

Ravalli County Commissioners Office

From: Grove Darlene L. <skippy777@centurylink.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 4, 2015 2:41 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: Floodplain Regulations
Attachments: Floodplain regs 115.cwk

Glenda, would you please see that each commissioner gets a copy of this.

Thank you, Darlene Grove

January 4, 2015

Ravalli County Commissioners
Ravalli County Courthouse
Hamilton, MT

Commissioners Iman, Burrows, Chilcott, Shallenberger and Hawk,

I have been active on planning issues in the valley for 30 years and served on the Ravalli County Planning Board in the 1990's. I am very aware of the need for a regulation that prohibits filling and building in the flood fringe and was heartened that the County Commissioners in the past recognized the need and included that regulation. Thus they were customizing the flood plain regulations to better fit the dynamics of the Bitter Root River - local control.

So it is difficult for me to watch five commissioners spend time and taxpayers funds deliberating an issue that was decided and confirmed in the recent past. And in addition, the commissioners have been presented with excellent testimony of why we should retain that regulation.

On our own and adjoining properties, we have watched significant changes in the course of the river. We studied the old floodplain maps, followed some of the aerial mapping and have witnessed the many problems that have arisen because in the past, we had no regulations until we were forced to enact them. The Bitterroot has many places where homes were built in the floodway, fringe or whatever and we all work or pay to protect them when the river is high and changes course.

I would suggest the following are good reasons for keeping the enhanced requirement of prohibiting fill and building in the flood fringe on the Bitter Root River.

- ~ The constant migration of the Bitter Root River along the valley floor, abandoning old floodways and creating new.
- ~ The obvious evidence of current and past building and filling in the floodway as well as constant requests for permits to riprap or erect structures to protect private property.
- ~ And along with the above, the damages inflicted on upstream/downstream property owners by those building defensive structures in old floodways, and flood fringe areas.
- ~ Though we have new maps, aerial surveys and etc., we still cannot keep up with the changes in the river, so it is best to be err on the side of safety for private property owners and the welfare of others and the health of the river.
- ~ The citizens of Ravalli County are currently paying for mistakes made by allowing citizens, realtors and others to build in unsuitable places, we do not need anymore lawsuits.

I would also like to suggest that it would be most appropriate and timely for the Commissioners to proceed with a River Migration Study. The technology is available and possibly some state help could be requested. Such a study might help in future issues that could arise.

This letter reflects the opinion of both myself and my husband.

Sincerely yours,

Darlene L. Grove John D. Grove
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