

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 3, 2018 – 12:00 p.m.

## Houghton County Disaster Recovery Update

(Houghton, MI) – Following are the latest updates regarding the flood recovery efforts in Houghton County.

The Michigan Department of Corrections has brought in staff and equipment and has begun clearing the piles of household debris that have been accumulating throughout the County. Residents should be aware that this debris should only be brought to one of the transfers stations in the County and should not be dumped in these unauthorized piles.

The DEQ is working at the mouth of Swedetown Creek to restore the creek to its original bed and a contractor has begun preliminary design on the temporary bridge on M-203 that is slated for completion in late July. They are also looking at alternatives for rerouting Huron Creek.

DEQ personnel are also inspecting the various railroad grades that run between Hancock and Lake Linden. They are looking to clear blocked culverts or remove those that are no longer functional. Local contractors are assisting them with the work and will work through the holiday.

The City of Houghton continues to work on the Sharon Avenue washout and has to date placed one of the four culverts that need to go in. They also report a number of holes are opening up in City streets caused by washouts of the roadbeds beneath the pavement.

The DRN is hoping to have the Hancock portion of the Hancock to Calumet recreational trail open by the end of the day.

The Health Department has given out approximately 350 well water test kits. Beach monitoring continues, check the Health Department website for an up to date list of beach closures and advisories.

The Michigan National Guard has demobilized after helping the Road Commission make roads passible for emergency vehicles.

There is still a need for volunteers to assist with gutting damaged homes, debris removal and other tasks. Please call (906) 233-6621 if you are able to help. Also, any residents who could use help are reminded to call the same number.

The Portage Health Foundation is developing procedures that it will use to aid homeowners with repair work that is needed due to flood damage.

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MEDIA: For additional information, contact Public Information Officers Eric Forsberg at (708) 465-4838 / [Eric@HoughtonCounty.net](mailto:Eric@HoughtonCounty.net) or Michael H. Babcock at (612) 747-9686 / [michael.babcock@finlandia.edu](mailto:michael.babcock@finlandia.edu).