Arbor Day

The Dillon Tree Board enjoyed a special Arbor Day last week with the acknowledgement of Dillon and Montana's Tree City of 2019. The Dillon Middle School student council capped the event by planting a tree on the Swenson Way Boulevard. Dillon Tree Board Chair Jason Glenn served as MC, introducing guest speakers Jim Tomac, Head of Deer Lodge NF Deputy Supervisor; John Tubbs, DNRC Director; Todd Hazeltine, City of Dillon Director of Operations; and Montana Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney. At right, Cooney reads a proclamation and presents Hazeltine with gifts to commemorate the occasion. The Dillon Tree Board garnered the acclaim through their efforts with a project to beautify the Swenson Way Boulevard. A $10,000 grant came with the Tree City of the Year designation. J.P. Put photos

Public gives input on floodplain remapping

By M.P. Regan
Dillon Tribune staff

The room in Dillon that hosted last week’s open house on the ongoing floodplain remapping project overflowed with participants.

"The purpose was to get people here to get their questions answered about their individual properties and how the draft maps may or may not impact them," said Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Outreach Specialist Tiffany Lyden of the open house last Thursday that attracted more than 50 people to the DNRC Building on North Montana Street in Dillon.

"We had a full house of folks, and I think most of them got those questions answered," said Lyden of the two-hour open house that dedicated just about all of its time to DNRC reps huddling with individual landowners to address their questions about how the floodplain remapping could impact their particular properties.

"We had some folks who are in the current floodplain who had gotten some elevation information," Lyden told the Tribune. "So, even though the current map might have shown them in, maybe they were a little higher and the maps just didn't show that. And they wanted to know if that information would still be valid and how it would be evaluated."

The feedback those folks and other people offered at last week’s DNRC open house—and the one held in Lima four days later—will go into the pool of information being collected for the ongoing state and federal effort to reset the area's floodplain mapping.

"The purpose is to update the maps to more accurately show the current flood risks," said Lyden of the project that is revisiting the floodplain designations for land along 41 miles of the Beaverhead River, 11 miles of Blacktail Deer Creek and five miles of Junction Creek by Lima, as well as by Selway, Slough and other flow splits from the Beaverhead River and Blacktail Creek.

"We're still early in the process," said Lyden of a drive that kicked off in 2015 when Beaverhead County and the City of Dillon and City of Lima sent letters to the DNRC, requesting the reassessment of the area's floodplain maps finalized more than three decades earlier.

"The county and city wanted to give landowners a chance to take a look at the draft maps so they can give some input," said Lyden at the Dillon open house event that offered attendees a long look at print copies of the draft floodplain maps and a of a projected, interactive map that, with the touch of a finger, allowed viewers to zoom in, out and around the mapped portion of southwest Montana, and compare the current draft floodplain map to the 1982 version.

"It's a good gut check for the maps."

The area's floodplain mapping has expanded with the latest effort from the land covered in floodplain map finalized in 37 years ago.

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Access to full article at: https://www.dillontribune.com/article/2023-05-15/public-gives-input-on-floodplain-remapping/
Council to discuss, vote on extension of city services tonight

By M.P. Regan

Dillon Tribune staff

"What a ridiculous all-inclusive document on how we go about basically expanding the city," added Hand. "It's not even close to standing up at the next council meeting to see what's going on with the city's growth policy and capital improvement plan, prevailing step. 'As far as I can tell, the city is doing everything in its power to maintain the city's growth, including extension of services. That's a necessary tool to keep the city moving forward," said Hand. The city is expected to present a plan for the next council meeting, and Hand said he would be in attendance to discuss the document.

This is the basic essence of the council's discussion in the context of city services.

The city is spending $250,000 on the plan, which was approved by the city council. The city is also working on a new tax measure to help fund the project.

Mayor Klaasen asked if the council wanted to put off voting on the tax measure. The council approved the measure, and the city is now working on a plan to expand the city's services. The council's next meeting is scheduled for next month.

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Floodplain

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"The county requested information on floodplain mapping in the county line," said Lyden. "The city is a part of the floodplain area in the northern part of the county that was added that had not been mapped before. It wasn't exactly what I was expecting when I looked at the map, but it made sense." The city had been working on updating the floodplain map since the last meeting, and the current map reflects the most up-to-date information available.

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