

**TOWN OF LAKE LURE
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL STORM RECOVERY
STATUS**

Monday, April 6, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Town Hall at the Landings



Agenda

Roll Call:

Mayor, Carol C, Pritchett
Commissioner Jim Proctor
Commissioner Dave DiOrio
Commissioner Scott Doster

Olivia Stewman, Town Manager

Laura Krejci, Communications Director
Mike Williams, Community Development Director
Dustin Waycaster, Fire Chief
Dean Lindsey, Project Manager
Sean Humphries, Police Chief
Randy Rollins, Public Works

Absent:

Evan Smith, FEMA
Doug Ramiser, ICF
Rumbling Bald
Commissioner Patrick Bryant

I. Call to Order

Mayor Carol Pritchett called meeting to order at 10:00 am.

II. Agenda Adoption

Commissioner Jim Proctor made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
Commissioner Dave DiOrio seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

III. Storm Recovery Updates

Town Manager Olivia Stewman advised the Smart Program is steadily progressing on debris removal with a focus on completing operations before reopening the lake to the public.

Matt with the state and Barton with crowder provided updates and answered questions. Debris removal nearing completion with 1800 cubic yards cleared as of Saturday. Barton Holmes from Crowder Gulf reported ongoing sediment and debris removal, pausing only for Easter Sunday.

Sediment removal at Morse Park is moving quickly and expected to finish within 7 to 10 hauling days. The debris cleanup timeline aligns with the lake reopening, likely before Memorial Day as discussed by Matt Labanshe. Accelerated efforts include surging more assets recently and plans to add more to speed progress. FEMA's original sediment estimate for Morse Park was low; the team will use Crowder Gulf's higher estimate for removal calculations. Only 50% of sediment removal costs are FEMA reimbursable; grading beyond rough grading is not funded due to category restrictions. Coordination between Crowder Gulf, Dean, and local contractors is ongoing to manage grading within funding limits. Matt Labanshe emphasized that boat wakes move debris, prolonging cleanup and raising liability concerns for the town if boats are allowed prematurely. The SMART program prefers no boat traffic until debris removal is complete and the lake is officially cleared. Limited, professional boat transport by contractors with a no-wake policy is allowed and seen as manageable by Barton Holmes and the team. Contractors are paid based on cubic yards removed, motivating them to finish as quickly as possible. Unlike other counties, Crowder Gulf is not billing for time and materials, reducing risk of slow progress. The town is monitoring progress actively and appreciates the positive community feedback on cleanup efforts.

Public Works/Project Manager:

Dean Lindsey, Project Manager Director, reported the dock projects at Morse Park are progressing, with stanchion poles set and decking preparations underway. Fuel pump installation and floating dock work are scheduled, coordinating with contractors for timing.

Engineering for hydroelectric plant repairs is in progress with permits being prepared.

Belt Press project is still moving forward. Awaiting part arrival.

The public works department continues to efforts of clean up completing pool creek area. Working on the beach area and the peninsula to prepare for reopening.

Staff found an infiltration point upstream of a manhole contributing to wastewater backup. Repairing the leak will allow better camera inspection to determine the flow and identify further issues. Pumping around the manhole may be needed temporarily to manage flow during repairs.

The wastewater system has been inspected lake-wide with no new critical problems found. However, flows remain elevated by approximately 700,000 units (units not specified), indicating continued stress on the system.

Parks & Rec:

No updates currently.

Rumbling Bald:

No updates reported.

Community Development:

Mike Williams did not have any updates just advised that the debris removal was the greatest concern from residents.

Police Department:

No storm related updates currently. Preparing for special meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Dustin Waycaster reported a full siren test confirming all systems except the wastewater treatment plant siren are operational.

That siren issue is being addressed, with coordination ongoing between town and county authorities for funding and responsibility.

Fire risk remains high despite recent rain, and emergency systems are in active readiness.

Communications:

Laura Krejci, Communications Director, highlighted frequent compliments from residents appreciating cleanup progress.

The team monitors social media and public feedback to inform ongoing operations and maintain community support.

ICF:

Doug Ramiser was unavailable and no updates provide at this time.

FEMA:

Evan Smith, FEMA was unavailable for an update at this time.

Finance:

No updates to report currently.

Other:

Randy Rollins will be working on placing buoys. Will coordinate with David Lusk to move that forward.

The police cars located at the parks and recreational building were planned to be picked up next week. Will reach out to company to reschedule.

The sign at Morse Park will be tested once power has been restored.

FEMA's current damage estimate for the old town hall is under \$37,000, insufficient to cover full repairs or replacement. Legal disputes with insurance complicate available funds, with about \$100,000 paid but contested regarding additional payments.

Town staff plans to meet with FEMA to try to negotiate more realistic funding but expect delays due to staff changes. The mayor suggested a phased approach: minimal

repairs now to make the building usable, with a longer-term plan for replacement when funds allow. Will discuss at a later date.

IV. Adjournment:

With no other business to discuss, Commissioner Jim Proctor made a motion to adjourn Storm Recovery Status meeting. Commissioner Scott Doster seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Attest:



Kimberly Martin, Town Clerk



Carol C. Pritchett, Mayor

