

RESOLUTION 061107-02

**ENTITLED: "A RESOLUTION ADOPTING LARAMIE COUNTY FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION REGULATIONS"**

Whereas, Laramie County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program offered by the United States Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency;

Whereas, participation in the National Flood Insurance Program requires adequate enforcement of floodplain management regulations meeting the minimum requirements set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations;

Whereas, the Laramie County Flood Damage Prevention Regulations met the minimum requirements as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations;

Whereas, the Laramie County Board of Commissioners intend to comply with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Whereas, Wyo. Stat. § 18-5-201 and § 18-5-301 authorize Laramie County, in promoting the public health, safety, morals and general welfare of the county, to regulate the subdivision, use, location, design of land and buildings in unincorporated Laramie County.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LARAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

That the Laramie County Flood Damage Prevention Regulations are adopted to promote the public health, safety and general welfare and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific areas.

That upon adoption, the Laramie County Flood Damage Prevention Regulations will replace the existing Laramie County Floodplain Management Regulations

**PRESENTED, READ AND ADOPTED THIS 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2006**

Diane Humphrey  
Diane Humphrey, Chairman

ATTEST:  
Debbye K. Lathrop  
Debbye K. Lathrop, Laramie County Clerk

11-13-06  
Date

Received And Approved As To Form Only By

Mark Voss  
Deputy County Attorney

10/24/06  
Date

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# LARAMIE COUNTY FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION REGULATIONS

## CHAPTER I

### STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION, FINDINGS OF FACT, PURPOSE AND METHODS

#### A. STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION

The Legislature of the State of Wyoming has in Wyoming Statute 18-5-201 et. seq. authorized Laramie County to regulate the use, condition of use or occupancy of lands in unincorporated Laramie County. Therefore, the Board of Commissioners of Laramie County, Wyoming does ordain as follows:

#### B. FINDINGS OF FACT

(1) The flood hazard areas of Laramie County, Wyoming are subject to periodic inundation which results in loss of life and property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, and extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety and general welfare.

(2) These flood losses are created by the cumulative effect of obstructions in floodplains which cause an increase in flood heights and velocities, and by the occupancy of flood hazards areas by uses vulnerable to floods and hazardous to other lands because they are inadequately elevated, floodproofed or otherwise protected from flood damage.

#### C. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

It is the purpose of these regulations to promote the public health, safety and general welfare and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific areas by provisions designed to:

- (1) Protect human life and health;
- (2) Minimize expenditure of public money for costly flood control projects;
- (3) Minimize the need for rescue and relief efforts associated with flooding and generally undertaken at the expense of the general public;
- (4) Minimize prolonged business interruptions;
- (5) Minimize damage to public facilities and utilities such as water and gas mains, electric, telephone and sewer lines, streets and bridges located in floodplains;
- (6) Help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the sound use and development of flood-prone areas in such a manner as to minimize future flood blight areas; and
- (7) Insure that potential buyers are notified that property is in a flood area.
- (8) Insure that those who occupy areas of special flood hazard assume responsibility for their actions.

#### **D. METHODS OF REDUCING FLOOD LOSSES**

In order to accomplish its purposes, these regulations use the following methods:

- (1) Restrict or prohibit uses that are dangerous to health, safety or property in times of flood, or cause excessive increases in flood heights or velocities;
- (2) Require that uses vulnerable to floods, including facilities that serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction;
- (3) Control the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers, which are involved in the accommodation of floodwaters;
- (4) Control filling, grading, dredging and other development that may increase flood damage;
- (5) Prevent or regulate the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert flood waters or which may increase flood hazards to other lands.

#### **CHAPTER II DEFINITIONS**

Unless specifically defined below, words or phrases used in these regulations shall be interpreted to give them the meaning they have in common usage and to give these regulations its most reasonable application.

**APPEAL** – means a request for a review of the Floodplain Administrators interpretation of any provision of these regulations or a request for a variance.

**APPEAL BOARD** – means the Laramie County Board of Commissioners.

**AREA OF SHALLOW FLOODING** - means a designated AO, AH, or VO zone on a community's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with a one percent chance or greater annual chance of flooding to an average depth of one to three feet where a clearly defined channel does not exist, where the path of flooding is unpredictable and where velocity flow may be evident. Such flooding is characterized by ponding or sheet flow.

