



KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
Lawrence A. Stelma – Sheriff

701 Ball Avenue, N.E. • Grand Rapids • Michigan • 49503



For Immediate Release
May 16, 2013

Emergency Management Division
Flood Update

Kent County – Kent County Damage Assessment teams have submitted most of their preliminary findings to the state of Michigan and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) following the severe flooding experienced from April 15-May 3. Damage assessments completed by Kent County for public properties (except in the city of Grand Rapids) are as follows:

Debris Removal	\$119,819
Emergency Protective Measures	\$170,197
Roads and Bridges	\$259,782
Water Control Facilities	\$307,000
Public Buildings and Equipment	\$604,535
Public Utilities	\$172,345
Parks and Recreation Facilities	\$1,027,795
Total:	\$2,661,472

The Kent County teams estimated an additional \$5.5 million in damage to homes, and another \$2.5 million in damage to businesses. This information will help Governor Rick Snyder determine if damage exceeds state and local resources. “FEMA let us know in advance that their assessment formulas could be different than ours, meaning they may have found less damage – or more damage – in their cost estimates,” said Matt Woolford, Director of Equalization for Kent County. “We want to remind residents who had damage, but did not meet with a damage assessment team, we are still accepting self-reports of damage at www.accesskent.com/FloodAssessment/.

Earlier this week, FEMA crews completed their Preliminary Damage Assessments around Kent County. “Damage assessment teams comprised of FEMA staff, local assessors, and representatives from the Small Business Association toured areas throughout Kent County last week to view damage to public and personal property,” said Jack Stewart, Emergency

Management Coordinator for Kent County. “They spent several days here, working from sunrise to sunset, to make sure they could obtain as much data as possible.”

FEMA’s review of Governor Rick Snyder’s request, along with their findings of last week’s preliminary damage assessments, will provide President Obama with an analysis of the situation, and a recommended course of action. This is part of a process that could take several weeks, possibly months. **IF A MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION is made by FEMA and the President, further instructions will be provided to people or businesses on how to apply for assistance through FEMA.**

Updates and information on the flooding can be found at www.accessKent.com/News. If you require additional information (or an on-camera interview) please contact Jack Stewart, Kent County Emergency Management Coordinator, at 616.632.6255, Undersheriff Jon Hess at 616.632.6236, or PIO Lisa LaPlante at 616.632.7182.