

Lake County continues to seek reimbursements related to storm damage

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Lake County commissioners discuss latest on flood cleanup at www.News-Herald.com

Lake County continues to work on two fronts to potentially receive state or federal assistance after the July 20 storm.

County Administrator Jason Boyd said Thursday at a Lake County commissioner meeting that the county continues to search for homes that sustained major structural damage with 40 percent uninsured loss.

The county needs to locate 25 of these properties to potentially qualify for state and federal assistance.

"We're still in the mid-teens, we're still looking for those significantly damaged homes if they are out there," Boyd said.

Earlier in the week, Lake County Emergency Management Agency officials said initially more than 50 homes had been identified, but after further review there was either not enough damage to qualify or the homes had at least 60 percent insurance to cover their loss.

Boyd said anyone who suspects they may have major structural damage to their home can contact the Lake County EMA at 440-350-5499.

He said the county also continues work with local officials to potentially seek reimbursement for expenses related to cleanup and dealing with the storm.

There could be potential assistance to

communities if their expenses related to the event are at least 0.50 percent of their annual operating budget, Boyd said.

"That's the number the communities need to meet for overtime costs, equipment rental and so forth," he said.

Boyd said the county will conduct a workshop next week at the county Emergency Management Agency in Kirtland that will include officials from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

Commissioner Daniel P. Troy said the county also will offer the services of the county Finance Department and Auditor's Office to help communities with the necessary paperwork to potentially seek reimbursement for as much their flood-related expenses as possible.

Troy also would like to conduct a summit that would focus on general discussions with stormwater and sanitary sewer officials and communities to discuss the issue throughout the county.

"What is causing these problems and what can we do with the latest technology to minimize the number of folks that get damaged when this (type of rain event) happens again?" Troy said.