



Planning Department

Telephone: 701-298-2375

Fax: 701-298-2395

planning@casscountynd.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cass County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Cole Hansen, Cass County Planner

DATE: April 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Informational Agenda Topic for the April 21, 2025 Commission Meeting:
Western Cass FIS Publishing and Next Steps

On March 5th, 2025 FEMA published the Letter of Final Determination (LFD) for the Western Cass Flood Insurance Study (FIS). This LFD officially begins the process where any affected communities, such as cities, counties, and townships, begin the process of updating or adopting Floodplain Development Ordinances. March 5th began the countdown of 6 months until the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs/FIRM Panels) completed as a part of the FIS become official. March 5th also began a 1-year countdown to become compliant with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to allow the citizens living within these communities to purchase flood insurance and receive recovery dollars from flood events.

As a part of this process townships have approached the county requesting the county handle floodplain management, a task I feel is doable with current resources and expected permit volumes. To better assist these townships a more formal agreement has been created for townships to sign to turn over their floodplain development authority to the county. This is a process that can be undone should the township wish to reclaim this responsibility. This process will also ensure that the county is compliant with the current writing of SB 2027.

The first step of this process will be to update the county's own floodplain ordinance as this ordinance was first adopted in 1998 and has not been updated since.