

Good Morning.

I've called this news conference today to make it clear to everyone – especially the people of Roseau – what we are doing about disaster relief, and what we plan to do to help them.

The people of Roseau have experienced a disaster that has shaken their lives and turned their world upside down.

I know – because the Lt. Governor and I have both gone there.

The flood also hit 18 other counties.

Minnesotans across the state from Roseau County to Goodhue County are cleaning up and rebuilding.

From the beginning, we have done everything in our power to help.

The National Guard and state agency staff fought the flood.

We requested federal help, and as soon as the area was declared a federal disaster, the state kicked in the funding to get the individual assistance program up and running.

We set up the Minnesota Disaster Recovery Task Force to begin work on long-term recovery.

We have never stopped working on this problem.

Plus we have *never politicized* the issue, and we have never made any promises we could not keep.

I may be a lame duck, but rest assured, I am not a sitting duck.

I have ordered my cabinet to do whatever they can – and believe me, they have plenty of experience fighting disasters, and they know what they are doing.

I know that many people are desperate right now, but the truth is that good solutions take time and patience.

Planning is a complicated and difficult process.

You don't just throw money at a problem – you *budget* money according to a plan.

For one thing, we need to match our resources to the highest needs across 19 counties.

I have asked key staff from different agencies to tell you the extent and nature of the disaster, the process we use to work through a disaster and commitments we have already made.

Terri Smith of the Department of Public Safety, and Louis Jamboy of the Department of Trade and Economic Development: please update us on our situation and efforts.

(Presentations by Terri and Louis)

Finally, before we take questions, I'd like to talk about our next steps.

First, we know a commitment by the State to preventing future floods is important to people in Roseau and across northwestern Minnesota.

In May, I directed the Department of Finance to hold \$15 million dollars of the bonding bill that was earmarked for flood prevention projects.

When communities affected by this disaster complete their planning processes and have project plans that will provide permanent solutions, I am prepared to direct Commissioner Garber to put those projects on his list and to direct the Department of Finance to release the bonds to provide funding.

Second, I have asked my administration to bring me proposals for the state to provide ALL of the required match for federal disaster aid.

Norman County has had six disasters in recent years.

Each disaster has added a 10% local match to the local property taxes.

I want to avoid adding to local taxes during recovery if at all possible.

If we find a way to do this, I will ask all of the current candidates for Governor to support this obligation.

Third, the federal farm bill may provide conservation dollars that can help reduce flooding.

I have asked a number of state agencies including Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Board of Water and Soil Resources to work with the federal authorities to develop a proposal.

Again, we are looking for permanent solutions to ongoing problems.

Lastly, I have not closed the door to a special session.

As I said in a letter to Speaker Sviggum and Representative Pawlenty in July, *if* a proposal is crafted that describes what is needed by whom and why...AND the proposal describes a source



of funding....AND the proposal is agreed to by the House, Senate and Administration, then I will consider all options, including a special session.

Thank you. (Q & A)