



Office of Emergency Management
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To: City of Whitewater Common Council Members

From: Emergency Management Coordinator, Todd Lindert

Date: May 11, 2026

Subject: April 2026 Flooding

On the evening of April 17, 2026, the City of Whitewater was affected by the sudden increase in water levels from the storms that came through that evening and night. This unusually high-water level caused some minor street flooding, standing water in yards and some temporary road closures during the event. The sudden increase in the water levels from the Whitewater Creek, mainly in the North George Street area were affected the most. Residents mostly affected on North George Street were 220, 228, 234, 242, 256, 271 and 273.

On April 18, 2026, the Whitewater Police Department accessed the flooded area on North George Street and conducted welfare checks on the residents. They contacted numerous residents who advised they experienced flooding in either their basements or crawlspaces, but they were managing it by means of transfer pumps. Homes located at 220 and 228 appeared to have flooding that reached the first/main floor. Residents during this welfare check asked about needing drinking water which the Police Department was able to provide. Some residents were concerned about the water quality because of the flooding; this information was passed on to the Water and Wastewater Departments. All were told to contact their insurance company and if further help is needed to contact the city.

On Friday, May 1, 2026, I made personal contact with several residents on North George Street. Residents were already conducting cleanup and were working with their insurance companies, with one homeowner telling me he had flood insurance and felt he was covered. With everyone I spoke with, I tried to impress upon them how important it is to call 211 to report any flooding related damage. Some felt it wasn't important to call and felt they would not receive any type of Federal reimbursement anyhow but said they would call 211 and appreciated someone coming out to talk to them. I asked if they took pictures and they said they have pictures of the

initial flooding, clean-up during the flooding and after clean-up. While I was there, I also took pictures of debris piles, water damage from the outside including waterlines on the houses. I did not enter any homes. I used the same type of assessment as I did during the Milwaukee floods where I helped with damage assessments. All these pictures were forwarded to both Jefferson and Walworth County Emergency Management.

Brian Neumeister, Superintendent of Streets/Parks/Forestry informed me that as of April 28, 2026, he had a rough estimate of \$10,000.00 for labor and \$2,500.00 for equipment costs. I talked to Brad Marquardt, Public Works Director after a meeting with Jefferson County Emergency Management and he said at that time, the city had rented two pumps to help at their water treatment facility.

During this storm, its aftermath and cleanup, our office has been and remains in regular contact with both Walworth and Jefferson County's Emergency Management Offices. Emergency Management from Jefferson County has been very active by passing along information to post on social media and keeping us informed about what the State or FEMA might be looking for. The City of Whitewater has done an exceptional job posting any information they receive related to flood damage and what citizens should do, including calling 211. I spoke with Walworth County, and it appears they did not sustain a lot of damage from the flooding.

Rock County sustained a large cost for their flood damage and clean-up. Because of this, they are trying for a Presidential Disaster Declaration which would possibly create a path for funds for PA (Public Assistance) and IA (Individual Assistance). PA would be for structures, bridges, culverts and any municipality owned or controlled structures and would also include payroll related expenses such as overtime directly related to the storms. IA would be for individual assistance for repairing flooded property (primary residences only). If Rock County receives a Presidential Disaster Declaration, then Walworth, Jefferson and every county adjacent to Rock County could also be eligible for federal funds. The Federal and even State funds are not a guarantee or even a 100% reimbursement funding mechanism.

We are still waiting to see the outcome of the declaration and the process that follows and will continue to work with both Walworth and Jefferson County Emergency Management Offices.
