

City Council Memorandum

To: Mayor Fasbender & City Councilmembers

From: Ryan Stempski – Public Works Director/City Engineer

Date: March 29, 2023

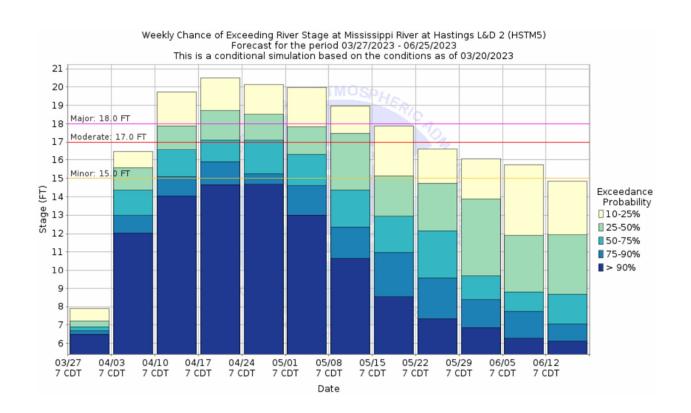
Item: Update on Flood Forecast & Response Planning Steps

Council Action Requested:

No action requested. Council is being provided an update to the flood fighting policy. City forces would provide sand, sandbags, logistical support, and hauling of filled sandbags to curbside locations, but City forces will not be used to fill sandbags or to build barriers on private property. After the flood, City forces will haul away all sandbags that are brought back out to the curb.

Background Information:

City staff monitors the National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts for the Mississippi River at Lock and Dam 2 extremely close during the spring snowmelt. Predictions show that we may be a couple weeks out from the highest stage potential, at which there is a 50-75% chance of a moderate flood stage (17 feet). Please see the chart below for the NWS projections as of March 20th.



This forecast needs to be qualified – many variables can significantly change the forecast higher or lower, including how rapidly the snowmelt occurs, how quickly the frost comes out of the ground, and additional snowfall or rainfall events. Over the next few weeks, the forecast can and will change. It is also important to note that the NWS's forecasts do lean conservative, and our observations over the years are that actual flood stage has ended up being slightly below the forecasted figure made closest to the crest.

Physical Impact

It would take a flood stage of 22 feet to directly impact approximately 10 homes on the north side of 1st Street in East Hastings. Many of these homes have not sandbagged in the past when flooding occurred. Therefore, it would be prudent to continue to monitor the flood projections and reach out to the impacted properties in advance of potential sandbagging efforts.

There are also a number of public infrastructure impacts that would occur based on the current forecast, including closure of several segments of City roadways, closure of spaces within Jaycee, Lake Rebecca, River Flats, and Levee Parks. Attached is a two-page summary covering notable City and private property locations where impacts may be observed. Also attached, are maps of these locations and stages.

City Response

As flood levels rise, Public Works, Parks, Police and Fire will coordinate efforts and close roadways, trails and parks as appropriate. We will monitor river levels and flood forecasts.

City staff has engaged in preliminary discussions with the Branchline Church, which would allow the use of their facilities (east of the railroad tracks off 2nd Street) to stage equipment and materials for sandbagging efforts. Members of the church and other volunteer groups would be invited to sandbag homes where that was requested. As in the past, City staff proposes to support those efforts by supplying sand, sandbags, and poly sheeting needed to sandbag homes, and to haul sandbags filled by volunteers to curbside locations where they can be accessed by volunteers to construct barriers on private property. In addition, flood update and planning meetings will be scheduled, with the frequency of the meetings dictated by flood forecasts and planning flood fighting needs.

Financial Impact:

The financial impact of flood fighting activities is unknown; dependent on level of flooding experienced and the demand for sandbags by the aforementioned property owners. We have sandbags, poly, and pallets on hand already. If flooding becomes severe, there is a good possibility that emergency declarations could be made and that certain flood response efforts and public infrastructure damage would be eligible for State and/or Federal reimbursement. We have identified a flooding account number to track expenses for reimbursement if financial assistance becomes available.

