if we need a stockpile ground. Dave Shrader offered the dirt on the Invenergy lay down lot.

We will work on mapping the county tomorrow, and start slow and work towards long term closes and fixes.

We have to be realistic on road clearance. The schools are anxious for this. However, it will probably take until Wednesday to get the first assessment of all the roads. The travel ban is still in place. Emergency Management team will lift that when the time is right. We will have bridges washed out all summer. There are some long-term effects. Travel has been a problem with some residents out 'looking,' it would be better to have them out of the way.

Corey Furstenu asked about priorities. People-homes, livestock, and then school bus routes? Will you start fixing roads that go to homes, then bus routes? It was clarified - livestock then other high traffic roads, but school bus routes will become a priority - it depends on conditions that are found. The answer the schools are looking for cannot be given. Casey asked what the schools were looking for - all or nothing? Mr. Gregory agreed a central rural location would be agreeable. If the County needs to close roads through the middle of the week - they would add days at the end of the year. They would be very flexible. Corey stated he thought it was important to hold school. It was discussed if schools could be opened earlier to accommodate a parent who has to be to work earlier than the school is usually open. It was reiterated the travel ban is still in place.

Casey said he could/would possibly have a good update on Wednesday.

Commissioner Borer, asked about employee compensation/overtime, and back dating the overtime as of the first of March. If we can just pay over time for this declaration. To be discussed further on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April.

Pat Meuret said he has a lot of equipment. Casey can call and discuss with him. How do we disperse the water? Various options were discussed. We don't want to flood the next guy to alleviate the current problem. 516<sup>th</sup> water on road - by pet cemetery, by Rueben Bergman. Ron Billings intersection is underwater and it does not look like it is going anywhere soon. It will need to be pumped. ¾ mile north of the Pierce/Neligh Road on Brunswick Road is under water.

Discussion on Two Rivers Irrigation and Sargent, would they have pumps we could utilize? Quite a bit of piping would be needed in some locations, because water has to be pumped over a hill.

GPS Equipment: would that help now? Casey did not weigh in. Commissioner Smith stated he thinks it would be great documentation. It would show the graders time at fixing roads. The ping drops would be documented through this system. He said it would be good to move forward as to waiting until the first week in April. Commissioner Smith stated maybe the install guy would work around the County's off hours. Casey stated if it was installed it would be a no-brainer, but if we install it and a single employee walks it absolutely not worth it.

Brian Whitesel from Sargent Irrigation was contacted regarding pumper. He was not sure where his pumper is, but will check in the morning and let us know. Grosch Irrigation, Albion and Deitz Drilling, Norfolk were both mentioned for pumping options. Pillen Farms has pumps.

20,000,000 gallons (30 acres) of water needs to be out be Ronnie Billings.

At 2:00 PM Stacey Klabenes, Ted Adams and Carey Howell walk in. Stacey asked if there was any scraping he could be doing? Discussion of phone lines and being careful not to get into any of those.

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith seconded by Commissioner Jacob to **adjourn**. Voting aye: Smith, Jacob, Henery, Bentley and Borer. Nays none. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:14 PM.

ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman of the Board, Thomas Borer

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk, Lisa Payne