**AREA OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD** - is the land in the floodplain within a community subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. After detailed ratemaking has been completed in preparation for publication of the FIRM, Zone A usually is refined into Zones A, AE, AH, AO, A1-99, VO, V1-30, VE or V.

**BASE FLOOD** - means the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

**BASE FLOOD ELEVATION** - The elevation shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map for Zones AE, AH, A1-A30, AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, AR/AO, V1-V30, and VE that indicates the water surface elevation resulting from a flood that has a 1-percent or greater chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

**BASEMENT** - means any area of the building having its floor sub-grade (below ground level) on all sides, but does not include crawlspace.

**BOARD** - means the Surface Water Management Review Board that is established as the Laramie County Board of Commissioners, by these regulations.

**CRITICAL FEATURE** - means an integral and readily identifiable part of a flood protection system, without which the flood protection provided by the entire system would be compromised.

**DEVELOPMENT** - means any man-made change in improved and unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials.

**ELEVATED BUILDING** - means a non-basement building (i) built, in the case of a building in Zones A1-30, AE, A, A99, AO, AH, B, C, X, and D, to have the top of the elevated floor adequately anchored so as not to impair the structural integrity of the building during a flood of up to the magnitude of the base flood. "Elevated building" also includes a building elevated by means of fill or solid foundation perimeter walls with openings sufficient to facilitate the unimpeded movement of floodwaters.

**ELEVATION CERTIFICATE** - means a certified statement that verifies a building's elevation information. This certificate must be completed on the most current certificate, as published by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency, by a qualified land surveyor, engineer or architect.

**EXISTING CONSTRUCTION** - means for the purposes of determining rates, structures for which the "start of construction" commenced before the effective date of the FIRM. "Existing construction" may also be referred to as "existing structures."

**EXISTING MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION** - means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including, at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed before the effective date of the floodplain management regulations adopted by a community.

**EXPANSION TO AN EXISTING MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION** - Means the preparation of additional sites by the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads).

**FLOOD OR FLOODING** - means a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from:

1. the overflow of inland waters.
2. the unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.

**FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM)** - means an official map of a community, on which the Federal Emergency Management Agency has delineated both the areas of special flood hazards and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

**FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY** - is the official report provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The report contains flood profiles, water surface elevation of the base flood, as well as the Flood Boundary-Floodway Map.

**FLOODPLAIN OR FLOOD-PRONE AREA** - means any land area susceptible to being inundated by water from any source (see definition of flooding).

**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT** - means the operation of an overall program of corrective and preventive measures for reducing flood damage, including but not limited to emergency preparedness plans, flood control works and floodplain management regulations.

**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT MAPS** - means any and all mapping on which Laramie County has delineated as Areas of Special Flood Hazard.

**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS** - means zoning regulations, subdivision regulations, building codes, health regulations, and special purpose Regulations (such as a Floodplain Regulations, Grading Regulations and Erosion Control Regulations) and other applications of police power. The term describes such state or local regulations, in any combination thereof, which provide standards for the purpose of flood damage prevention and reduction.

**FLOOD PROTECTION SYSTEM** - means those physical structural works for which funds have been authorized, appropriated, and expended and which have been constructed specifically to modify flooding in order to reduce the extent of the areas within a community subject to a "special flood hazard" and the extent of the depths of associated flooding. Such a system typically includes constructed channels, dams, reservoirs, levees or dikes. These specialized flood modifying works are those constructed in conformance with sound engineering standards.

**FLOOD PROOFING** - means any combination of structural and non-structural additions, changes, or adjustments to structures which reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate or improved real property, water and sanitary facilities, structures and their contents.

**FLOODWAY (REGULATORY FLOODWAY)** - means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.

**HIGHEST ADJACENT GRADE** - means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure.

**HISTORIC STRUCTURE** - means any structure that is:

1. Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
2. Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;
3. Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of Interior; or

4. Individually listed on a local inventory or historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:
- a) by an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or;
  - b) directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

**LEVEE** - means a man-made structure, usually an earthen embankment, designed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices to contain, control, or divert the flow of water so as to provide protection from temporary flooding.

