



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

7A
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: October 14, 2025

Title of Item: Update on FEMA Preliminary FIRM Notification (Discussion Only)

☒ REGULAR AGENDA ☐ CONSENT AGENDA	Action Requested: ☐ Approve/Deny Motion ☐ Adopt Resolution (attach draft) ☐ Hold Public Hearing <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	☐ Direction Requested ☒ Discussion Item ☐ Information Only
Submitted by: Andrew Carlstrom		Department: Environmental Services
Presenter (Name and Title): Andrew Carlstrom, Environmental Services Director		Estimated Time Needed: 10 minutes
Summary of Issue: On September 30, 2025, Aitkin County received from the Minnesota DNR copies of the Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Aitkin County, Minnesota and Incorporated Areas. The FIRM and FIS report have been produced in a countywide format, which includes flooding information for the entire county, encompassing communities and other incorporated areas. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared this preliminary version of the FIRM using a process that captures digital flood hazard information and plots it on map panels using computer technology. Digital copies can be found at: https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimdownload/ Attached is the Public Notice Ad Proof and letter. The Minnesota DNR welcomes all community officials and citizen comments and asks for input before October 30, 2025. Please send your comments and/or concerns to: Jeff Weiss, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road Box 25, St. Paul, MN 55155 or email at jeff.weiss@state.mn.us. A community coordination meeting will be scheduled in the near future and publicly noticed, as well as a 90-day appeal period for certain communities within Aitkin County.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments: N/A		
Recommended Action/Motion: No action requested.		
Financial Impact: <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> ☐ Yes ☒ No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> ☐ Yes ☐ No <i>Please Explain:</i>		



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AITKIN COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE

On September 30, 2025, Aitkin County received from the Minnesota DNR copies of the Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Aitkin County, Minnesota and Incorporated Areas. The FIRM and FIS report have been produced in a countywide format, which includes flooding information for the entire county, encompassing communities and other incorporated areas. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared this preliminary version of the FIRM using a process that captures digital flood hazard information and plots it on map panels using computer technology. Digital copies can be found at: <https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimdownload/>

The Minnesota DNR welcomes all community officials and citizen comments and asks for input before October 30, 2025. Please send your comments and/or concerns to: Jeff Weiss, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road Box 25, St. Paul, MN 55155 or email at jeff.weiss@state.mn.us. A community coordination meeting will be scheduled in the near future and publicly noticed, as well as a 90-day appeal period for certain communities within Aitkin County.

Published in the
Aitkin Independent Age
October 8, 2025
1495481

Date: 10/02/25

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ZONING

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AITKIN

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Publications:

Aitkin Independent Age

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FEMA Region 5
536 South Clark Street, 6th Floor
Chicago, IL 60605



FEMA

September 30, 2025

The Honorable J. Mark Wedel
Chair, Aitkin County Board of Commissioners
307 2nd Street Northwest
Aitkin, MN 56431

Prelim-EAP
Community Name: Aitkin County,
MN
(Unincorporated Areas)
Community No.: 270628

Re: National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
Preliminary Flood Insurance Study and Flood Insurance Rate Map Issued for Review

Dear Chairman Wedel:

We are pleased to present your community with copies of the Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for Aitkin County, Minnesota and Incorporated Areas for your review and comment. We have produced the FIRM and FIS report in a countywide format, which means that flooding information for the entire county, including Aitkin County Unincorporated Areas and all other incorporated areas, is also shown.

FEMA has prepared a preliminary version of the FIRM using a process that captures digital flood hazard information and plots it on map panels using computer technology. In so doing, we have incorporated non-revised flood hazard information from all current effective FIRMs, Flood Hazard Boundary Maps, and Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps as appropriate.

