

Caribou County Emergency / Disaster Declaration Extension

Resolution 2023 - 07

WHEREAS, Rapid spring temperature rises and excessive above-average snowpack has caused an influx of drainage from watersheds in Caribou County which are causing water to flow and stand outside of normal tributaries and causing damage and threat to infrastructure and property.

WHEREAS, Throughout the county's watersheds, NRCS SNOTEL data shows that snow water equivalents are continuing to rise and extend past normal melt-off averages with levels higher than reported in years previously that Caribou County historically experienced flooding which caused damage to infrastructure and property.

WHEREAS, SNOTEL calculations as of June 2nd, 2023 project 200 plus percent of normal snow water equivalent currently in the Portneuf watershed exceeding many previous set records.

WHEREAS, Spring snowpack runoff is still at high flows and is projected to continue into Mid July.

WHEREAS, On May 30th, 2023 water running over the Chesterfield Dam spillway caused an undercurrent that began undercutting the spillway structure downstream.

WHEREAS, the undercutting of the Chesterfield Dam spillway quickly and uncontrollably removed approximately 40ft of depth of earthen materials from under the spillway structure, the face of the dam, the spillway, and the canal system posing an imminent threat.

WHEREAS, IDWR has requested that the Chesterfield reservoir be drained down as quickly and safely as possible to mitigate any chances of failure or leakage.

WHEREAS, Water has had to be diverted from then-normal canals and tributaries to remove water from entering the Chesterfield reservoir and allowing it to flow into low-lying areas.

WHEREAS, A failure of the structure would cause projected large-scale damage to property and life over multiple communities, counties, and critical infrastructure throughout South East Idaho.

WHEREAS, these adverse conditions have caused detriment to agricultural producers causing delays, hardships, and losses affecting their ability to operate.

WHEREAS, On May 8th, 2023 disaster resolution 23-5 was declared by the county commissioners in response to winter snow pack and spring runoff at levels constituting an emergency/disaster.

WHEREAS, Idaho Code §31-801 grants general powers and duties, subject to the restrictions of law, to the boards of county commissioners in their respective counties; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code §31-828 grants the board of commissioner's authority "to do and perform all other acts...which may be necessary to the full discharge of the duties of the chief executive authority of the county government"; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code § 46-1011 provides that the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners may declare a local disaster emergency, which may be continued in excess of seven days with the consent of the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code §46-1 002(3) provides, in part, that a "disaster" includes the imminent threat of widespread or severe damage or loss of property resulting from any natural or manmade cause; and

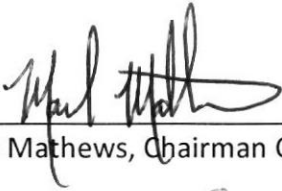
WHEREAS, Idaho Code §46-1 002(4) provides, in part, that an "emergency" includes the imminent threat of a "disaster" or condition threatening property which requires state emergency assistance to supplement local efforts to protect the property or to avert or lessen the threat of "disaster"; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the continued spring snowpack runoff that extended and is projected to continue well past normal years and the undercutting into the Chesterfield Dam Spillway threatening the integrity of the structure and dam due to the excessive amount of earthen materials removed from the face of the dam and spillway pose an imminent threat of disaster to Caribou County, which constitutes an emergency as defined in Idaho Code §46-1002(4);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that good cause having been shown the Board of County Commissioners hereby declares that a local winter weather/flood emergency/disaster exists in Caribou County and hereby consents to said declaration and orders and ratifies the same. The Board further orders that this declaration of flood disaster emergency shall remain in effect until December 11th, 2023, or until otherwise modified or terminated by resolution of the Board, whichever occurs earlier.

Adopted in open session this 12th day of June, 2023, by those commissioners subscribing their names hereto.

Caribou County Board of County Commissioners



Mark Mathews, Chairman Commissioner



Bryce Somsen, Commissioner

Marty McCullough, Commissioner

Attested:



Jill Stoor, Clerk