**LEVEE SYSTEM** - means a flood protection system which consists of a levee, or levees, and associated structures, such as closure and drainage devices, which are constructed and operated in accordance with sound engineering practices.

**LOWEST FLOOR** - means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement). An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking or vehicles, building access or storage in an area other than a basement area is not considered a building's lowest floor; provided that such enclosure is not built so as to render the structure in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirement of Section 60.3 of the National Flood Insurance Program regulations.

**MANUFACTURED HOME** - means a structure transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities. The term "manufactured home" does not include a "recreational vehicle".

**MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION** - means a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.

**MEAN SEA LEVEL** - means, for purposes of the National Flood Insurance Program, the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929 or other datum, to which base flood elevations shown on a community's Flood Insurance Rate Map are referenced.

**NEW CONSTRUCTION** - means, for the purpose of determining insurance rates, structures for which the "start of construction" commenced on or after the effective date of an initial FIRM or after December 31, 1974, whichever is later, and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures. For floodplain management purposes, "new construction" means structures for which the "start of construction" commenced on or after the effective date of a floodplain management regulation adopted by a community and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures.

**NEW MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION** - means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed on or after the effective date of floodplain management regulations adopted by a community.

**RECREATIONAL VEHICLE** - means a vehicle which is:

1. built on a single chassis;
2. 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projections;
3. designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and
4. designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

**START OF CONSTRUCTION** – Includes substantial improvement and means the date the building permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement, or other improvement was within 180 days of the permit date. The actual start means either the first placement of permanent construction of a structure on a site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a manufactured home on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading and filling; nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it include excavation for basement, footings, piers or foundations or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it include the installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main structure. For a substantial improvement, the actual start of construction means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

**STRUCTURE** - means a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home.

**SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE** - means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

**SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT** - means any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before "start of construction" of the improvement. This includes structures which have incurred "substantial damage", regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either:

1. Any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary conditions or
2. Any alteration of a "historic structure", provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a "historic structure."

**VARIANCE** - is a grant of relief to a person from the requirement of these Regulations when specific enforcement would result in unnecessary hardship. A variance, therefore, permits construction or development in a manner otherwise prohibited by these regulations. For full requirements see Section 60.6 of the National Flood Insurance Program regulations attached hereto as Appendix A of this document.

**VIOLATION** - means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's floodplain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in Section 60.3(b)(5), (c)(4), (c)(10), (d)(3), (e)(2), (e)(4), or (e)(5), attached hereto as Appendix B, is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided.

**WATER SURFACE ELEVATION** - means the height, in relation to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929 (or other datum, where specified), of floods of various magnitudes and frequencies in the floodplains of coastal or riverine areas.



## **CHAPTER III GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **A. LANDS TO WHICH THESE REGULATIONS APPLIES**

These regulations shall apply to all areas of special flood hazard within the jurisdiction of Laramie County, Wyoming but not to include areas within incorporated municipalities.

### **B. BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING THE AREAS OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD**

(1) The areas of special flood hazard identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in a scientific and engineering report entitled, "The Flood Insurance Study for Laramie County, Wyoming," dated May 14, 2006, with accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and any revisions thereto are hereby adopted by reference and declared to be a part of these regulations.

(2) Laramie County Floodplain Management Maps being a certain set of maps being marked and designated by Laramie County is hereby referred to, adopted, and made a part hereof as if fully set out in these regulations. This set of maps depicts Areas of Special Flood Hazard based on engineering and technical data from various sources.

(3). The documents adopted in Chapter III(B), and listed above, are on file and available for inspection by the public at the Laramie County Public Works Department, 2507 East Fox Farm Road in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

### **C. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PERMIT**

A Development Permit shall be required to ensure conformance with the provisions of these regulations. A Development Permit shall be obtained before construction or development begins within any Area of Special Flood Hazard established in Chapter III (B).

Application for a Development Permit shall be made in a format determined by the Floodplain Administrator. If a zoning certificate, address affidavit, plat, site plan, or construction plans are required by other regulations of Laramie County, the application for such approvals will constitute an application for a development permit, provided the application contains, as a minimum, the information described in this section. In cases where other permits or review is not otherwise required, a separate application for a development permit is required.

