



Mouse River Flood Fight—2011



Construction crews work tirelessly to complete the "Beaver Dam."



President Fuller speaks to students, faculty and staff during the difficult days of the flood.



National Guardsmen patrol the dike along the south perimeter of campus on University Avenue.



MSU's "Beaver Dam" accentuates the delicate contrast between safety and harm from the flood waters.



The MSU Dome prepares for the needed refuge for over 200 evacuees.



Hundreds of Red Cross volunteers from around the nation responded to the community's needs.

History of Flood

- May 31, the Corps of Engineers predicts Mouse River at Minot Broadway Bridge could hit 1,556—one foot over the levee system's safe capacity.
- Mandatory evacuations were enforced for nine zones in the Minot river valley area, forcing more than 11,000 residents out of their homes.
- June 20, penetration maps show new crest predictions of 1563' would infiltrate the south edge of MSU's campus and threaten several buildings.
- The crest of 1,561.72 feet, four feet higher than the previous record set in 1881, was reached at 11 p.m. on June 26.

Faculty/staff impact

- May 31, 4:30 p.m., MSU closed campus, including all classes (campus, online, MAFB and Bismarck). Only essential personnel were required to report for work.
- June 1 MSU Emergency Assistance Hotline was established to assist faculty/staff needs.
- All employees not impacted by city evacuation orders were asked to report at 8 a.m. June 1, to receive instructions as to how they could assist during the emergency.
- On-campus summer classes adjusted to online or hybrid model to accommodate students' class schedules and personal lives.
- Summer school resumes June 3.
- 116 MSU faculty and staff lost houses or suffered damage and approximately 500 rental units, traditionally leased by MSU students, were devastated.

Campus Adjustments:

- MSU Dome becomes a Red Cross shelter for evacuees, housing as many as 300 evacuees and serving 2400 meals per day.
- FEMA and SBA established offices on the first floor of the Administration Building at Minot State University.
- Residence halls remained open to accommodate:
 - Red Cross volunteers
 - FEMA workers
 - National Guardsmen
 - SBA employees
 - Faculty and staff
 - ND Emergency workers
 - Highway patrol
 - Contractors
 - Students
 - Utility workers

FINANCIAL IMPACT

FY12 Enrollment Decline of 7%	Total tuition loss associated with this decline was \$1,400,000. The campus has taken steps to reduce the impact of this revenue loss, including a soft hiring freeze and equipment purchase/replacement delays. These steps have generated one-time savings to mitigate the effect of declining enrollment.	\$800,000
FY12 Enrollment Decline of 7%	Total fee loss associated with this decline was \$250,000. Only university and activity fees have been included in this calculation, as they provide a broad level of general support for many student initiatives (just as tuition provides a broad level of general support for many institutional activities). University fees support operation and maintenance of buildings and retirement of long-term debt.	\$250,000
FY13 Flat Enrollment Scenario	Long-term financial and enrollment models project little to no student growth over FY12. In an effort to balance the budget, the campus has taken 3% base budget cuts for FY13, and will take a second round of 3% cuts for FY14. Until the second round of cuts is implemented in FY14, the campus anticipates another year of tuition loss.	\$1,000,000
Emergency Flood-Fighting Efforts	These costs include construction of dike on University Avenue, subsequent removal of the dike, emergency and construction equipment rentals, overtime of physical plant employees, and contract payments for enhanced security presence on campus. Emergency expenses of approximately \$400,000 have been submitted for federal consideration. FEMA has approved reimbursement totaling \$300,000. The balance represents the state's 7% share of FEMA projects, the university's 3% share of FEMA projects, and any FEMA-ineligible expenses.	\$100,000
Long-Term Flood Restoration	River flooding – and the resulting heavy equipment traffic back and forth across campus – damaged many campus infrastructure systems, including parking lots, sidewalks, access roads, curb/gutter, storm sewers, sanitary sewers, and utility tunnels. FEMA has determined that many of these items are not eligible for federal support. Of the total request, FEMA has only allowed about \$400,000 for campus restoration.	\$2,200,000
Emergency Housing Projects	Perhaps the most significant flood impact was the loss of affordable housing near campus. With NDUS and State Board approval, the campus moved quickly to secure new housing for faculty, staff, and students who were displaced by the flood. The campus will have to borrow to cover the cost of the new housing units.	\$3,600,000
TOTAL		\$7,950,000



Measures taken

- MSU built a 12 ft. dike to protect its facilities and ultimately withstand seven ft. of water at its edge.
- Dike and campus protection required 24-hour security; all campus buildings were protected, and damage was limited to infrastructure systems (roads, parking lots, etc.).
- Extensive sewage backup required extra pumps (14) and 24-hour surveillance.
- MSU invited a UND delegation to advise on flood recovery.
 - 13-member UND group consisted of current or retired employees who were active in UND's recovery from the devastating 1997 Red River Flood.
 - UND advised MSU to prepare for a 10% enrollment drop, based on their experience.
 - They cautioned rebuilding student enrollment would be a three to five year endeavor.
 - MSU enrollment decline, to date, is 7%.
- Rob Anderson hired as MSU's ombudsman to assist employees and students with resolving issues arising from the Souris River flood.
- Approximately 3,000 MSU students were contacted as part of a telephone campaign designed to assess student needs for the fall semester and attempt to stem enrollment fallout.
 - Telephone surveys showed 809 students requested on-campus housing; MSU has only 661 beds.
 - Mandatory freshman housing requirement is relaxed for 2011-12 school year to ease housing shortage in residence halls.
- Many faculty experience difficulty in returning to MSU, or moving to Minot as result of insufficient housing options.
- Decision is made to explore temporary housing for students and faculty.
 - MSU purchases 8-plex efficiency apartments for faculty housing.
 - MSU purchases 10 temporary housing units to accommodate 100 students.

