

Memorandum

City of Lawrence – Douglas County

Planning & Development Services

TO: Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Commission

FROM: Amy Miller, AICP, CFM, Assistant Director- Planning

Date: For June 22, 2015 Regular PC Meeting – Item No. 8

RE: Text Amendment Initiation to City and County Codes regarding Floodplain Management Regulations

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently completed a re-evaluation of flood hazards for certain streams in Douglas County through the Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) program. Staff has received the preliminary maps and has reviewed them. As part of the issuance of new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), staff has placed the new maps on the website for the public to view (http://www.lawrenceks.org/city_maps), and will be conducting outreach activities within the community to raise awareness about the new flood hazard maps.

FEMA requires each community to amend their floodplain regulations to include the new effective date of the FIRM maps, which will be September 2, 2015. Therefore, staff is requesting that the Planning Commission initiate a text amendment to the City Land Development Code and the County Zoning Regulations. These text amendments will be considered at a public hearing at the July 2015 Planning Commission meeting. Planning Commission recommendations will then be forwarded to the City and County Commissions for future action.

Any review will include insuring compliance with the City's storm water standards and the criteria related to the City and County's participation in the Community Rating System, as well as review by the State Division of Water Resources to insure compliance with model codes. It is anticipated that there will be some changes, other than FIRM effective date, to both ordinances in order to comply with the state model ordinance and the Community Rating System.

Action Requested:

1. Initiate a text amendment to the Floodplain Regulations in the Land Development Code, Chapter 20, Article 12 of the Code of The City of Lawrence, KS to reference new FEMA FIRM effective dates and study potential changes to comply with the state model ordinance and the Community Rating System.
2. Initiate a text amendment to the Floodplain Regulations in the Zoning Regulations, Chapter 12, Section 12-328 of the Code of the County of Douglas, Kansas to reference new FEMA FIRM effective dates and study potential changes to comply with the state model ordinance and the Community Rating System.