### **D. COMPLIANCE**

No structure or land shall hereafter be located, altered, or have its use changed without full compliance with the terms of these regulations and other applicable regulations.

### **E. ABROGATION AND GREATER RESTRICTIONS**

These regulations are not intended to repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing easements, covenants, or deed restrictions. However, where these regulations and another regulations, easement, covenant, or deed restriction conflict or overlap, whichever imposes the more stringent restrictions shall prevail.

**F. INTERPRETATION**

In the interpretation and application of these regulations, all provisions shall be:

- (1) Considered as minimum requirements;
- (2) Liberally construed in favor of the interpretation made by the governing body; and
- (3) Deemed neither to limit nor repeal any other powers granted under State statutes.

**G. WARNING AND DISCLAIMER OR LIABILITY**

The degree of flood protection required by these regulations is considered reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on scientific and engineering considerations. On rare occasions greater floods can and will occur and flood heights may be increased by man-made or natural causes. These regulations does not imply that land outside the areas of special flood hazards or uses permitted within such areas will be free from flooding or flood damages. These regulations shall not create liability on the part of the community or any official or employee thereof for any flood damages that result from reliance on these regulations or any administrative decision lawfully made thereunder. Laramie County retains all applicable immunities, including but not limited to its governmental immunity provided by common law and W.S. § 1-39-101 et seq.

**CHAPTER IV  
ADMINISTRATION****A. DESIGNATION OF THE FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR**

The Laramie County Director of Public Works is hereby appointed the Floodplain Administrator to administer and implement the provisions of these regulations and other appropriate sections of 44 CFR (National Flood Insurance Program Regulations) pertaining to floodplain management.

**B. DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR**

Duties and responsibilities of the Floodplain Administrator shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Maintain and hold open for public inspection all records pertaining to the provisions of these regulations.
- (2) Review permit application to determine whether proposed building site, including the placement of manufactured homes, will be reasonably safe from flooding.
- (3) Review, approve or deny all applications for development permits required by adoption of these regulations.
- (4) Review permits for proposed development to assure that all necessary permits have been obtained from those Federal, State or local governmental agencies.

(5) Where interpretation is needed as to the exact location of the boundaries of the areas of special flood hazards (for example, where there appears to be a conflict between a mapped boundary and actual field conditions) the Floodplain Administrator shall make the necessary interpretation.

(6) Assure that the flood carrying capacity within the altered or relocated portion of any watercourse is maintained.

(7) When base flood elevation data has not been provided in accordance with Chapter III Section B, the Floodplain Administrator shall obtain, review and reasonably utilize any base flood elevation data and floodway data available from a Federal, State or other source, in order to administer the provisions of Chapter 5.

(8) When a regulatory floodway has not been designated, the Floodplain Administrator must require that no new construction, substantial improvements, or other development (including fill) shall be permitted within Zones A1-30 and AE on the community's FIRM, unless it is demonstrated that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other existing and anticipated development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one foot at any point within the community.

(9) Under the provisions of 44 CFR Chapter 1, Section 65.12, of the National Flood Insurance Program regulations, a community may approve certain development in Zones A1-30, AE, AH, on the community's FIRM which increases the water surface elevation of the base flood by more than one foot, provided that the community first applies for a conditional FIRM revision through FEMA (Conditional Letter of Map Revision). The Floodplain Administrator is authorized to require that those proposing such development, prepare and submit all necessary documentation supporting such a revision.

### **C. PERMIT PROCEDURES**

Application for a Development Permit shall be presented to the Floodplain Administrator on forms furnished by him/her and may include, but not be limited to, plans in duplicate drawn to scale showing the location, dimensions, and elevation of proposed landscape alterations, existing and proposed structures, including the placement of manufactured homes, and the location of the foregoing in relation to areas of special flood hazard. Additionally, the following information is required:

(1) Elevation (in relation to mean sea level), of the lowest floor (including basement) of all new and substantially improved structures;

(2) Elevation in relation to mean sea level to which any nonresidential structure shall be flood proofed;

(3) An Elevation Certificate verifying that the nonresidential flood proofed structure shall meet the floodproofing criteria of Chapter V, Section B(2);

(4) Description of the extent to which any watercourse or natural drainage will be altered or relocated as a result of proposed development.

