

## **March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The Morris County Commissioners met on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:30 a.m. at the Morris County Road & Bridge Department for a special meeting.

Commissioners David Fox, Wayne Kohler and Jim Barber were present. Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, was present.

Others present: Jeff Falter, Shelly Lutt, Gary Floyd, Jan Sciacca with the Morris County Republican, Jim Crosby with KDEM, T.L. Davis with FEMA, and Jeff May with FEMA

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. to conduct a preliminary damage assessment review for winter storm damages in Morris County from January 7<sup>th</sup>- January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Jim Crosby with the Kansas Department of Emergency Management, led the meeting and presented information regarding the preliminary damage assessment review that has been conducted thus far.

Of the 975 miles of roads in Morris County, approximately 91 miles (10%) incurred damages related to the January winter storms.

Damaged areas of roads were categorized into the following:

- Short Sites: areas of 1,000 feet or less
- Medium Sites: areas of 1,001 – 5,249 feet
- Long Sites: areas of 1 mile or more

Although the heavy snowfall played a role in the winter storm damages, any expenses related to snow and snow removal are not eligible for FEMA reimbursement.

The short, medium, and long sites of roads that are listed present damages related to the extreme fluctuation in temperatures that were experienced. After the large amounts of snowfall and significant drifting, once snow began to melt, the moisture had nowhere to drain. The rapid fluctuation from warm to below freezing temperatures created a moisture saturation mismatch creating damage to the base of the roadways.

Pictures and documentation provided by the Road & Bridge Department were reviewed.

A total of 25 short sites are projected to cost an average of \$2,800.00 per site to repair; an estimated total of \$70,000.00.

A total of 9 medium sites are projected to cost an average of \$5,347.00 per site to repair; an estimated total of \$48,574.00.

A total of 44 long sites are projected to cost an average of \$15,540.00 per site to repair; an estimated total of \$772,000.00.

Three motor graders were damaged during the winter storm road repairs. The county insurance deductible per grader is \$2,500.00; an estimated total of \$7,500.00.

The current estimate for the preliminary damage assessment is approximately \$898,074.00.

KDEM will continue to work with the County Road & Bridge Department to submit documentation to FEMA for further review.

The State of Kansas, as a whole, must reach the threshold of \$5.4 million in damages to qualify for FEMA reimbursement consideration. Each individual county must reach the threshold of \$30,000.00 in damages to qualify for FEMA reimbursement consideration. If the State of Kansas, as a whole, does not reach the damage threshold, there will be no FEMA reimbursement.

The deadline for counties to submit damage assessments to FEMA is April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The commission meeting adjourned at 8:20 a.m.

--Meeting Minutes can also be found on the county website: [www.morriscountyks.org](http://www.morriscountyks.org)

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**OF MORRIS COUNTY, KANSAS**

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David L. Fox, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

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Wayne Kohler, Member

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Chelsey Schmidt  
Morris County Clerk

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Jim Barber, Member