

(Mankato, MN) - Congressman Tim Walz released the following statement regarding the flooding in southern Minnesota.

“While some communities across southern Minnesota were able to begin clean up on Friday, others like Hammond and Zumbro Falls still had homes submerged on Saturday. I’m hopeful that the stretch of nice weather ahead of us will allow waters to recede and for all communities to start the recovery process. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with those who’ve experienced damage to their homes, businesses and communities.

“I’ve been in contact with FEMA and the White House since it became clear that the rains would be more than our communities could handle. I spoke with FEMA this morning and I’m pleased that while they’ve had a liaison working with the state Homeland Security Emergency Management office since Friday, on Monday they will begin joint preliminary damage assessments with state officials. This is critical to obtaining the information both state and federal officials need to determine the scope of this disaster and the level of assistance communities will require. Going forward, I am committed to ensuring that FEMA moves quickly on requests made by the State of Minnesota so that our communities can recover.”

FEMA advises that individuals and business owners need to be sure to report damage to the city or county to ensure it is included in the final damage assessment. Additionally, it is important that before clean up begins, everyone photograph damage caused by the flood waters so that a record exists after carpets, appliances and sheetrock are disposed of. FEMA’s recommendations on handling flood damaged property can be found here:
<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/coping.shtm>

Congressman Walz and his staff visited some of the hardest hit communities on Friday and will continue to be in touch with local officials throughout the recovery process.