



Communications Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ADEM to review flooded areas

Officials from the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management will be in Jonesboro on Monday and Tuesday, June 6-7, for a final review of the impact of the May 24 flood. ADEM staff will then recommend to Gov. Asa Hutchinson whether to declare a state disaster.

While the city Street Department has a ditch maintenance program that cleans the city's 60 miles of ditches every year, Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin said Friday he will hire a private contractor to help with the process this year.

"Because we've already had two serious flooding events this year, we feel like it is important to expedite the work," Perrin said. "We will advertise starting Tuesday for contractors to mow and clean our major waterways that were identified after this last event."

Perrin escorted Gov. Hutchinson to flood-stricken neighborhoods Thursday, and the city continues to pursue all avenues of possible relief for those who sustained property.

More than 200 homes in the city have confirmed water damage, E911 Director Jeff Pressley said Friday, and more than 500 calls came to the city reporting flood issues, ranging from home flooding to drainage problems to stalled vehicles and more.

City GIS Coordinator Rusty McAllister prepared a map (see attachment) denoting identified "hot spots" where flooding occurred. Those areas will be priorities for ditch maintenance work. "The street department does a lot of work maintaining our ditches and roads," Perrin said. "But this amount of work requires more equipment and more manpower."

The city also is looking at ways to expand channel capacity in several stretches of the city's ditch systems, Chief Engineer Craig Light said.

As for longer range stormwater drainage, Perrin and the City Council commissioned a study that identified \$110 million of work that needs to be done on Lost Creek and Christian Creek. That work includes ditch widening and creation of regional stormwater detention facilities.

The attached map highlights problem areas inundated during the flood. The city is prioritizing those areas and developing plans to address those issues.

Craighead County Emergency Management Director David Moore reminded residents who have not reported flood damage to send photos and information to dmoore@craigheadcounty.com. The City of Jonesboro also is documenting the damage and can be reached at streetdepartment@jonesboro.org or 870-930-5209.

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