

Walker seeks disaster declaration after floods

8 inches of rain put counties under water

Gazette staff



MADISON

Gov. Scott Walker on Tuesday asked for a disaster declaration for Walworth and neighboring counties to help them recover from July flooding.

A declaration from the U.S. Small Business Administration would provide low-interest loans to eligible people and businesses that suffered flood damage, which occurred after 8 inches of rain fell the night of July 11, according to a news release.

The declaration would be primarily for Walworth, Kenosha and Racine counties, but it also includes neighboring Rock, Jefferson, Milwaukee and Waukesha counties, the release states.

“We’re going to do all we can to help the families and business owners who were affected,” Walker said in the release.

Damage assessments from affected counties did not meet the threshold for the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Individual Assistance Program, according to the release.

The assessment showed Wisconsin is eligible for assistance from the Small Business Administration, however, according to the release.

Wisconsin Emergency Management has reported that flooding damaged 175 Walworth County homes. But Walworth County sheriff’s Lt. John Ennis has said the number likely is higher than that.

Wisconsin Emergency Management has estimated infrastructure damage at \$8.61 million.

Damage assessors toured Walworth County on Aug. 1 at Walker’s request. They collected data that week and gave the governor a report of their findings, which preceded his Tuesday request.

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