(5) Maintain a record of all such information in accordance with Chapter IV, Section (B)(1).

Approval or denial of a Development Permit by the Floodplain Administrator shall be based on all of the provisions of these regulations and the following relevant factors:

- (1) The danger to life and property due to flooding or erosion damage;
- (2) The susceptibility of the proposed facility and its contents to flood damage and the effect of such damage on the individual owner;
- (3) The danger that materials may be swept onto other lands to the injury of others;
- (4) The compatibility of the proposed use with existing and anticipated development;
- (5) The safety of access to the property in times of flood for ordinary and emergency vehicles;
- (6) The costs of providing governmental services during and after flood conditions including maintenance and repair of streets and bridges, and public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical and water systems;
- (7) The expected heights, velocity, duration, rate of rise and sediment transport of the flood waters expected at the site;
- (8) The availability of alternative locations, not subject to flooding or erosion damage, for the proposed use;

#### **D. VARIANCE PROCEDURES**

- (1) The Board shall hear and render judgment on requests for variances from the requirements of these regulations.
- (2) The Board shall hear and render judgment on an appeal only when it is alleged there is an error in any requirement, decision, or determination made by the Floodplain Administrator in the enforcement or administration of these regulations.
- (3) Any person or persons aggrieved by the decision of the Board may appeal such decision in the courts of competent jurisdiction.
- (4) The Floodplain Administrator shall maintain a record of all actions involving an appeal and shall report variances to the Federal Emergency Management Agency upon request.
- (5) Variances may be issued for the reconstruction, rehabilitation or restoration of structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places or the State Inventory of Historic Places, without regard to the procedures set forth in the remainder of these Regulations.
- (6) Variances may be issued for new construction and substantial improvements to be erected on a lot of one-half acre or less in size contiguous to and surrounded by lots with existing structures constructed below the base flood level, providing the relevant factors of this Chapter have been fully considered. As the lot size increases beyond the one-half acre, the technical justification required for issuing the variance increases.

(7) Upon consideration of the factors noted above and the intent of these regulations, the Board may attach such conditions to the granting of variances as it deems necessary to further the purpose and objectives of these regulations.

(8) Variances shall not be issued within any designated floodway if any increase in flood levels during the base flood discharge would result.

(9) Variances may be issued for the repair or rehabilitation of historic structures upon a determination that the proposed repair or rehabilitation will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a historic structure and the variance is the minimum necessary to preserve the historic character and design of the structure.

(10) Prerequisites for granting variances:

- a) Variances shall only be issued upon a determination that the variance is the minimum necessary, considering the flood hazard, to afford relief.
- b) Variances shall only be issued upon:
  - i) showing a good and sufficient cause;
  - ii) a determination that failure to grant the variance would result in exceptional hardship to the applicant, and
  - iii) a determination that the granting of a variance will not result in increased flood heights, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, create nuisances, cause fraud on or victimization of the public, or conflict with existing local laws or regulations.
- c) Any application to whom a variance is granted shall be given written notice that the structure will be permitted to be built with the lowest floor elevation below the base flood elevation, and that the cost of flood insurance will be commensurate with the increased risk resulting from the reduced lowest floor elevation.

(11) Variances may be issued for new construction and substantial improvements provided that:

- a) the criteria outlined in Chapter IV, Section D(1)-(9) are met, and
- b) the structure or other development is protected by methods that minimize flood damages during the base flood and create no additional threats to public safety.

## **CHAPTER V** **PROVISIONS FOR FLOOD HAZARD REDUCTION**

### **A. GENERAL STANDARDS**

In all areas of special flood hazards the following provisions are required for all new construction and substantial improvements:

(1) All new construction or substantial improvements shall be designed (or modified) and adequately anchored to prevent flotation, collapse or lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy;

(2) All new construction or substantial improvements shall be constructed by methods and practices that minimize flood damage;

(3) All new construction or substantial improvements shall be constructed with materials resistant to flood damage;

(4) All new construction or substantial improvements shall be constructed with electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and air conditioning equipment and other service facilities that are designed and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.

