



Community Development Department

DATE: August 16, 2022
FROM: Ben Ehreth, AICP, Community Development Director
ITEM: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Risk Map Update

REQUEST:

The Community Development Department requests to provide information on the FEMA Risk Map update for the area and obtain direction on regulating development in the floodway/floodplain based on the best available data.

Please place this item on the August 23, 2022, City Commission meeting agenda.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At the July 12, 2022, City Commission meeting staff provided an update to the City Commission on the FEMA flood insurance rate map (FIRM) development. Additionally, at that meeting staff sought direction from the City Commission on regulating activities and development within the floodway/floodplain based on the best available data, which would be the preliminary FIRM that FEMA has released.

Initially, the Bismarck City Commission gave direction for staff to regulate development in the floodway/floodplain based on the best available data associated with both the existing effective FIRM and the preliminary FIRM. At the August 9, 2022, City Commission meeting the motion was unanimously rescinded. No specific direction was provided as to the regulation of properties within a preliminary floodway/floodplain and it was suggested that the City Commission will want to wait on providing any further direction until both the FEMA Community Coordination meeting and the public open house are both held on August 16, 2022.

RECOMMENDED CITY COMMISSION ACTION:

Receive update and provide direction to staff related to the best available data for regulating development within existing and proposed floodways and floodplains.

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