

COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF MEQUON

ORDINANCE 2024-1662

An Ordinance Repealing and Recreating Article XI within Chapter 58 of the Mequon Municipal Code, as it Relates to Floodplain Zoning

RECITALS

A. The Common Council previously adopted Article XI within Chapter 58 of the Mequon Municipal Code, which regulates development in floodplains within the City pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 62.23 and 87.30.

B. The Federal Emergency Management Agency prepared and adopted revised floodplain maps for the Milwaukee River watershed, which must be adopted by July 31, 2024.

C. As part of the adoption of the revised floodplain maps, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) requires the adoption of a floodplain zoning ordinance substantially similar to the model ordinance the Department has prepared.

D. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed ordinance on March 18, 2024.

E. Based upon the Planning Commission's recommendation, and all public input provided at the public hearing before the Common Council, the Common Council finds that development and use of the floodplains and rivers of the City would impair the public health, safety, convenience, general welfare and tax base, and that reasonable regulation of such development is necessary.

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING RECITALS, the Common Council of the City of Mequon, Ozaukee County, State of Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

SECTION I

Article XI of Chapter 58 of the Mequon Municipal Code is repealed and recreated to read as shown on the attached Exhibit A.

SECTION II

The terms and provisions of this ordinance are severable. Should any term or provision of this ordinance be found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining terms and provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION III

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in contravention to this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION IV

This Ordinance shall become effective after its publication and on July 31, 2024 as provided by law.

Approved by: Andrew Nerbun, Mayor

Date Approved: June 11, 2024

I certify that the foregoing Ordinance was adopted by the Common Council of the City of Mequon, Wisconsin, at a meeting held on June 11, 2024.

Caroline Fochs, City Clerk

Published: June 18, 2024

EXHIBIT A

ARTICLE XI. – FLOODPLAIN ZONING

DIVISION 1 STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION, FINDING OF FACT, STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, TITLE, AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

58-750. - Statutory Authorization.

This article is adopted pursuant to the authorization in Wis. Stat. §§ 62.23 and 87.30.

58-751. - Findings of Fact.

The common council finds that uncontrolled development and use of the floodplains and rivers of this municipality would impair the public health, safety, convenience, general welfare, and tax base, and that reasonable regulation of such development is necessary.

58-752. - Statement of Purpose.

This article is intended to regulate floodplain development to:

- (1) Protect life, health and property.
- (2) Minimize expenditures of public funds for flood control projects.
- (3) Minimize rescue and relief efforts undertaken at the expense of the taxpayers.
- (4) Minimize business interruptions and other economic disruptions.
- (5) Minimize damage to public facilities in the floodplain.
- (6) Minimize the occurrence of future flood blight areas in the floodplain.
- (7) Discourage the victimization of unwary land and homebuyers.
- (8) Prevent increases in flood heights that could increase flood damage and result in conflicts between property owners; and
- (9) Discourage development in a floodplain if there is any practicable alternative to locate the activity, use or structure outside of the floodplain.

58-753. – Title.

This division shall be known as the Floodplain Zoning Ordinance for Mequon, Wisconsin.

58-754. – Definitions.

Unless specifically defined, words and phrases in this article shall have their common law meaning and shall be applied in accordance with their common usage. Words used in the present tense include the future, the singular number includes the plural, and the plural number includes the singular. The word "may" is permissive, "shall" is mandatory and is not discretionary. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

A Zones: Those areas shown on the Official Floodplain Zoning Map which would be inundated by the regional flood. These areas may be numbered or unnumbered A Zones.

The A Zones may or may not be reflective of flood profiles, depending on the availability of data for a given area.

AH Zone: See “AREA OF SHALLOW FLOODING.”

AO Zone: See “AREA OF SHALLOW FLOODING.”

Accessory Structure or Use: A facility, structure, building or use which is accessory or incidental to the principal use of a property, structure or building. An accessory structure shall not be used for human habitation.

Alteration: An enhancement, upgrade or substantial change or modification other than an addition or repair to a dwelling or to electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilating, air conditioning and other systems within a structure.

Area of Shallow Flooding: A designated AO, AH, AR/AO, AR/AH, or VO zone on a community’s Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with a 1 percent or greater annual chance of flooding to an average depth of 1 to 3 feet where a clearly defined channel does not exist, where the path of flooding is unpredictable, and where velocity flood may be evident. Such flooding is characterized by ponding or sheet flow.

Base Flood or Base Flood Event (BFE): Means the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year, as published by FEMA as part of a FIS and depicted on a FIRM.

Basement: Any enclosed area of a building having more than one-half of the story height below grade.

Building: See “STRUCTURE.”

Bulkhead Line: A geographic line along a reach of navigable water that has been adopted by a municipal ordinance and approved by the WDNR pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 30.11 and which allows limited filling between this bulkhead line and the original ordinary highwater mark, except where such filling is prohibited by the floodway provisions of this article.

Campground: Any parcel of land which is designed, maintained, intended, or used for the purpose of providing sites for nonpermanent overnight use by 4 or more camping units, or which is advertised or represented as a camping area.

Camping Unit: Any portable device, no more than 400 square feet in area, used as a temporary shelter, including but not limited to a camping trailer, motor home, bus, van, pick-up truck, or tent that is fully licensed, if required, and ready for highway use.

Certificate of Compliance: – A certification issued by the department of community development that the construction and the use of land or a building, the elevation of fill or the lowest floor of a structure is in compliance with all of the provisions of this article.

Channel: A natural or artificial watercourse with definite bed and banks to confine and conduct normal flow of water.

Crawlways or Crawl Space: An enclosed area below the first usable floor of a building, generally less than five feet in height, used for access to plumbing and electrical utilities.

Deck: An unenclosed exterior structure that has no roof or sides and has a permeable floor which allows the infiltration of precipitation.

Development: Any artificial change to improved or unimproved real estate, including, but not limited to, the construction of buildings, structures or accessory structures; the construction of additions or alterations to buildings, structures or accessory structures; the repair of any damaged building, structure, or accessory structure, or the improvement or renovation of any building, structure, or accessory structure, regardless of percentage of damage or improvement; the placement of buildings, structures, or accessory structures; subdivision layout and site preparation; mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations; the storage, deposition or extraction of materials or equipment; and the installation, repair or removal of public or private sewage disposal systems or water supply facilities.

Dryland Access: A vehicular access route which is above the regional flood elevation, and which connects land located in the floodplain to land outside the floodplain, such as a road with its surface above regional flood elevation and which is wide enough for wheeled rescue and relief vehicles.

Encroachment: Any fill, structure, equipment, use or development in the floodway.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): The federal agency that administers the National Flood Insurance Program.

Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM): A map of a community on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated both the floodplain and the risk premium zones applicable to the community. This map can only be amended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Flood or Flooding: A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas caused by one or more of the following conditions:

- The overflow or rise of inland waters.
- The rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.

- The inundation caused by waves or currents of water exceeding anticipated cyclical levels along the shore of Lake Michigan; or
- The sudden increase caused by an unusually high-water level in a natural body of water, accompanied by a severe storm, or by an unanticipated force of nature, such as a seiche, or by some similarly unusual event.

