

Chris Taggart

From: Greg Chilcott
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 8:40 AM
To: Chris Taggart
Subject: FW: Flood Plain Regs.: public input for 1-12-15 mtg

Please include this email in the public comment/correspondence file for the floodplain regulation revision.

From: Marina Weatherly [mailto:cw@bridgemail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 5:20 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: Flood Plain Regs.: public input for 1-12-15 mtg

To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Re: Bitterroot River Flood Plain Regulations
January 11, 2015

Dear Commissioners:

I am not able to attend the Monday Jan. 12th meeting concerning the floodplain regulations, so am writing you to urge you to retain the flood plain and fringe area as is drafted in our current flood plain map and regulations. This is an opportunity to shape the future of our local natural resources, including local economic tourism gains, as well as protect homeowners from future flood events and resulting expense and loss, which in the end, we all pay for. The State and Federal regulations reflect a general "cookie cutter" template for any river or stream in Montana and the USA and do not fit the individual flows and behaviors typical of the Bitterroot River drainage. In the past the Commissioners have been adamant about the value of local control v.s. State or Federal control of our natural resources. This is the perfect opportunity to exercise that right, and tailor the flood plain regulations to fit the needs of the river and the local community and economy rather than abide purely by State and Federal demands.

I realize there is a January 16th deadline to make the Ravalli County regulations and map compliant with FEMA'S new map and regs. in order for river-side home and property owners to qualify for the Nt'l Flood Insurance Program (federally subsidized flood insurance). The Commissioners received this information in May 2014, and are scrambling now at the last minute to meet that deadline. With a few wording changes there is no problem retaining the core foundation of our current regulations to meet that deadline and be in compliance. At the last meeting, both the DNRC and FEMA representatives were there and said that we could retain our current flood plain regulations, with a few changes and adopt the "new" (1995) FEMA maps. It is worth noting that there are at least 30 examples where the live river has crossed into the flood fringe as outlined in the map. The flood fringe naturally then becomes the flood plain and even at times the river itself. Such is the nature of the flow of the Bitterroot River. It's movements are not dictated by a human map, but rather by geography, weather and human intervention.

I strongly urge you to use the limited time left before the January 16th deadline to partner up with professionals & representatives; educate yourselves on the issue and regulations (County, State and Federal); really listen to the Ravalli County residents whom you represent and who deeply care about the river corridor and those whose professions rely on the river, in order for you to then intelligently craft a Flood Plain regulation document that is truly local but is also compliant with State and Federal guidelines. It IS possible!

Thank you for your consideration.
Marina Weatherly, Stevensville Montana



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