Attachments:

- General Flood Information Notes
- General Flood Maps

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National Weather Service Flood Information Website:

http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=mpx&gage=hstm5

Important Elevations – City Infrastructure

Base Elevation of River is 670.65'

STAGE	ELEVATION	<u>Description</u>
15.00	685.65	Top of Steps & Veterans Memorial - Levee Park
15.35	686.00	Low Point - Mississippi River Trail by Levee Park steps
15.54	686.19	Low Point – Spiral View Loop Road (north side of river beneath Highway 61 Bridge)
15.80	686.45	Low Point – E 10 th Street/County Road 54 (just east of 18 th Street intersection)
15.95	686.60	Low Point - 1st St/RR Bridge Underpass – Water on Rd
16.90	687.55	Low Point E 4 th St. – Water on Road
17.05	687.70	Low Point – E 10 th Street – ½ way between Vermillion River bridge and E 18 th Street
17.25	687.90	Low Point – E 10 th Street just west of E 18 th Street
17.35	688.00	Top of Riprap - Jaycee Park
18.43	689.08	Low Point - L/D Road
18.55	689.20	Bottom of Flood Columns – Levee Park
18.85	689.50	Low Beam – E 4 th St. Bridge
19.35	690.00	Low Point – E 1st St & Franklin
19.35	690.00	Lake Isabel Boat Ramp Parking Lot (lowest areas)
19.85	690.50	Front Deck Hydropower Plant
20.95	691.60	Floor of Musical Playground
21.15	691.80	Floor of Rotary Pavilion
22.35	693.00	Top of Deck – E 4 th St. Bridge, and HASTINGS Sign – Levee Park
22.45	693.10	Labyrinth slab – Levee Park
23.00	693.65	Patio/Fireplace – Levee Park
23.45	694.10	Top of Lock Wall – Hydro-electric Plant Access

Estimated Flood Impact on 1st St. Homes from GIS Contours:

Based on 2013 GIS Elevation Data and 6/23/2014 Field Surveys - * indicates approximate elevations

STAGE (FEET) ADDRESS/OWNER LAST NAME			LOWEST STRUCTURE OPENING ELEVATION
	STAGE (FEET)	ADDRESS/ OWNER LAST MAINE	LOWEST STRUCTURE OPENING ELEVATION
	17.70	623 1st Street East - Mollick	688.35 – Door on NE side of home
	18.19	607 1st Street East - Latch	688.84 – Rear door
	18.09	613 1st Street East – Whelan	688.74 – rear door
	18.50	1115 1st Street East – Plan	689.15 – Cellar Door at rear of home
	18.96	801 1st Street East – Biscoe/Wiegele	689.61
	18.86/19.1	707 1st Street East - Heselton	689.51 – Garage/Outbuilding, 689.75 - House
	20.07	1021 1st Street East – Leslie	690.72 – Chimney flue door
	20.47	1015 1st Street East – Carl	691.12 – E side entry door
	20.56/21.38	803 1st Street East - Wiegele	691.21 – Garage, 692.03 - House
	21.35	817 1st Street East – Machinery Consultants	692*
	22.35	1111 1st Street East – Plan	693*
	23.35	1001 1st Street East – Reuter	694*
	23.55	803 1st Street E – Flaten	694.2
	24.35	901 1st Street East - Gear	695*
	24.35+	Properties at E end of E 4th Street	695+

^{**}There are also a couple of low areas in yard spaces on the south side of 1st Street E which can become inundated by way of the City's storm sewer connection. These are located at the properties of 914 E 1st Street and 109 Washington Street.