Flood Frequency: The probability of a flood occurrence which is determined from statistical analyses. The frequency of a particular flood event is usually expressed as occurring, on the average once in a specified number of years or as a percent (%) chance of occurring in any given year.

Floodfringe: That portion of the floodplain outside of the floodway which is covered by flood waters during the regional flood and associated with standing water rather than flowing water.

Flood Hazard Boundary Map: A map designating approximate flood hazard areas. Flood hazard areas are designated as unnumbered A Zones and do not contain floodway lines or regional flood elevations. This map forms the basis for both the regulatory and insurance aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) until superseded by a Flood Insurance Study and a Flood Insurance Rate Map.

Flood Insurance Study (FIS): A technical engineering examination, evaluation, and determination of the local flood hazard areas. It provides maps designating those areas affected by the regional flood and provides both flood insurance rate zones and base flood elevations and may provide floodway lines. The flood hazard areas are designated as numbered and unnumbered A Zones. Flood Insurance Rate Maps, that accompany the Flood Insurance Study, form the basis for both the regulatory and the insurance aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Floodplain: Land which has been or may be covered by flood water during the regional flood. It includes the floodway and the floodfringe and may include other designated floodplain areas for regulatory purposes.

Floodplain Island: A natural geologic land formation within the floodplain that is surrounded, but not covered, by floodwater during the regional flood.

Floodplain Management: Policy and procedures to ensure wise use of floodplains, including mapping and engineering, mitigation, education, and administration and enforcement of floodplain regulations.

Flood Profile: A graph or a longitudinal profile line showing the relationship of the water surface elevation of a flood event to locations of land surface elevations along a stream or river.

Floodproofing: Any combination of structural provisions, changes or adjustments to properties and structures, water and sanitary facilities and contents of buildings subject to flooding, for the purpose of reducing or eliminating flood damage.

Flood Protection Elevation: An elevation of two feet of freeboard above the Regional Flood Elevation.

Flood Storage: Those floodplain areas where storage of floodwaters has been taken into account during analysis in reducing the regional flood discharge.

Floodway: The channel of a river or stream and those portions of the floodplain adjoining the channel required to carry the regional flood discharge.

Freeboard: A safety factor expressed in terms of a specified number of feet above a calculated flood level. Freeboard compensates for any factors that cause flood heights greater than those calculated, including ice jams, debris accumulation, wave action, obstruction of bridge openings and floodways, the effects of watershed urbanization, loss of flood storage areas due to development and aggregation of the river or stream bed.

Habitable Structure: Any structure or portion thereof used or designed for human habitation.

Hearing Notice: Publication or posting meeting the requirements of Wis. Stat. Ch. 985. For appeals, a Class 1 notice, published once at least one week (7 days) before the hearing, is required. For all zoning ordinances and amendments, a Class 2 notice, published twice, once each week consecutively, the last at least one week (7 days) before the hearing. The requirements of sec. 58-43 of this code shall also apply as applicable.

High Flood Damage Potential: Damage that could result from flooding that includes any danger to life or health or any significant economic loss to a structure or building and its contents.

Highest Adjacent Grade: The highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure.

Historic Structure: Any structure that is either:

- Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register.
- 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.

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

Increase In Regional Flood Height: A calculated upward rise in the regional flood elevation greater than 0.00 foot, based on a comparison of existing conditions and proposed conditions which is directly attributable to development in the floodplain but not attributable to manipulation of mathematical variables such as roughness factors, expansion and contraction coefficients and discharge.

Land Use: Any nonstructural use made of unimproved or improved real estate. (See also: "DEVELOPMENT.")

Lowest Adjacent Grade: Elevation of the lowest ground surface that touches any of the exterior walls of a building.

Maintenance: The act or process of ordinary upkeep and repairs, including redecorating, refinishing, nonstructural repairs, or the replacement of existing fixtures, systems or equipment with equivalent fixtures, systems, or structures.

Manufactured Home: A structure transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and is designed to be used with or without a permanent foundation when connected to required utilities. The term "manufactured home" includes a mobile home but does not include a "mobile recreational vehicle."

Mobile/Manufactured Home Park or Subdivision: A parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land, divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.

Mobile/Manufactured Home Park or Subdivision, Existing: A parcel of land, divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale, on which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots is completed before the effective date of this article. At a minimum, this would include the installation of utilities, the construction of streets and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads.

Mobile/Manufactured Home Park, Expansion to Existing: The preparation of additional sites by the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed. This includes installation of utilities, construction of streets and either final site grading, or the pouring of concrete pads.

Mobile Recreational Vehicle: A vehicle which is built on a single chassis, 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection, designed to be self-propelled, carried or permanently towable by a licensed, light-duty vehicle, is licensed for highway use if registration is required and is designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling, but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel or seasonal use. Manufactured homes that are towed or carried onto a parcel of land, but do not remain capable of being towed or carried, including park model homes, do not fall within the definition of “mobile recreational vehicles.”

Model, Corrected Effective: A hydraulic engineering model that corrects any errors that occur in the Duplicate Effective Model, adds any additional cross sections to the Duplicate Effective Model, or incorporates more detailed topographic information than that used in the current effective model.

Model, Duplicate Effective: A copy of the hydraulic analysis used in the effective FIS and referred to as the effective model.

Model, Effective: The hydraulic engineering model that was used to produce the current effective Flood Insurance Study.

Model, Existing (Pre-Project): A modification of the Duplicate Effective Model or Corrected Effective Model to reflect any man-made modifications that have occurred within the floodplain since the date of the effective model but prior to the construction of the project for which the revision is being requested. If no modification has occurred since the date of the effective model, then this model would be identical to the Corrected Effective Model or Duplicate Effective Model.

Model, Revised (Post-Project): A modification of the Existing or Pre-Project Conditions Model, Duplicate Effective Model or Corrected Effective Model to reflect revised or post-project conditions.

Municipality or Municipal: The City of Mequon, as the governmental unit enacting, administering, and enforcing this zoning ordinance.

NAVD or North American Vertical Datum: Elevations referenced to mean sea level datum, 1988 adjustment.

NGVD or National Geodetic Vertical Datum: Elevations referenced to mean sea level datum, 1929 adjustment.

New Construction: Structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective date of a floodplain zoning regulation adopted by this community and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures.

Non-Flood Disaster: A fire or an ice storm, tornado, windstorm, mudslide, or other destructive act of nature, but excludes a flood.

Nonconforming Structure: An existing lawful structure or building which is not in conformity with the dimensional or structural requirements of this article for the area of the floodplain which it occupies. (For example, an existing residential structure in the floodfringe district is a conforming use. However, if the lowest floor is lower than the flood protection elevation, the structure is nonconforming.)

Nonconforming Use: An existing lawful use or accessory use of a structure or building which is not in conformity with the provisions of this article for the area of the floodplain which it occupies. (Such as a residence in the floodway.)

Obstruction to Flow: Any development which blocks the conveyance of floodwaters such that this development alone or together with any future development will cause an increase in regional flood height.

Official Floodplain Zoning Map: That map, adopted and made part of this article, as described in sec. 58-755, which has been approved by the WDNR and FEMA.

