



INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER
Dan LaMontagne

COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

Diana Hales, Chair
Mike Dasher, Vice Chair
James Crawford
Karen Howard
Walter Petty

October 15, 2018

The Honorable Roy Cooper
Governor Office of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Cooper:

I am writing on behalf of the entire Chatham County Board of Commissioners. As you know, Hurricane Florence impacted many areas in central North Carolina just a few weeks ago. Chatham Emergency Management has been working hard with other county offices and local agencies to assess the overall damage to homes, businesses, farms and other structures. Much of the damage is located on our southern border near the Deep River, which experienced unprecedented flooding, including areas not located within the floodplain.

As of today, our assessment shows that six structures were either totally destroyed or have severe damage making them uninhabitable. Another 29 structures have substantial to minor damage. Almost none of these structures are covered by insurance for this type or level of damage. We also know that our overall damage countywide is not sufficient for us to qualify as eligible for FEMA relief funds for the impacted homes. Sadly, if these families lived just a mile or so south in Lee County, they would qualify for FEMA relief assistance.

We have met several times with officials from FEMA, the Small Business Administration, NC Emergency Management and several nonprofits to identify possible resources to assist those who suffered major losses in Hurricane Florence. We have worked hard to provide short-term help through the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Social Services. We also are working with Rebuilding Together of the Triangle to provide case management assistance to impacted property owners, which could include helping them better understand what work needs to be done and identifying possible loan or grant resources.

However, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners remains concerned about the affected property owners and their financial ability to repair or rebuild. Many of the affected owners are retired, have limited incomes, or both. We are seeking the help of the Governor's Office to help us secure some additional financial loans or grants for these hurricane victims.

We know that funding decisions are controlled to some extent by the General Assembly and Congress, so we will be contacting these officials as well. Any amount of assistance that you can provide will be greatly appreciated by this Board of Commissioners and the people of Chatham County.

Sincerely,

Diana Hales, Chair
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

CC: Representative Robert Reives
Senator Valerie Foushee