General Flood Information Notes

UPDATED March 2019

Recent Crests

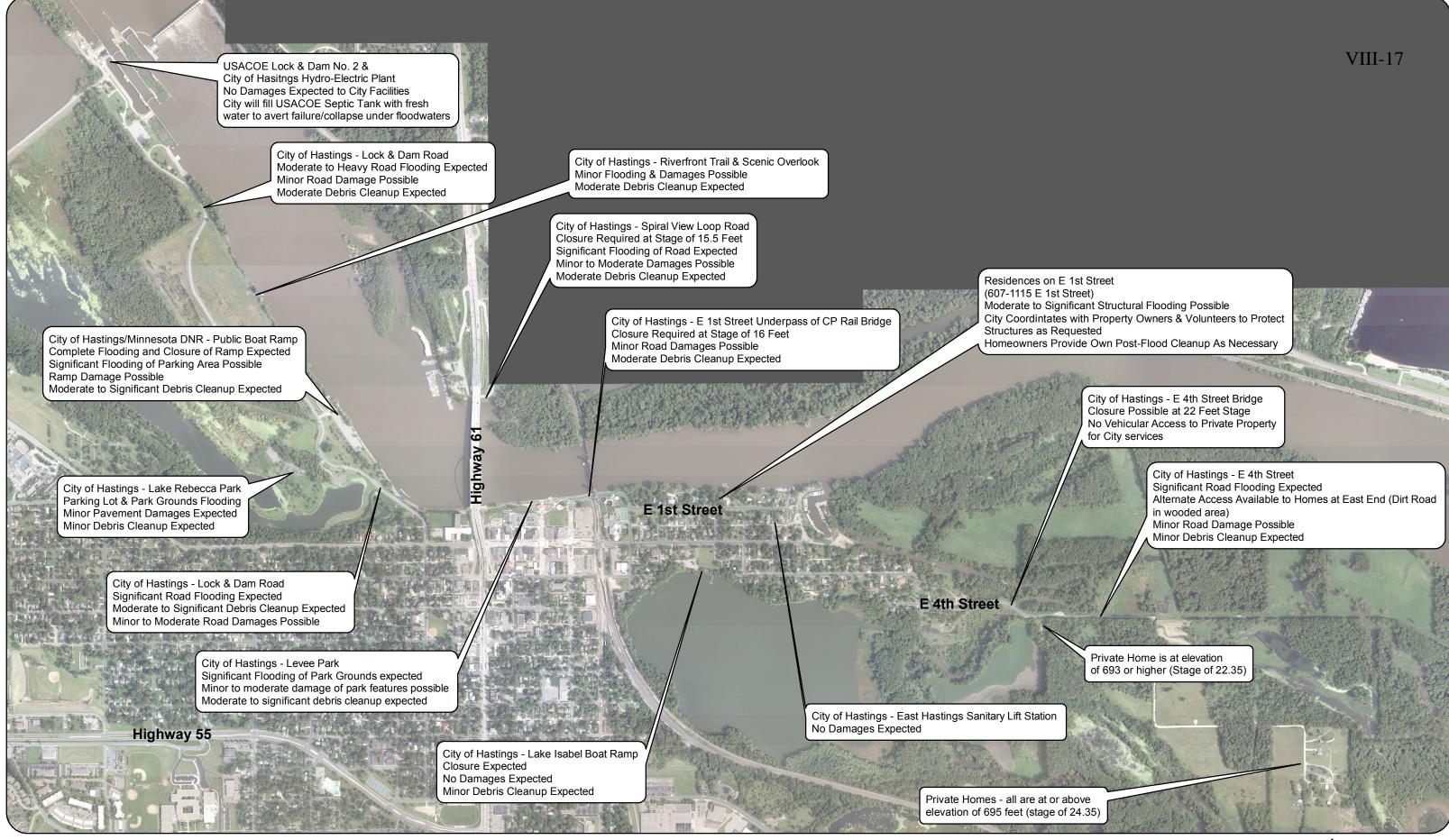
- (1) 16.60 ft on 07/01/2018 (P)
- (2) 17.50 ft on 05/01/2018 (P)
- (3) 15.19 ft on 10/13/2017
- (4) 15.22 ft on 05/27/2017
- (5) 15.85 ft on 07/18/2016
- (6) 12.87 ft on 05/23/2015
- (7) 18.95 ft on 06/27/2014
- (8) 14.35 ft on 07/02/2013
- (9) 15.07 ft on 06/02/2012
- (10) 17.76 ft on 04/13/2011
- (11) 17.42 ft on 03/30/2011
- (12) 16.22 ft on 10/04/2010
- (13) 17.22 ft on 03/25/2010 (P)
- (14) 22.00 ft on 04/29/2001
- (15) 21.60 ft on 04/17/2001
- (16) 21.30 ft on 04/13/1997
- (17) 18.90 ft on 06/28/1993
- (18) 16.90 ft on 04/07/1986
- (19) 17.10 ft on 05/04/1975
- (20) 15.10 ft on 07/29/1972

(P): Preliminary values subject to further review.

Historic Crests

- (1) 25.90 ft on 04/17/1965
- (2) 24.30 ft on 04/16/1969
- (3) 22.00 ft on 04/29/2001
- (4) 21.60 ft on 04/17/2001
- (5) 21.30 ft on 04/13/1997
- (6) 20.90 ft on 04/16/1952
- (7) 18.95 ft on 06/27/2014
- (8) 18.90 ft on 06/28/1993
- (9) 18.90 ft on 04/18/1951
- (10) 17.76 ft on 04/13/2011
- (11) 17.50 ft on 05/01/2018 (P)
- (12) 17.42 ft on 03/30/2011
- (13) 17.22 ft on 03/25/2010 (P)
- (14) 17.10 ft on 05/04/1975
- (15) 16.90 ft on 04/07/1986
- (16) 16.60 ft on 07/01/2018 (P)
- (17) 16.60 ft on 06/30/1957
- (18) 16.22 ft on 10/04/2010
- (19) 15.85 ft on 07/18/2016
- (20) 15.50 ft on 05/11/1950
- (26) 12.87 ft on 05/23/2015
- (P): Preliminary values subject to further review.