Open Space Use: Those uses having a relatively low flood damage potential and not involving structures.

Ordinary Highwater Mark: The point on the bank or shore up to which the presence and action of surface water is so continuous as to leave a distinctive mark such as by erosion, destruction or prevention of terrestrial vegetation, predominance of aquatic vegetation, or other easily recognized characteristic.

Person: An individual or group of individuals, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association, municipality, or state agency.

Private Sewage System: A sewage treatment and disposal system serving one structure with a septic tank and soil absorption field located on the same parcel as the structure. It also means an alternative sewage system approved by the Department of Safety and Professional Services, including a substitute for the septic tank or soil absorption field, a holding tank, a system serving more than one structure, or a system located on a different parcel than the structure.

Public Utilities: Those utilities using underground or overhead transmission lines such as electric, telephone and telegraph, and distribution and collection systems such as water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer.

Reasonably Safe from Flooding: Means base flood waters will not inundate the land or damage structures to be removed from the floodplain and that any subsurface waters related to the base flood will not damage existing or proposed buildings.

Regional Flood or Regional Flood Event (RFE): A flood determined to be representative of large floods known to have occurred in Wisconsin. A regional flood is a flood with a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year, and if depicted on the FIRM, the RFE is equivalent to the BFE.

Start of Construction: 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 on a site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond initial 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 a 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 an alteration, 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: Any manmade object with form, shape and utility, either permanently or temporarily attached to, placed upon or set into the ground, stream bed or lakebed, including, but not limited to, roofed and walled buildings, gas or liquid storage tanks, bridges, dams and culverts.

Subdivision – Has the meaning given in Wis. Stat. § 236.02(12).

Substantial Damage: Damage of any origin sustained by a structure, whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its pre-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the equalized assessed value of the structure before the damage occurred.

Substantial Improvement: Any repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition or improvement of a building or structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the equalized assessed value of the structure before the improvement or repair is started. If the structure has sustained substantial damage, any repairs are considered substantial improvement regardless of the work performed. The term does not include either any project for the improvement of a building required to correct existing health, sanitary or safety code violations identified by the building official and that are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions; or any alteration of a historic structure provided

that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a historic structure.

Unnecessary Hardship: Where special conditions affecting a particular property, which were not self-created, have made strict conformity with restrictions governing areas, setbacks, frontage, height, or density unnecessarily burdensome or unreasonable in light of the purposes of this article.

Variance: An authorization by the board of adjustment or appeals for the construction or maintenance of a building or structure in a manner which is inconsistent with dimensional standards (not uses) contained in the floodplain zoning ordinance.

Violation: The failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with this article. A structure or other development without required permits, lowest floor elevation documentation, floodproofing certificates or required floodway encroachment calculations is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided.

Watershed: The entire region contributing runoff or surface water to a watercourse or body of water.

Water Surface Profile: A graphical representation showing the elevation of the water surface of a watercourse for each position along a reach of river or stream at a certain flood flow. A water surface profile of the regional flood is used in regulating floodplain areas.

Well: means an excavation opening in the ground made by digging, boring, drilling, driving or other methods, to obtain groundwater regardless of its intended use.

WDNR: The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

58-755. - General Provisions.

- (a) *Areas to be regulated.* This article regulates all areas of special flood hazard identified as zones A, AO, AH, A1-30, AE, on the Flood Insurance Rate Map. Additional areas identified on maps approved by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and local community may also be regulated under the provisions of this article, where applicable.
- (b) *Official maps and revisions.* Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) are designated as zones A, A1-30, AE, AH, AO, on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) based on flood hazard analyses summarized in the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) listed in sub. (1) below. Additional flood hazard areas subject to regulation under this article are identified on maps based on studies approved by the WDNR and listed in sub. (1) below. These maps and revisions are on file in the office of the department of community

development. In the event that the maps adopted by this article are in conflict with previously adopted zoning maps, the most restrictive information and provisions shall apply.

- (1) OFFICIAL MAPS: Based on the Flood Insurance Study (FIS)
 - a. Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), panel number 555564165G, 555564168G, 555564169G, 555564188G, 555564189G, 555564193G, 555564194G, 555564230G, 555564231G, 555564232G, 555564233G, 555564234G, 555564251G, 555564252G, 555564253G, 555564254G, 555564256G, 555564257G, 555564 258G, 555564, 259G dated 7/31/2024
 - b. Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Ozaukee County, dated 7/31/2024.

- (2) OFFICIAL MAPS: Based on other studies. Any maps referenced in this section must be approved by the WDNR and be more restrictive than those based on the FIS at the site of the proposed development.
 - a. Floodplain study for Little Menomonee Creek and Little Menomonee River completed by Laura Herrick, SEWRPC and approved by the WDNR on 1/14/2022.
 - b. Flood Storage Map, panel number 8 dated 7/31/24 approved by the WDNR.

- (c) *Establishment of floodplain zoning districts.* The regulated SFHA within the city are divided into districts as follows:
 - (1) The Floodway District (FW) is the channel of a river or stream and those portions of the floodplain adjoining the channel required to carry the regional floodwaters, within AE Zones as shown on the FIRM, or within A Zones shown on the FIRM when determined according to Sec. 58-790(e).
 - (2) The Floodfringe District (FF) is that portion of a riverine special flood hazard area outside the floodway within AE Zones on the FIRM, or, when floodway limits have been determined according to Sec. 58-790(e), within A Zones shown on the FIRM.
 - (3) The General Floodplain District (GFP) is those riverine areas that may be covered by floodwater during the regional flood in which a floodway boundary has not been delineated on the FIRM and also

includes shallow flooding areas identified as AH and AO zones on the FIRM.

- (4) The Flood Storage District (FSD) is that area of the floodplain where storage of floodwaters is calculated to reduce the regional flood discharge.
- (d) *Locating floodplain boundaries.* Discrepancies between the exterior boundaries of zones A1-30, AE, AH, or A on the official floodplain zoning map and actual field conditions may be resolved using the criteria in sub. (1) or (2) below. If a significant difference exists, the map shall be amended according to Division 8. The director of community development can rely on a boundary derived from a profile elevation to grant or deny a land use permit, whether or not a map amendment is required. The director of community development shall be responsible for documenting actual pre-development field conditions and the basis upon which the district boundary was determined and for initiating any map amendments required under this section. Disputes between the director of community development and an applicant over the district boundary line shall be settled according to Sec. 58-904(c) and the criteria in sub. (1) and (2) below. Where the flood profiles are based on established base flood elevations from a FIRM, FEMA must approve any map amendment or revision pursuant to Division 8.
- (1) If flood profiles exist, the map scale and the profile elevations shall determine the district boundary. The regional or base flood elevations shall govern if there are any discrepancies.
 - (2) Where flood profiles do not exist for projects, including any boundary of zone A, AO, the location of the boundary shall be determined by the map scale, visual on-site inspection, and any information provided by the WDNR.
- (e) *Removal of lands from floodplain.* All or a portion of a property may be removed from the floodplain boundary and thus regulation under this article by one of the following methods:
- (1) Compliance with the provisions of this article shall not be grounds for removing land from the floodplain unless it is filled at least two feet above the regional or base flood elevation, the fill is contiguous to land outside the floodplain, and the map is amended pursuant to Division 8.
 - (2) The delineation of any of the Floodplain Districts may be revised by the community where natural or man-made changes have occurred

and/or where more detailed studies have been conducted. However, prior to any such change, approval must be obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Federal Emergency Management Agency. A completed Letter of Map Revision is a record of this approval. The floodplain administrator shall not sign a community acknowledgement form unless all criteria set forth in the following paragraphs are met:

- a. The land and/or land around the structure must be filled at least two feet above the regional or base flood elevation.
 - b. The fill must be contiguous to land outside the floodplain; Applicant shall obtain floodplain development permit before applying for a LOMR or LOMR-F.
- (3) Removal of lands from the floodplain may also occur by operation of Wis. Stat. § 87.30(1)(e) if a property owner has obtained a letter of map amendment from the federal emergency management agency under 44 C.F.R. § 70. Removals under this sub. (3) do not need to comply with sub. (1) above.
- (f) *Compliance.*
- (1) No structure or use within areas regulated by this article shall hereafter be located, erected, constructed, reconstructed, repaired, extended, converted, enlarged, or altered without full compliance with the terms of these regulations and all other applicable regulations that apply to uses within the jurisdiction of these regulations.
 - (2) Failure to obtain a floodplain development permit shall be a violation of these regulations and shall be punishable in accordance with Division 9.0.
 - (3) Floodplain development permits issued on the basis of plans and applications approved by the Floodplain Administrator authorize only the use, and arrangement, set forth in such approved plans and applications, or amendments thereto if approved by the Floodplain Administrator. Use, arrangement, or construction contrary to that authorized shall be deemed a violation of these regulations and punishable in accordance with Division 9.0.
- (g) *Municipalities and state agencies regulated.* Unless specifically exempted by law, all cities, villages, towns, and counties are required to comply with this

article and obtain all necessary permits. State agencies are required to comply if Wis. Stat. § 13.48(13) applies. The construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of state highways and bridges by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is exempt when Wis. Stat. § 30.2022 applies. Although exempt from a local zoning permit and permit fees, WisDOT must provide sufficient project documentation and analysis to ensure that the community is in compliance with Federal, State, and local floodplain standards. If a local transportation project is located within a Zone A floodplain and is not a WisDOT project under Wis. Stat. § 30.2022, then the road project design documents (including appropriate detailed plans and profiles) may be sufficient to meet the requirements for issuance of a local floodplain permit if the following apply: the applicant provides documentation to the community development department that the proposed project is a culvert or bridge replacement having a span of less than 20 feet; the relocation is in the same location; the project is exempt from a WDNR permit under Wis. Stat. § 30.123(6)(d); the water flow capacity through or under the replacement structure is not decreased; the road profile and grade is not raised; and no floodway data is available from a federal, state, or other source. If floodway data is available in the impacted area from a federal, state, or other source that existing data must be utilized by the applicant in the analysis of the project site.

- (h) *Abrogation and greater restrictions.*
 - (1) This article supersedes all the provisions of any municipal zoning ordinance enacted under Wis. Stat. §§ 62.23 or 87.30 which relate to floodplains. A more restrictive ordinance shall continue in full force and effect to the extent of the greater restrictions, but not otherwise.
 - (2) This article is not intended to repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing deed restrictions, covenants, or easements. If this article imposes greater restrictions, the provisions of this article shall prevail.
- (i) *Interpretation.* In their interpretation and application, the provisions of this article shall be held to be the minimum requirements and shall be liberally construed in favor of the city and are not a limitation on or repeal of any other powers granted by the Wisconsin Statutes. If a provision of this article, required by Wis. Admin. Code Ch. NR 116, is unclear, the provision shall be interpreted in light of the standards in effect on the date of the adoption of this article or in effect on the date of the most recent text amendment to this article.
- (j) *Warning and disclaimer of liability.* The flood protection standards in this article are based on engineering experience and research. Larger floods may

occur, or the flood height may be increased by man-made or natural causes. This article does not imply or guarantee that non-floodplain areas or permitted floodplain uses will be free from flooding and flood damages. This article does not create liability on the part of, or a cause of action against, the City of Mequon or any officer or employee thereof for any flood damage that may result from reliance on this article.

- (k) *Severability.* Should any portion of this article be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this article shall not be affected.
- (l) *Annexed areas for cities and villages.* The Ozaukee County floodplain zoning provisions in effect on the date of annexation shall remain in effect and shall be enforced by the municipality for all annexed areas until the municipality adopts and enforces an ordinance which meets the requirements of Wis. Admin. Code Ch. NR 116 and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), 44 C.F.R. Parts 59-72. These annexed lands are described on the municipality's official zoning map. County floodplain zoning provisions are incorporated by reference for the purpose of administering this section and are on file in the office of the director of community development. All plats or maps of annexation shall show the regional flood elevation and the floodway location.

DIVISION 2. GENERAL STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO ALL FLOODPLAIN DISTRICTS

Sec. 58-760. - Application Review.

The city shall review all permit applications to determine whether proposed building sites will be reasonably safe from flooding as defined in 44 C.F.R. § 65.2 and assure that all necessary permits have been received from those governmental agencies whose approval is required by federal or state law.

- (a) If a proposed building site is in a flood-prone area, as defined in 44 C.F.R. § 59.1, all new construction and substantial improvements shall:
 - (1) be designed and anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy if the structure is less than two feet above the base flood elevation;
 - (2) be constructed with flood-resistant materials;
 - (3) be constructed by methods and practices that minimize flood damage if the lowest finished floor structure is less than two feet above the base flood elevation; and

- (4) Mechanical and utility equipment must be elevated one foot above the flood protection elevation so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.
- (b) A subdivision or other proposed new development that is in a flood-prone area, as defined in 44 C.F.R. § 59.1, shall:
- (1) be designed to ensure that the lowest finished floor elevation of any structure will be constructed a minimum of two feet above the flood protection elevation;
 - (2) be designed in a manner that is consistent with the need to minimize flood damage within the flood-prone area;
 - (3) be designed to ensure that all public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electric, and water systems will be located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage;
 - (4) be designed to ensure that adequate drainage is provided to reduce exposure to flood hazards;
 - (5) include regional flood elevation and floodway data for any development that meets the definition of a subdivision in this article, including manufactured home parks; and
 - (6) be designed and constructed in compliance with the terms of this article.

Sec. 58-761. – Hydraulic and Hydrologic Analyses.

- (a) No floodplain development shall:
 - (1) Obstruct flow, defined as development which blocks the conveyance of floodwaters by itself or with other development, causing any increase in the regional flood height; or
 - (2) Cause any increase in the regional flood height due to floodplain storage area lost.
- (b) The director of community development or their designee shall deny permits if it is determined the proposed development will obstruct flow or cause any increase in the regional flood height, based on the officially adopted FIRM or other adopted map, unless the provisions of Division 8 are met.

- (c) All design and methods of construction shall be conducted and certified by a professional engineer licensed in the State of Wisconsin and meet the requirements of this document and the Wis. Admin. Code Ch. NR 116.