(5) All new and replacement water supply systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of floodwaters into the system;

(6) New and replacement sanitary sewage systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the system and discharge from the systems into flood waters; and,

(7) On-site waste disposal systems shall be located to avoid impairment to them or contamination from them during flooding.

## **B. SPECIFIC STANDARDS**

In all areas of special flood hazards where base flood elevation data has been provided as set forth in (i) Chapter III, Section B, (ii) Chapter IV, Section B(8), or (iii) Chapter V, Section C(3), the following provisions are required: The County shall not approve zoning certificates or certificates of compliance until the requirements of this section have been met.

(1) **Residential Construction** - new construction and substantial improvement of any residential structure shall have the lowest floor (including basement), elevated to or above the base flood elevation. An Elevation Certificate shall be submitted to the Floodplain Administrator that the standard of this subsection as proposed in Chapter IV, Section c(1)a., is satisfied.

(2) **Nonresidential Construction** - new construction and substantial improvements of any commercial, industrial or other nonresidential structure shall either have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated to or above the base flood level or together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, be designed so that below the base flood level the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy. A registered professional engineer or architect shall develop and/or review structural design, specifications, and plans for the construction, and shall certify that the design and methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice as outlined in this subsection. A record of such certification that includes the specific elevation (in relation to mean sea level) to which such structures are floodproofed shall be maintained by the Floodplain Administrator.

(3) **Enclosures** - new construction and substantial improvements, with fully enclosed areas below the lowest floor that are usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage in an area other than a basement and which are subject to flooding shall be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect or meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:

- a) A minimum of two openings having a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding shall be provided.
- b) The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above grade.
- c) Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves, or other coverings or devices provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.

(4) **Manufactured Homes** -

- a) Require that all manufactured homes to be placed within Zone A on a community's or FIRM shall be installed using methods and practices which minimize flood damage. For the purposes of this requirement, manufactured homes must be elevated and anchored to resist flotation, collapse, or lateral movement. Methods of anchoring may include, but are not limited to, use of over-the-top or frame ties to ground anchors. This requirement is in addition to applicable County anchoring requirements for resisting wind forces.
- b) Require that manufactured homes that are placed or substantially improved within Zones A1-30, AH, and AE on the community's FIRM on sites (i) outside of a manufactured home park or subdivision, (ii) in a new manufactured home park or subdivision, (iii) in an expansion to an existing manufactured home park or subdivision, or (iv) in an existing manufactured home park or subdivision on which a manufactured home has incurred "substantial damage" as a result of a flood, be elevated on a permanent foundation such that the lowest floor of the manufactured home is elevated to or above the base flood elevation and be securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation system to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement.
- c) Require that manufactured homes be placed or substantially improved on sites in an existing manufactured home park or subdivision with Zones A1-30, AH and AE on the community's FIRM that are not subject to the provisions of paragraph (4) of this section be elevated so that either:
  - i) the lowest floor of the manufactured home is at or above the base flood elevation, or
  - ii) the manufactured home chassis is supported by reinforced piers or other foundation elements of at least equivalent strength that are no less than 36 inches in height above grade and be securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation system to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement.

(5) **Recreational Vehicles** - Require that recreational vehicles placed on sites within Zones A1-30, AH, and AE on the community's FIRM either:

- a) be on the site for fewer than 180 consecutive days,
- b) be fully licensed and ready for highway use, or
- c) meet the permit requirements of Chapter IV, Section C(1), and the elevation and anchoring requirements for "manufactured homes" in paragraph (4) of this section. A recreational vehicle is ready for highway use if it is on its wheels or jacking system, is attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and security devices, and has no permanently attached additions.

