

DAMAGE TOTAL: \$1.3 MILLION

Estimate falls short of \$13 million needed to request federal disaster funding

BY DEAN COUSINO

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Despite significant headaches from last week's flooding along Monroe County's shoreline, there was not enough property damage to qualify for a federal disaster tag, local authorities said.

Two teams of property assessors documented about \$1.3 million in both public and private property damage

from Lake Erie's high water, but that's far below the \$13 million minimum needed for a federal disaster declaration, said Mark Hammond, director of the Monroe County Emergency Management Division.

"We met with the state last week and we won't qualify," he said Tuesday. "All of our (private) damage was residential. The whole lakeshore was hard hit and there was some significant damage, but

not enough to meet their criteria."

There were no homes that were destroyed and no commercial property reported damaged by the storm, he said. Calls to his office have dwindled to a few since last week.

"We're still referring people to the Salvation Army or Red Cross for cleanup kits," he said.

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Damage (cont.)

The teams consisting of two people each recorded \$838,000 in private property losses and \$505,000 in public property damage to bridges and road culverts.

The teams surveyed 270 homes along the county shoreline in Berlin, Erie, Frenchtown and LaSalle townships and the City of Luna Pier.

About 40 of the homes showed some damage had occurred under criteria used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to determine if a county qualifies, Hammond said. The data showed that of the 40:

- Six homes had major damage with at least 18 inches of water in the houses and some structural damage to appliances like heaters and electrical plugs.

- Six homes had minor damage due to water in the buildings with no damage to furnaces or heating systems.

- 11 homes were af-

ected by floodwaters that entered the buildings but did not cause any significant damage to electrical systems or appliances.

The most significant public damage occurred at the Allen Cove Rd. bridge over Muddy Creek in Luna Pier. Inspectors from the engineering firm of Wade Trim looked at the bridge last week, but have to come back when the water in the creek recedes to get a better idea, said Luna Pier Mayor David Davison.

"The bridge is sound," Davison said Tuesday. "There are some repairs that need to be done, but we have to wait until the water goes down further to do a good bridge inspection."

He said some concrete probably will be needed to fill a cavity in the bridge's support system.

"Hopefully there is no permanent damage," the mayor said.

He expressed surprise that there weren't more homes found in the county survey with damage. A number of homes in the

Allen Cove subdivision were hit by the high water, he said.

About 300 feet of an earthen dike off Lakeside Dr. just north of Luna Pier Rd. and the walking pier also needs restoring, Davison said. Waves from the storm came over the dike and flooded some homes near the berm, he said.

"I've got some contractors coming in to give me quotes on the repair, he said. "I have to give the DEQ and Army Corps of Engineers these estimates before I can get a permit."

Only eight homes, or 3 percent of the 270 homes, didn't have any flood insurance, Hammond said. Those owners were referred to the American Red Cross or Salvation Army for help, he said.

The emergency management office judges the "human impact" from the storm.

"People here are very resilient," he said. "I'm amazed at how they respond when they face problems like this."



An aerial view of the flooded lake shore is pictured above. Local officials estimate that there was \$1.3 million in damages