Sec. 58-762. - Watercourse Alterations.

No land use permit to alter or relocate a watercourse in a mapped floodplain shall be issued until the local official has notified in writing all adjacent municipalities, the WDNR and FEMA regional offices, and required the applicant to secure all necessary state and federal permits. The standards of Sec. 58-762 must be met and the flood carrying capacity of any altered or relocated watercourse shall be maintained.

As soon as is practicable, but not later than six months after the date of the watercourse alteration or relocation and pursuant to Division 8, the municipality shall apply for a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) from FEMA. Any such alterations must be reviewed and approved by FEMA and the WDNR through the LOMC process.

Sec. 58-763. - Development Under Wis. Stat. Ch. 30 and 31.

Development which requires a permit from the WDNR under Wis. Stat. Ch. 30 and 31, such as docks, piers, wharves, bridges, culverts, dams, and navigational aids, may be allowed if the necessary permits are obtained and amendments to this article are made according to Division 8.

DIVISION 3. FLOODWAY DISTRICT (FW)

Sec. 58-770. – Applicability.

This section applies to all floodway areas on the floodplain zoning maps and those identified pursuant to Sec. 58-790(e).

Sec. 58-771. – Permitted Uses.

The following open space uses are allowed in the Floodway District and the floodway areas of the General Floodplain District, if: they are not prohibited by any other ordinance; they meet the standards in Sec. 58-772 and 58-773; and all permits or certificates have been issued according to Sec. 58-902.

- (a) Agricultural uses, such as: farming, outdoor plant nurseries, horticulture, viticulture, and wild crop harvesting.
- (b) Nonstructural recreational uses, such as golf courses, tennis courts, archery ranges, picnic grounds, boat ramps, swimming areas, parks, wildlife and nature preserves, game farms, fish hatcheries, shooting, trap, and skeet activities, hunting and fishing areas and hiking and horseback riding trails, subject to the fill limitations of Sec. 58-773.

- (c) Uses or structures accessory to permanent public open space uses or classified as historic structures that comply with Sec. 58-772 and 58-773.
- (d) Functionally water dependent public uses, such as docks, piers or wharves, dams, flowage areas, culverts, navigational aids and river crossings of transmission lines, and pipelines that comply with Wis. Stat. Ch. 30 and 31.
- (e) Public utilities, streets and bridges that comply with Sec. 58-772(c).
- (f) Public or private wells used to obtain potable water for recreational areas that meet the requirements of local ordinances and Wis. Adm. Code Ch. NR 811 and NR 812.
- (g) Sanitary sewer or water supply lines to service existing or proposed development located outside the floodway that complies with the regulations for the floodplain area occupied.

Sec. 58-772. – Standards for Development in the Floodway.

- (a) *In General.*
 - (1) Any development in the floodway shall comply with Division 2 and have a low flood damage potential.
 - (2) Applicants shall provide an analysis calculating the effects of this proposal on the regional flood height to determine the effects of the proposal according to Sec. 58-761 and 58-902(b)(3). The analysis must be completed by a registered professional engineer in the state of Wisconsin.
 - (3) Any encroachment in the regulatory floodway is prohibited unless the data submitted for sub. (a)(2) above demonstrates that the encroachment will cause no increase in flood elevations in flood events up to the base flood at any location or removes the encroached area from the regulatory floodway as provided in Sec. 58-755(e).
 - (4) All setbacks, offsets and lot coverage requirements in the FW district shall be the same as the regulations found in the comparable residential zoning district with a minimum lot size smaller than, but closest in size to, the property.
- (b) *Structures.* Structures accessory to permanent public open space uses, including utility and sanitary facilities, or functionally dependent on a

waterfront location may be allowed by permit if the structures comply with the following criteria:

- (1) Not designed for human habitation, does not have a high flood damage potential and is constructed to minimize flood damage.
- (2) Shall either have the lowest floor elevated to or above the flood protection elevation or shall meet all the following standards:
 - a. Have the lowest floor elevated to or above the regional flood elevation and be dry floodproofed so that the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and completely dry to the flood protection elevation without human intervention during flooding;
 - b. Have structural components capable of meeting all provisions of Sub. (b)(6); and
 - c. Be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect, through the use of a Federal Emergency Management Agency Floodproofing Certificate, that the design and methods of construction are in accordance with Sub. (b)(6).
- (3) Must be anchored to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement.
- (4) Mechanical and utility equipment must be elevated to or above the flood protection elevation.
- (5) Must not obstruct flow of flood waters or cause any increase in flood levels during the occurrence of the regional flood.
- (6) For a structure designed to allow the automatic entry of floodwaters below the Regional Flood Elevation, the applicant shall submit a plan that meets Sub. (b)(1) through (b)(5) and meets or exceeds the following standards:
 - a. The lowest floor must be elevated to or above the regional flood elevation.
 - b. 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.

- c. the bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above the lowest adjacent grade; openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves, or other coverings or devices provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters, otherwise must remain open.
 - d. The use must be limited to parking, building access or limited storage.
- (7) Whenever floodproofing measures are required, a registered professional engineer or architect shall certify that the following floodproofing measures will be utilized, where appropriate, and are adequate to withstand the flood depths, pressures, velocities, impact and uplift forces and other factors associated with the regional flood:
 - a. Reinforcement of floors and walls to resist rupture, collapse, or lateral movement caused by water pressures or debris buildup.
 - b. Construction of wells, water supply systems and waste treatment systems so as to prevent the entrance of flood waters in such systems and must be in accordance with provisions in Sec. 58-782(f) through (h).
 - c. Subsurface drainage systems to relieve external pressures on foundation walls and basement floors.
 - d. Cutoff valves on sewer lines or the elimination of gravity flow basement drains; and
 - e. Placement of utilities to or above the flood protection elevation.
- (c) *Public Utilities, Streets and Bridges.* Public utilities, streets and bridges may be allowed by permit, if:
 - (1) Adequate floodproofing measures are provided to the flood protection elevation; and
 - (2) Construction meets the development standards of Sec. 58-761.
- (d) *Fills or Deposition of Materials.* Fills or deposition of materials may be allowed by permit, if:
 - (1) The requirements of Sec. 58-761 are met.

- (2) No material is deposited in navigable waters unless a permit is issued by the WDNR pursuant to Wis. Stat. Ch. 30 and a permit pursuant to s. 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Amendments of 1972, 33 U.S.C. § 1344 has been issued, if applicable, and all other requirements have been met.
- (3) The fill or other materials will be protected against erosion by riprap, vegetative cover, sheet piling or bulkheading; and
- (4) The fill is not classified as a solid or hazardous material.

Sec. 58-773. – Prohibited Uses.

All uses not listed as permitted uses in Sec. 58-771 are prohibited,

DIVISION 4. FLOODFRINGE OVERLAY DISTRICT (FFO)

Sec. 58-780. – Applicability.

This section applies to all floodfringe areas shown on the floodplain zoning maps and those identified pursuant to Sec. 58-790(e).

Sec. 58-781. – Permitted Uses.

Any structure, land use, or development is allowed in the Floodfringe District if the standards in Sec. 58-782 are met, the use is not prohibited by this, or any other ordinance or regulation and all permits or certificates specified in Sec. 58-902 have been issued.