(6) **Below-grade Residential Crawlspace Construction** – New Construction and substantial improvement of any below-grade crawl space shall meet the following minimum provisions:

- a) Have the interior grade elevation that is below base flood elevation no lower than two feet below the lowest exterior adjacent grade.
- b) Have the height of the below-grade crawlspace measured from the interior grade of the crawlspace to the top of the foundation wall, not to exceed four feet at any point.
- c) Have an adequate drainage system that allows floodwaters to drain from the interior area of the crawlspace following a flood.
- d) Be anchored to prevent floatation, collapse, or lateral movement of the structure and be capable of resisting the hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads.
- e) Be constructed with materials and utility equipment resistant to flood damage.
- f) Be constructed using methods and practices that minimize flood damage.
- g) Be constructed with electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and air conditioning equipment and other service facilities that are designed and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within components during conditions of flooding.
- h) Be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a Wyoming registered professional engineer, or must meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:
  - i) A minimum of two openings having a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding shall be provided.
  - ii) The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above the lowest adjacent exterior grade.
  - iii) Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, or other coverings or devices provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.



### **C. STANDARDS FOR SUBDIVISION PROPOSALS**

1) All subdivision proposals including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions shall be consistent with Chapter I, Sections B, C, and D of these regulations.

2) All proposals for the development of subdivisions including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions shall meet Development Permit requirements of Chapter III, Section C; Chapter IV, Section C; and the provisions of Chapter V of these regulations.

3) Base flood elevation data shall be generated for subdivision proposals and other proposed development, including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions, greater than 50 lots or 5 acres, whichever is lesser, if not otherwise provided pursuant to Chapter III, Section B or Chapter IV, Section B (8) of these regulations.

4) All subdivision proposals including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions shall have adequate drainage provided to reduce exposure to flood hazards.

5) All subdivision proposals including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions shall have public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical and water systems located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage.

### **D. STANDARDS FOR AREAS OF SHALLOW FLOODING (AO/AH ZONES)**

Located within the areas of special flood hazard established in Chapter III, Section B, are areas designated as shallow flooding. These areas have special flood hazards associated with base flood depths of 1 to 3 feet where a clearly defined channel does not exist and where the path of flooding is unpredictable and where velocity flow may be evident. Such flooding is characterized by ponding or sheet flow; therefore, the following provisions apply:

1) All new construction and substantial improvements of **residential** structures have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated above the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number specified in feet on the community's FIRM (at least two feet if no depth number is specified).

2) All new construction and substantial improvements of **non-residential** structures;

a) have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated above the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number specified in feet on the community's FIRM (at least two feet if no depth number is specified), or;

b) together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities be designed so that below the base flood level the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads of effects of buoyancy.

3) A registered professional engineer or architect shall submit an Elevation Certificate to the Floodplain Administrator that the standards of this Section, as proposed in Chapter IV, Section C (1)a., are satisfied.

4) Require within Zones AH or AO adequate drainage paths around structures on slopes, to guide flood waters around and away from proposed structures.

#### **E. FLOODWAYS**

Floodways - located within areas of special flood hazard established in Chapter III, Section B, are areas designated as floodways. Since the floodway is an extremely hazardous area due to the velocity of floodwaters that carry debris, potential projectiles and erosion potential, the following provisions shall apply:

1) Encroachments are prohibited, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements and other development within the adopted regulatory floodway *unless* it has been demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.

2) If Chapter V, Section E (1) above is satisfied, all new construction and substantial improvements shall comply with all applicable flood hazard reduction provisions of Chapter V.

3) Under the provisions of 44 CFR Chapter 1, Section 65.12, of the National Flood Insurance Regulations, a community may permit encroachments within the adopted regulatory floodway that would result in an increase in base flood elevations, provided that the community first applies for a conditional FIRM and floodway revision through FEMA.

4) The regulatory floodway is included in Areas of Special Flood Hazard. Therefore, in addition to the restrictions in Section E, all provisions of these regulations that apply to Areas of Special Flood Hazard also applies to the regulatory floodway.

### **CHAPTER VI PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE**

#### **A. PENALTIES**

1) No structure or land shall hereafter be constructed, located, extended, converted, developed or altered without full compliance with the terms of these regulations and other applicable regulations. Violation of the provisions of these regulations by failure to comply with any of its requirements (including violations of conditions and safeguards established in connection with conditions) shall constitute a misdemeanor pursuant to W.S. § 18-5-206. Any person who violates these regulations or fails to comply with any of its requirements shall upon conviction thereof be fined not more than \$75.00 for each violation, and in addition shall pay all costs and expenses involved in the case. Nothing herein contained shall prevent Laramie County from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.