To give your community an opportunity to review them FEMA has posted digital copies of the FIRM and FIS report materials to the following website:

<https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimdownload/>

We will contact you shortly to schedule a formal community coordination meeting (a "Consultation Coordination Officer [CCO]" meeting) to discuss the revised flood hazard information, ordinance adoption, and other frequently asked questions and concerns. In the meantime, we encourage you to circulate the website address as widely as possible among elected officials, staff, and other individuals or organizations in the community that would have an interest in the FIRM and FIS report so that they will have the opportunity to review them before the formal community coordination meeting. The review period provides community officials and citizens in the affected communities with an opportunity to identify changes or corrections to non-technical information, such as corporate limits, road names, and stream names on the FIRM or in the FIS report. Comments may be sent to:

Jeff Weiss, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155
or by email at jeff.weiss@state.mn.us

www.fema.gov

Please submit comments (digital format such as shapefiles preferred) no later than 30 days from the date of this letter. All comments and changes received during this review period will be incorporated, as appropriate, before the FIRM and FIS report become effective.

To assist your community in maintaining the FIRM, we have enclosed a Summary of Map Actions (SOMA) to document previous Letters of Map Change (LOMCs) (i.e., Letters of Map Amendment [LOMAs], Letters of Map Revision [LOMRs]) that will be superseded when the FIRM becomes effective. Information on LOMCs is presented in the following four categories: (1) LOMCs for which results have been included on the FIRM; (2) LOMCs for which results could not be shown on the FIRM because of scale limitations or because the LOMC issued had determined that the lots or structures involved were outside the SFHA as shown on the FIRM; (3) LOMCs for which results have not been included on the FIRM because the flood hazard information on which the original determinations were based is being superseded by new flood hazard information; and (4) LOMCs issued for multiple lots or structures where the determination for one or more of the lots or structures cannot be revalidated through an administrative process like the LOMCs in Category 2 above.

LOMCs in Category 2 will be revalidated through a single letter that reaffirms the validity of a previously issued LOMC; the letter will be sent to your community shortly before the effective date of the FIRM and will become effective one day after the FIRM becomes effective.

For the LOMCs listed in Category 4, we will review the data previously submitted for the LOMA or LOMR request and issue a new determination for the affected properties after the FIRM becomes effective upon request.

After the CCO Meeting, we will initiate a statutory 90-day appeal period for certain communities within Aitkin County. A statutory 90-day appeal period is required when FEMA adds or modifies Base (1-percent-annual-chance) Flood Elevations (BFEs), base flood depths, SFHAs, flood zone designations, or regulatory floodways within a community, as shown on the Preliminary FIRM. If your community is identified as requiring an appeal period, we will send you a letter approximately two weeks before the start of the 90-day appeal period to detail the appeal process. The letter will forward information regarding notifications to be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and local newspaper(s) and will provide the first and second publication dates. The appeal period will start on the second publication date. Additional information concerning the 90-day appeal period will be provided during the CCO Meeting.

After the review and appeal periods have ended and we have addressed all comments/appeals, we will initiate final preparation of the FIRM and FIS report. The new FIRM and FIS report for your community will become effective approximately 7 to 10 months from now. Before the effective date, you will be notified in writing of the official FIRM and FIS report effective date and asked to adopt floodplain ordinances or modify existing ordinances as necessary that correspond with the new FIRM or FIS report. If you or other community officials have any questions about adopting floodplain ordinances, you may contact the FEMA Regional Office or discuss them with your State NFIP Coordinator. Several months before the effective date, we will mail one set of printed copies of the finalized FIRM and FIS report and digital copies of the map and report products.

Your community comments on the Preliminary FIRM panels and FIS report are an important part of our review process, and we will consider them carefully before we publish the FIRM and FIS report in their final form. If you have any questions regarding the Preliminary copies of the FIRM and FIS mapping products, please contact Jeff Weiss, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, by telephone at (651) 259-5802 or by email at jeff.weiss@state.mn.us. If you have general questions about mapping issues, please call our FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX), toll free, at (877) 336-2627 (877-FEMA MAP) or e-mail our FMIX staff at FEMA-FMIX@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Julia McCarthy
Acting Mitigation Division Director
FEMA Region 5

Enclosures: Preliminary Summary of Map Actions

cc: Andrew Carlstrom, Environmental Services Director, Aitkin County
Ceil Strauss, State NFIP Coordinator, MN DNR
Jeff Weiss, Surface Water and Floodplain Engineer, MN DNR
Kristy Dellwo, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, MN DPS
Meghan Burrows, Community Planner, FEMA Region 5
Munib Ahmad, Regional Engineer, FEMA Region 5

bcc: FEDD File
Case File