Sec. 58-782. – Standards for Development in the Floodfringe.

In addition to the requirements of the underlying base zoning district and Division 2 of this article, the following requirements according to the use requested shall also apply. In the event of a conflict between the requirements of the base zoning district, and the provisions below, the more restrictive provision shall apply. Any existing structure in the floodfringe must meet the requirements of Division 6.

- (a) *Residential Uses.* Any structure, including a manufactured home, which is to be newly constructed or moved into the floodfringe, shall meet or exceed the following standards:
 - (1) All new construction, including placement of manufactured homes, and substantial improvement of residential structures, shall have the lowest floor elevated to or above the flood protection elevation on fill. The fill around the structure shall be one foot or more above the regional flood elevation extending at least 15 feet beyond the limits of the structure. No area may be removed from the floodfringe district unless it can be shown to meet Sec. 58-755(e).

- (2) Notwithstanding sub. (a)(1), a basement or crawlspace floor may be placed at the regional flood elevation if the basement or crawlspace is designed to make all portions of the structure below the flood protection elevation 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. No floor of any kind is allowed below the regional flood elevation.
 - (3) Contiguous dryland access shall be provided from a structure to land outside of the floodplain, except as provided in sub. (4).
 - (4) In developments where existing street or sewer line elevations make compliance with sub. (3) impractical, the municipality may permit new development and substantial improvements where roads are below the regional flood elevation, if:
 - a. The municipality has written assurance from police, fire and emergency services that rescue, and relief will be provided to the structure(s) by wheeled vehicles during a regional flood event; or
 - b. The municipality has a WDNR-approved emergency evacuation plan that follows acceptable hazard mitigation planning guidelines.
- (b) *Accessory Structures or Uses.* New construction and substantial improvements of Accessory structures shall be constructed on fill with the lowest floor at or above the regional flood elevation.
- (c) *Commercial Uses.* Unless otherwise prohibited, any commercial structure which is erected, altered, or moved into the floodfringe shall meet the requirements of sub. (a). Subject to the requirements of sub. (e), storage yards, surface parking lots and other such uses may be placed at lower elevations if an adequate warning system exists to protect life and property.
- (d) *Manufacturing and Industrial Uses.* Unless otherwise prohibited, any manufacturing or industrial structure which is erected, altered, or moved into the floodfringe shall have the lowest floor elevated to or above the flood protection elevation or meet the floodproofing standards in Sec. 58-905. Subject to the requirements of sub. (e), storage yards, surface parking lots and other such uses may be placed at lower elevations if an adequate warning system exists to protect life and property.

- (e) *Storage of Materials.* Materials that are buoyant, flammable, explosive, or injurious to property, water quality or human, animal, plant, fish, or aquatic life shall be stored at or above the flood protection elevation or floodproofed in compliance with sec. 58-905. Adequate measures, as determined by the department of community development shall be taken to ensure that such materials will not enter the water body during flooding.
- (f) *Public Utilities, Streets and Bridges.* All utilities, streets and bridges shall be designed to be compatible with comprehensive floodplain development plans; and
 - (1) When failure of public utilities, streets and bridges would endanger public health or safety, or where such facilities are deemed essential, construction or repair of such facilities shall only be permitted if they are designed to comply with Sec. 58-905.
 - (2) Minor roads or non-essential utilities may be constructed at lower elevations if they are designed to withstand flood forces to the regional flood elevation.
- (g) *Sewage Systems.* All sewage disposal systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood water into the system, pursuant to Sec. 58-905(c), to the flood protection elevation and meet the provisions of all local ordinances and Wis. Admin. Code Ch. SPS 383. Ozaukee County regulates all private, onsite, wastewater treatment systems (POWTS), as regulated under SPS 383 in incorporated parts of the county.
- (h) *Wells.* All wells shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the system, pursuant to Sec. 58-905(c), to the flood protection elevation and shall meet the provisions of Wis. Admin. Code Ch. NR 811 and NR 812. Ozaukee County administers this regulation for private wells on properties served by Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems in incorporated parts of the county.
- (i) *Solid Waste Disposal Sites.* Disposal of solid or hazardous waste is prohibited in floodfringe areas.
- (j) *Deposition of Materials.* Any deposited material must meet all the provisions of this article and Section 58-603.
- (k) *Manufactured Homes.*

- (1) Owners or operators of all manufactured home parks and subdivisions shall provide adequate surface drainage to minimize flood damage, and prepare, secure approval, and file an evacuation plan, indicating vehicular access and escape routes, with local emergency management authorities.
 - (2) In existing manufactured home parks, all new homes, replacement homes on existing pads, and substantially improved homes shall:
 - a. have the lowest floor elevated to the flood protection elevation; and
 - b. be anchored so they do not float, collapse, or move laterally during a flood.
 - (3) Outside of existing manufactured home parks, including new manufactured home parks and all single units outside of existing parks, all new, replacement and substantially improved manufactured homes shall meet the residential development standards for the floodfringe in sub. (a).
- (l) *Mobile Recreational Vehicles.* All mobile recreational vehicles must be on site in accordance with Sec. 58-441(11) and be:
- (1) fully licensed and ready for highway use; or
 - (2) shall meet the elevation and anchoring requirements in sub. (k)(2) and (k)(3).

A mobile 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 utilities and security devices and has no permanently attached additions.

DIVISION 5. OTHER FLOODPLAIN DISTRICTS

Sec. 58-790. – General Floodplain District (GFP)

- (a) *Applicability.* The provisions for the General Floodplain District shall apply to development in all floodplains mapped as A, AO, AH, and in AE zones within which a floodway is not delineated on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps identified in Sec. 58-755(b)(1).
- (b) *Floodway Boundaries.* For proposed development in zone A, or in zone AE within which a floodway is not delineated on the Flood Insurance Rate Map identified in Sec. 58-755(b)(1), the boundaries of the regulatory floodway

shall be determined pursuant to sub. (e). If the development is proposed to encroach upon the regulatory floodway, the development is subject to the standards of Division 3. If the development is located entirely within the floodfringe, the development is subject to the standards of Division 4.

- (c) *Permitted Uses.* Pursuant to sub. (e) it shall be determined whether the proposed use is located within the floodway or floodfringe. Those uses permitted in the Floodway District under Sec. 58-771 and Floodfringe District under Sec. 58-781 are allowed within the General Floodplain District, according to the standards of sub. (d) provided that all permits or certificates required under Sec. 58-902 have been issued.
- (d) *Standards for Development in the General Floodplain District.* Division 3 applies to floodway areas, determined to pursuant to sub. (e); Division 4 applies to floodfringe areas, determined to pursuant to sub. (e).
 - (1) New construction and substantial improvement of structures in zone AO shall have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated:
 - a. To or above the depth, in feet, as shown on the FIRM above the highest adjacent natural grade; or
 - b. If the depth is not specified on the FIRM, two (2) above the highest adjacent natural grade or higher.
 - (2) New Construction and substantial improvement of structures in zone AH shall have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to or above the flood protection elevation.
 - (3) In AO/AH zones, provide adequate drainage paths to guide floodwaters around structures.
 - (4) All development in zones AO and zone AH shall meet the requirements of Division 4 applicable to flood fringe areas.
- (e) *Determining Floodway and Floodfringe Limits.* Upon receiving an application for development within zone A, or within zone AE where a floodway has not been delineated on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps, the director of community development shall:
 - (1) Require the applicant to submit two copies of an aerial photograph or a plan which shows the proposed development with respect to the general floodplain district limits, stream channel, and existing floodplain developments, along with a legal description of the

property, fill limits and elevations, building floor elevations and flood proofing measures and the flood zone as shown on the FIRM.

