

Jefferson County Floodplain Ordinance and Map Adoption Summary

As a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program, Jefferson County is required to periodically revise its floodplain ordinance and FIRM (Flood Insurance Rate Maps) maps to remain compliant with the FEMA and DNR floodplain program. This enables our citizens to purchase flood insurance, which is a requirement for any property issued a federally backed mortgage and located in a mapped floodplain. It also allows the County to pursue grants from the federal and state governments for our buyout program.

The most recent adoption of our floodplain ordinance and maps had an effective date of June 1, 2009. The data supporting this flood study and mapping effort was completed before and during the flood event of 2008. As a result, DNR and FEMA decided to revise the work that had just been completed to incorporate new flood data and elevations that were attained during the 2008 event.

On March 26, 2013, the DNR in cooperation with FEMA hosted a Flood Risk Information Open House for Jefferson County residents and local officials. Jefferson County Zoning Staff also participated. The proposed preliminary FIRM (Flood Insurance Rate Maps) maps and flood stage maps, Summary of Map Amendments (SOMA), and the Flood Insurance Study Report (FIS), were available for viewing, and DNR and County Staff were available for comments or questions.

During the map adoption process, the County and affected property owners were given a chance to comment or appeal the maps. All appeals and comments were received by the Jefferson County Zoning Department and sent in to FEMA together on August 27, 2013. On December 17, 2013, FEMA responded to our comments and appeal of the preliminary maps, which was mainly related to inaccurate line work and matching up the floodplain lines to our 2 foot contours. No changes were accepted or made by FEMA.

On August 20, 2014, County Board Chair Jim Schroeder was notified that Jefferson County had received a Letter of Final Determination, dated August 4, 2014 from FEMA, and that Jefferson County must adopt the updated FIRMS and FIS into their floodplain ordinance within 6 months. As part of this process the DNR also required adoption of new flood storage maps and adoption of the updated Model Floodplain Ordinance with Flood Storage Modifications effective January 1, 2012.

We have received the final maps which have an effective date of February 4, 2015.

In order to complete the Ordinance and Map adoption process within the 6 months and meet the effective date of the maps, the Zoning Department will be holding a public hearing on November 20, 2014, with the Zoning Committee making its recommendation on November 24, 2014, and forwarding this Ordinance and Map adoption request to the County Board for action at its December 9th meeting. This has to be done in December because there is no meeting in January and the process has to be completed by February 4, 2015. Note: Approval of the 16 Towns is not required for the adoption of the floodplain ordinance or maps.

The main changes to the Floodplain Ordinance are the inclusion of regulation of flood storage areas. This is part of the mapped floodplain where there is naturally occurring flood storage capacity in the local watershed which was used in the calculations of the flood study. The regulation of flood storage also includes a new set of maps depicting where these regulations will apply. The other main change to the FIRM maps is the fact that the 1% chance flood (100 year) has increased in elevation by just under a foot in the Lake Koshkonong/Rock River corridor.

The Zoning Department has hard copies of the proposed Ordinance on file for review as well as the final FIRM maps. We have also placed links to them on our website.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact Rob Klotz at 920-674-7113 or robk@jeffersoncountyiwi.gov

Thank-you for your action!