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CITY OF MANDAN**

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## For Immediate Release

June 21, 2018

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Morton County website: <http://www.co.morton.nd.us/>

<https://www.facebook.com/mortoncountynd/>

<https://twitter.com/MortonCountyGvt>

### **Increased releases from Garrison Dam still within local capabilities to manage**

Mandan, N.D. – Morton County and City of Mandan officials want to reiterate to residents that even with the additional increase of releases from the Garrison Dam by the US Army Corps of Engineers to 60,000 cubic feet per second in the next several days, impacts along the Missouri River should be minimal.

The Morton County Sheriff's Office and City Public Works crews are monitoring water levels and related infrastructure within their jurisdictions along the river, and officials will promptly inform residents of any significant changes that could create adverse effects.

City officials do not see a cause for concern of damage to infrastructure or overland flooding at this time due to the increased releases. Residents are reminded that sump pumps may be activated more often if ground water issues arise. City and County leaders will continue to monitor the situation and take the necessary steps of preparation.

With the projection of the river rising to 13 feet, the only potential impacts for Morton County residences may be within low-lying culverts or drainage ditches.

If citizens feel their culverts or ditches should be plugged, Morton County has established a self-fill sandbagging site southwest of Mandan for citizens to fill and take sandbags, free of charge. Citizens need to bring their own shovels and gloves. A map showing that location is attached, but the map is also available on our website: [https://www.co.morton.nd.us/index.asp?SEC=62BBBBDB-9A4D-454E-A90D-944C3A31BA7E&Type=B\\_BASIC](https://www.co.morton.nd.us/index.asp?SEC=62BBBBDB-9A4D-454E-A90D-944C3A31BA7E&Type=B_BASIC). Morton County residents may call 701-667-3290 for more information about obtaining sandbags.

The state Water Commission has updated their groundwater [map](#) which provides an estimate of the depth to water table when the river reaches 13 feet. Essentially, this tells those residing or working along the river how close the groundwater is to the surface. Red/orange colors indicate areas where the water table may be close to the ground surface (and more problematic for homeowners with basements), while green colors indicate areas where the water table may be at greater depths. The map can be viewed here: [http://www.swc.nd.gov/pdfs/2018\\_06\\_06\\_groundwater.pdf](http://www.swc.nd.gov/pdfs/2018_06_06_groundwater.pdf)

Morton County will continue to provide necessary flood-related updates on its website and the County's Facebook and Twitter pages. We encourage communication from the public as well, and ask residents to report any impacts due to the high water through a comment form on the county website's Emergency Management Flood Information page so they can be addressed:

<https://www.co.morton.nd.us/index.asp?SEC=C88A037C-7929-4395-9F04-FB3D75256F50&Type=SUPERFORMS>

Morton County officials again stress the importance of boaters' consideration to minimize damage to the river banks due to wakes. Morton and Burleigh county commissioners are monitoring the river bank situation as well and are consulting with the ND Game and Fish Department regarding a potential *Idle Speed Only* declaration for a defined stretch of the Missouri river in our immediate area.

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