- (2) Require the applicant to furnish any of the following information deemed necessary by the Department to evaluate the effects of the proposal upon flood height and flood flows, regional flood elevation and to determine floodway boundaries.
 - a. A Hydrologic and Hydraulic Study as specified in Sec. 58-902(b)(3).
 - b. Plan (surface view) showing elevations or contours of the ground; pertinent structure, fill or storage elevations; size, location, and layout of all proposed and existing structures on the site; location and elevations of streets, water supply, and sanitary facilities; soil types and other pertinent information.
 - c. Specifications for building construction and materials, floodproofing, filling, dredging, channel improvement, storage, water supply and sanitary facilities.

Sec. 58-791. – Flood Storage District.

The flood storage district delineates that portion of the floodplain where storage of floodwaters has been taken into account and is relied upon to reduce the regional flood discharge. The district protects the flood storage areas and assures that any development in the storage areas will not decrease the effective flood storage capacity which would cause higher flood elevations.

- (a) *Applicability.* The provisions of this section apply to all areas within the Flood Storage District (FSD), as shown on the official floodplain zoning maps.
- (b) *Permitted Uses.* Any use or development which occurs in a flood storage district must meet the applicable requirements in Sec. 58-781.
- (c) *Standards for Development in Flood Storage Districts.*
 - (1) Development in a flood storage district shall not cause an increase equal or greater than 0.00 of a foot in the height of the regional flood.
 - (2) No development shall be allowed which removes flood storage volume unless an equal volume of storage as defined by the pre-development ground surface and the regional flood elevation shall be provided in the immediate area of the proposed development to compensate for the volume of storage, which is lost, (compensatory

storage). Excavation below the groundwater table is not considered to provide an equal volume of storage.

- (3) If compensatory storage cannot be provided, the area may not be developed unless the entire area zoned as flood storage district – on this waterway – is rezoned to the floodfringe district. This must include a revision to the floodplain study and map done for the waterway to revert to the higher regional flood discharge calculated without floodplain storage, as per Division 8 of this article.
- (4) No area may be removed from the flood storage district unless it can be shown that the area has been filled to the flood protection elevation and is contiguous to other lands lying outside of the floodplain.

DIVISION 6. NONCONFORMING USES

Sec. 58-800. – General.

(a) Applicability.

- (1) The standards in this section shall apply to all uses and buildings that do not conform to the provisions contained within a floodplain zoning ordinance or with Wis. Stat. § 87.30, Wis. Admin. Code §§ NR 116.12 – 116.14, and 44 C.F.R. § 59-72, these standards shall apply to all modifications or additions to any nonconforming use or structure and to the use of any structure or premises which was lawful before the passage of this ordinance or any amendment thereto. A party asserting existence of a lawfully established nonconforming use or structure has the burden of proving that the use or structure was compliant with the floodplain zoning ordinance in effect at the time the use or structure was created.
 - (2) As permit applications are received for additions, modifications, or substantial improvements to nonconforming buildings in the floodplain, municipalities shall develop a list of those nonconforming buildings, their present equalized assessed value, and a list of the costs of those activities associated with changes to those buildings.
- (b) The existing lawful use of a structure or its accessory use which is not in conformity with the provisions of this article may continue subject to the following conditions:
- (1) No modifications or additions to a nonconforming use or structure shall be permitted unless they comply with this article. The words

"modification" and "addition" include, but are not limited to, any alteration, addition, modification, structural repair, rebuilding or replacement of any such existing use, structure or accessory structure or use. Maintenance is not considered a modification; this includes painting, decorating, paneling and other nonstructural components and the maintenance, repair or replacement of existing private sewage or water supply systems or connections to public utilities. Any costs associated with the repair of a damaged structure are not considered maintenance.

The construction of a single deck that does not exceed 200 square feet and that is adjacent to the exterior wall of a principal structure is not an extension, modification, or addition. The roof of the structure may extend over the deck at a doorway in order to provide safe ingress and egress to the principal structure. The roof structure may extend perpendicular from the dwelling a maximum of four feet and two feet beyond the door in each direction.

- (2) If a nonconforming use or the use of a nonconforming structure is discontinued for 12 consecutive months, it is no longer permitted and any future use of the property, and any structure or building thereon, shall conform to the applicable requirements of this article.
- (3) The municipality shall keep a record which lists all nonconforming uses and nonconforming structures, their present equalized assessed value, the cost of all modifications or additions which have been permitted, and the percentage of the structure's total current value those modifications represent.
- (4) No modification or addition to any nonconforming structure or any structure with a nonconforming use, which over the life of the structure would equal or exceed 50% of its present equalized assessed value, shall be allowed unless the entire structure is permanently changed to a conforming structure with a conforming use in compliance with the applicable requirements of this article. If the cost exceeds 50% as defined above, contiguous dry land access must be provided for residential and commercial uses in compliance with Sec. 58-782(a). The costs of elevating the lowest floor of a nonconforming building or a building with a nonconforming use to the flood protection elevation are excluded from the 50% provisions of this paragraph.
- (5) No maintenance on a per event basis to any nonconforming structure or any structure with a nonconforming use, the cost of which would

equal or exceed 50% of its present equalized assessed value, shall be allowed unless the entire structure is permanently changed to a conforming structure with a conforming use in compliance with the applicable requirements of this article. If the cost exceeds 50% as defined above, contiguous dry land access must be provided for residential and commercial uses in compliance with Sec. 58-782(a). Maintenance to any nonconforming structure, which does not exceed 50% of its present equalized assessed value on a per event basis, does not count against the cumulative calculations over the life of the structure for substantial improvement calculations.

- (6) If on a per event basis the total value of the work being done under sub. (4) and (5) equals or exceeds 50% of the present equalized assessed value, the work shall not be permitted unless the entire structure is permanently changed to a conforming structure with a conforming use in compliance with the applicable requirements of this article. Contiguous dry land access must be provided for residential and commercial uses in compliance with Sec. 58-782(a).
- (7) Except as provided in sub. (8), if any nonconforming structure or any structure with a nonconforming use is destroyed or is substantially damaged by a flood, it cannot be replaced, reconstructed, or rebuilt unless the use and the structure meet the current ordinance requirements. A structure is considered substantially damaged if the total cost to restore the structure to its pre-damaged condition equals or exceeds 50% of the structure's present equalized assessed value.
- (8) For nonconforming buildings that are substantially damaged or destroyed by a nonflood disaster, the repair or reconstruction of any such nonconforming building shall be permitted in order to restore it to the size and use in effect prior to the damage event, provided that the following minimum requirements are met, and all required permits have been granted prior to the start of construction:
 - a. Residential Structures
 1. Shall have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to or above the base flood elevation using fill, pilings, columns, posts, or perimeter walls. Perimeter walls must meet the requirements of Sec. 58-905(b).
 2. Shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the

effects of buoyancy, and shall be constructed with methods and materials resistant to flood damage.

