

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE EMERGENCY MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS, MINNESOTA,
HELD ON JUNE 20, 2024**

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of St. Louis, Minnesota, held an emergency meeting on this 20th day of June 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at the Virginia Public Works Building, Virginia, Minnesota, with the following members present: Commissioners Annie Harala, Paul, McDonald, Keith Musolf, Mike Jugovich, and Chair Keith Nelson - 5. Absent: Commissioners Patrick Boyle and Ashley Grimm - 2.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Commissioner Harala, supported by Commissioner Musolf, moved to consider a resolution to declare a State of Local Disaster in St. Louis County; the item had not been to Committee of the Whole. The motion passed; five yeas, zero nays, two absent (Boyle, Grimm).

Commissioner McDonald, supported by Commissioner Jugovich, moved that the St. Louis County Board declares a State of Local Disaster in St. Louis County, Minnesota, due to conditions resulting from flooding starting June 18, 2024, and requests state public disaster assistance in accord with Minn. Stat. § 12B.30, for any eligible storm recovery activities; and further, directs appropriate county officials to request state public disaster assistance in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 12B.30, for any eligible storm recovery activities. County Administrator Kevin Gray commented that the event is ongoing, and damages are still being determined; passage of the resolution will allow the county to apply for state and federal funding. Sheriff Gordon Ramsay said there has been great support from the community, government entities and citizens. St. Louis County Emergency Support Services Administrator Duane Johnson said the minimum threshold is \$460,000 for state assistance and \$960,000 for federal assistance if the state meets the minimum state threshold. St. Louis County Public Works Director Jim Foldesi said this is an ongoing event and more rain is forecasted for this weekend. The additional rainfall could escalate the event and potentially change water flow. City of Virginia Mayor Larry Cuffe thanked the Board for acting and commented that the city has set up a website page to monitor damages. Corky Hayden, of Biwabik, spoke about the damage to his property and encouraged the county to use drones to assess damage. After further discussion, the motion passed; five yeas, zero nays, two absent (Boyle, Grimm). Resolution No. 24-321.

The following Board file was created from documents received by this Board:

Gordon Ramsay, Sheriff, and James Foldesi, County Engineer/Public Works Director, submitting Request for Board Action No. 24-260, Resolution Declaring a State of Local Emergency in St. Louis County.—62195

BY COMMISSIONER McDONALD:

WHEREAS, Due to high amounts of rainfall received starting on Tuesday June 18, 2024, and an already saturated ground from sustained recent rainfall, flash flooding occurred in St. Louis County; and

WHEREAS, Flooding happened throughout St. Louis County, with the more severe flooding occurring in central parts of the county, including the communities of Hibbing, Chisholm, Virginia, Biwabik, Ely, and Cook; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County, electrical co-ops, Townships and Cities are actively conducting a Damage and Impact Assessment Report for submission to Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) to determine eligibility for state public disaster assistance in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 12B.30; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management requests that the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners declare St. Louis County in a STATE OF LOCAL DISASTER due flooding that started on June 18, 2024.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board hereby declares a STATE OF LOCAL DISASTER in St. Louis County, Minnesota, due to conditions resulting from flooding starting June 18, 2024, and requests state public disaster assistance in accord with Minn. Stat. § 12B.30, for any eligible storm recovery activities.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Board authorizes and directs appropriate county officials to request state public disaster assistance in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 12B.30, for any eligible storm recovery activities.

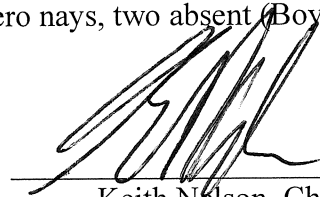
Yeas – Commissioners Harala, McDonald, Musolf, Jugovich and Chair Nelson – 5

Nays – None

Absent – Commissioners Boyle, Grimm – 2

Unanimously adopted June 20, 2024. No. 24-321

At 10:37 a.m., June 20, 2024, Commissioner Harala, supported by Commissioner Jugovich, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed; five yeas, zero nays, two absent (Boyle, Grimm).



Keith Nelson, Chair of the Board
of County Commissioners

Attest:



Nancy Nilsen, County Auditor / *Phil Chapman*
and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board *Deputy Auditor*
of County Commissioners

(Seal of the County Auditor)