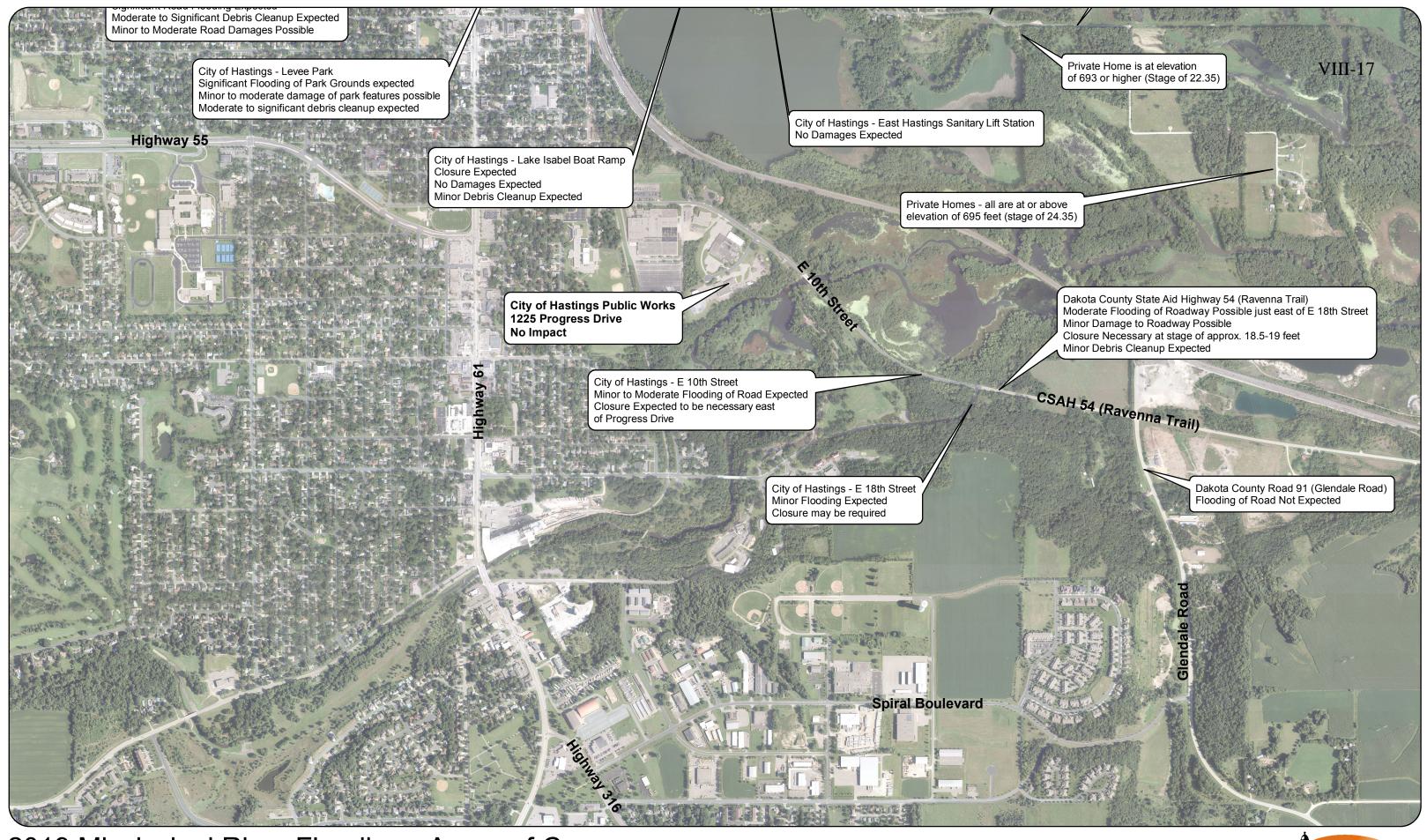
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2019 Mississippi River Flooding - Areas of Concern

Notes based on NWS Probabilities Forecast Dated 3/4/2019





2019 Mississippi River Flooding - Areas of Concern

