

Joint Letter from Former Douglas County Commissioners and County Managers in Support of Stormwater Utility

May 18, 2026

To the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners:

As former Douglas County commissioners and county managers, we write in support of establishing a dedicated stormwater utility and funding mechanism for stormwater management and flood protection throughout Douglas County.

For many years, Douglas County has faced increasing challenges related to flooding, drainage infrastructure, stormwater maintenance, water quality requirements, and long-term infrastructure sustainability. These issues affect residents, businesses, ranching operations, schools, transportation corridors, emergency response access, and the overall resilience of our community.

In 2018, the Board of County Commissioners recognized the need to address stormwater challenges in a more structured and comprehensive manner and initiated the development of a formal stormwater management program. Since that time, the County has completed substantial planning, engineering analysis, infrastructure evaluation, and public outreach, including the Stormwater Master Plan.

These efforts have established a clear understanding of system needs. However, planning alone does not provide the resources necessary to construct, maintain, and improve critical infrastructure.

The County now requires a stable, dedicated funding source to support ongoing maintenance, drainage improvements, flood mitigation projects, regulatory compliance, and long-term system reliability.

We recognize that establishing a stormwater utility is a significant policy decision and that it requires careful consideration of cost, equity, and implementation. However, delaying action will only increase long-term costs and risks to public infrastructure and safety.

Stormwater infrastructure is essential public infrastructure. It protects homes, businesses, roads, utilities, and emergency access routes throughout Douglas County.

We encourage the current Board of County Commissioners to move forward with establishing a transparent and accountable stormwater utility dedicated solely to stormwater management and flood control needs.

This investment is about protecting Douglas County today while preparing responsibly for the future.

Sincerely,

Dave Brady
Former Douglas County Commissioner

Greg Lynn
Former Douglas County Commissioner

Patrick Cates
Former Douglas County Manager

Bernie Curtis
Former Douglas County Commissioner

Barbara Smallwood
Former Douglas County Commissioner

Larry Werner
Former Douglas County Manager

Jacques Etchegoyhen
Former Douglas County Commissioner

Steve Thaler
Former Douglas County Commissioner

Doug Johnson
Former Douglas County Commissioner

Larry Walsh
Former Douglas County Commissioner