

River Flooding Forces Cancellation of Cats Incredible

The CATS Incredible Committee of The Chamber met this afternoon and has been forced to cancel the Cats Incredible fishing and festival event for 2011 due to projected high water levels. The event was planned for July 29-31.

Chamber President, Barry Wilfahrt reports the National Weather Service in Grand Forks and Chaska MN ran a river hydrograph for the Red River this morning at the committee's request. Based on current water in the basin and normal rainfall over the next several days the river is projected to crest at 28' by midweek, putting much of the festival area under water. The river is projected to recede to 26.5 feet by Friday the 29th and 24 feet by Sunday the 31st.

In a meeting with the East Grand Forks Catfish League members and several Cats Incredible tournament committee members three weeks ago, it was decided to cancel the tournament if the River level was projected at over 23'. Access at the LaFave landing in East Grand Forks becomes difficult at water levels over 23 feet.

According to Event Chairperson Karry Kylo, the safety of our 300 fishermen is the most important consideration in this decision.

The cancellation includes the fishing tournament and all festival activities planned in conjunction with the event. This will mark the first time in the 24 year history of the tournament that river flooding has forced a cancellation.