Zoning Advisory Panel Floodplain Presentation
May 26, 2021

The Zoning Advisory Panel floodplain discussion will provide members a chance to look at the floodplain maps in Lewis and Clark County. It will also provide the members a chance to familiarize themselves with some regulations, definitions, and topics that are a part of managing the Lewis and Clark County floodplain program. Below you will find a quick guide to the planned presentation.

Floodplain Maps:

Lewis and Clark County has a variety of flood zones associated with the floodplain maps in the county. The two main types of mapping that are currently being administered are Approximate Zone A mapping and Detailed Study mapping. Examples of each mapping will be shown along with a discussion of flood zones.

Letter of Map Changes:

Lewis and Clark County residents often ask, if the maps need an update how does that occur? There are a couple of ways that the changes can be made, a Letter of Map Amendment, a Letter of Map Revision, and a FEMA Mapping update. Each of these will be defined and briefly discussed.

Floodplain Permitting:

What flood zone requires permitting? What forms are needed for a floodplain permit application? What areas of the floodplain are restricted in development? What area of the floodplain is shown but no permitting is needed? All these questions will be answered and more! A diagram will be shown that lays out all these answers plus addresses some insurance requirements.

Montana Standards:

Floodplain development in Montana has higher state standards. Each of these standards will be discussed and compared to the federal standard. A commonly asked question from Lewis and Clark County residents is, what is freeboard? A quick diagram will help everyone understand freeboard.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP):

Does Lewis and Clark County participate? What is the benefit to participating in the NFIP? Many residents do not know what the NFIP is and how it benefits the community, a brief overview will help clarify some of these questions.