

Staff Report

Subject: Amendments to Part II, Chapter 34 – Flood Damage Prevention, *Section 34.5. Definitions; Section 34.7 Basis for area of special flood hazard; Section 34.82 Specific Standards; and Section 34.86 Standards for Subdivision.*

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Department: Development Services

Meeting Date: April 18, 2023

Item Description: Consideration to approve a second reading to amend Part II, Chapter 34 – Flood Damage Prevention, *Section 34.5. Definitions; Section 34.7 Basis for area of special flood hazard; Section 34.82 Specific Standards; and Section 34.86 Standards for Subdivision.*

Summary Recommendation: In order to bring the Flood Damage Prevention ordinance into compliance with current FEMA requirements, staff recommends approval of amendments to Part II, Chapter 34 – Flood Damage Prevention, *Section 34.5. Definitions; Section 34.7 Basis for area of special flood hazard; Section 34.82 Specific Standards; and Section 34.86 Standards for Subdivision.*

Executive Summary/Background:

- In 2011, DNR conducted the first County Community Assistance Visit with staff. Following that visit, staff prepared an application to the Community Rating System (CRS).
- In 2013, FEMA accepted Effingham County into the CRS program, with a classification of 7. This classification means that flood insurance policy holders in the special flood hazard area (SFHA) receive a 15% discount.
- On February 7, 2023, staff were notified of a Community Assistance Visit, and instructed to submit information relating to the floodplain management program, including building regulations, building and land development permits, elevation certificates, development plans, and review and inspection procedures.
- Staff submitted required materials by March 1, 2023 for DNR flood map program staff review.
- On March 16, 2023, DNR conducted the Community Assistance Visit. A checklist review of county regulations was provided, and staff were advised to amend the Flood Damage Prevention ordinance to comply with FEMA requirements.
- As part of the 2023 update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan, our consultants have suggested updating the date of the FIRM referenced in section 34.7.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider

1. Approve amendment to Part II, Chapter 34 – Flood Damage Prevention, *Section 34.5. Definitions; Section 34.7 Basis for area of special flood hazard; Section 34.82 Specific Standards; and Section 34.86 Standards for Subdivision.*
2. Take no action.

Recommended Alternative: 1

Other Alternatives: N/A

Department Review: Development Services; County Attorney

Funding Source: N/A

Attachments:

1. Revisions to Part II, Chapter 34 – Flood Damage Prevention, *Section 34.5. Definitions; Section 34.7 Basis for area of special flood hazard; Section 34.82 Specific Standards; and Section 34.86 Standards for Subdivision.*