3. Shall be constructed with electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing and air conditioning equipment and other service facilities that are designed and/or elevated so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.
4. In A Zones, obtain, review, and utilize any flood data available from a federal, state or other source.
5. In AO Zones with no elevations specified, shall have the lowest floor, including basement, meet the standards in Sec. 58-790(d).
6. in AO Zones, shall have adequate drainage paths around structures on slopes to guide floodwaters around and away from the structure.
7. Contiguous dryland access is not required.

b. Nonresidential Structures

1. Shall meet the requirements of sub. (b)(8)a.
2. Shall either have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to or above the regional flood elevation; or, together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, shall meet the standards in Sec. 58-905(a) or (b).
3. In AO Zones with no elevations specified, shall have the lowest floor, including basement, meet the standards in Sec. 58-790(d).

- (c) A nonconforming historic structure may be altered if the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a historic structure, the alteration will comply with Sec, 58-772(a), flood resistant materials are used, and construction practices and floodproofing methods that comply with Sec. 58-905 are used. Repair or rehabilitation of historic structures shall be exempt from the development standards of sub. (b)(8)a if it is determined that the proposed repair or rehabilitation will not preclude the structure's

continued designation as a historic structure and is the minimum necessary to preserve the historic character and design of the structure.

- (d) Notwithstanding anything in this chapter to the contrary, modifications, additions, maintenance, and repairs to a nonconforming building shall not be prohibited based on cost and the building's nonconforming use shall be permitted to continue if:
- (1) Any living quarters in the nonconforming building are elevated to be at or above the flood protection elevation;
 - (2) The lowest floor of the nonconforming building, including the basement, is elevated to or above the regional flood elevation;
 - (3) The nonconforming building is permanently changed to conform to the applicable requirements of Division 2;
 - (4) If the nonconforming building is in the floodway, the building is permanently changed to conform to the applicable requirements of Sec. 58-772(a), 58-772(b)(2) through (b)(5), 58-772(c), 58-772(d), and 58-801. Any development that adds additional fill or creates an encroachment in the floodplain from beyond the original nonconforming structure's 3-D building envelope must determine the floodway in accordance with Sec. 58-790(e). If the encroachment is in the floodway, it must meet the standards in Sec. 58-772(d);
 - (5) If the nonconforming building is in the floodfringe, the building is permanently changed to conform to the applicable requirements of Sec. 58-782 and 58-802;
 - (6) Repair or reconstruction of nonconforming structures and substantial improvements of residential buildings in zones A1-30, AE, and AH must have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated to or above the base flood elevation;
 - (7) Repair or reconstruction of nonconforming structures and substantial improvements of non-residential buildings in zones A1-30, AE, and AH must have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated to or above the base flood elevation, or (together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities) be designed so that below the base flood elevation the building is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy:

- a. Where a non-residential structure is intended to be made watertight below the base flood elevation, a registered professional engineer or architect must develop and/or review structural design, specifications, and plans for the construction, and must certify that the design and methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice for meeting the provisions of sub. (d)(7) above.
 - b. The community must maintain a record of such certification including the specific elevation to which each such structure is floodproofed;
- (8) Fully enclosed areas below the lowest floor of repair or reconstruction of nonconforming structures and substantial improvements in zones A1-30, AE, and AH that are usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access, or storage, must be designed to adequately equalize hydrostatic forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters. Subsequent improvements to repaired or reconstructed nonconforming structures must not increase the degree of their nonconformity. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect, or meet the following criteria:
- a. A minimum of two openings into each enclosed area must be located below the base flood elevation and provide a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area.
 - b. The bottom of all openings must be no higher than one foot above the adjacent grade.
 - c. Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves, or other coverings if they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters;
- (9) Recreational vehicles placed on sites within zones A1-30, AH, and AE shall:
- a. Comply with the provisions of sec. 58-441(11); and
 - b. Be fully licensed and ready for highway use (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);

- (10) In a regulatory floodway that has been delineated on the FIRM in zone A1-30 or AE, encroachments, including repair or reconstruction of nonconforming structures, substantial improvement, or other development (including fill) must be prohibited unless it has been demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed encroachment will not result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge. Subsequent improvements to repair or reconstructed nonconforming structures must not increase the degree of their nonconformity;
- (11) In zone A, the community must obtain, review, and reasonably utilize any base flood elevation and floodway data available from a federal, state, or other source as criteria for requiring repair or reconstruction of nonconforming structures, substantial improvement, and other development to meet sub. (d)(6) through (8) above. Any development that adds additional fill or creates an encroachment in the floodplain from beyond the original nonconforming structure's 3-D building envelope must determine the floodway in accordance with Sec. 58-790(e). If the encroachment is in the floodway, it must meet the standards in Sec. 58-772(d). Subsequent improvements to repair or reconstructed nonconforming structures must not increase the degree of their nonconformity;
- (12) In zones A1-30 or AE where a regulatory floodway has not been delineated on the FIRM, repair or reconstruction of nonconforming structures, substantial improvement, or any development that adds additional fill or creates an encroachment in the floodplain from beyond the original nonconforming structure's 3-D building envelope must determine the floodway in accordance with Sec. 58-790(e). If the encroachment is in the floodway, it must meet the standards in Sec. 58-772(d). Subsequent improvements to repair or reconstructed nonconforming structures must not increase the degree of their nonconformity;
- (13) In zone AO, repair or reconstruction of nonconforming structures and substantial improvements of residential structures must 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 FIRM (at least two feet if no depth number is specified). Subsequent

improvements to repair or reconstructed nonconforming structures must not increase the degree of their nonconformity; or

- (14) In zone AO, repair or reconstruction of nonconforming structures and substantial improvements of nonresidential structures must 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 FIRM (at least two feet if no depth number is specified), or (together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities) be structurally dry-floodproofed to that level according to the standard specified in sub. (d)(6) above. Subsequent improvements to repair or reconstructed nonconforming structures must not increase the degree of their nonconformity.

Sec. 58-801. – Floodway District.

- (a) No modification or addition shall be allowed to any nonconforming structure or any structure with a nonconforming use in the Floodway District, unless such modification or addition:
- (1) Has been granted a permit or variance which meets all ordinance requirements.
 - (2) Meets the requirements of Sec. 58-800.
 - (3) Shall not increase the obstruction to flood flows or regional flood height.
 - (4) Any addition to the existing structure shall be floodproofed, pursuant to Sec. 58-905, by means other than the use of fill, to the flood protection elevation; and,
 - (5) If any part of the foundation below the flood protection elevation is enclosed, the following standards shall apply:
 - a. The enclosed area shall be designed by a registered architect or engineer to allow for the efficient entry and exit of flood waters without human intervention. A minimum of two openings must be provided with a minimum net area of at least one square inch for every one square foot of the enclosed area. The lowest part of the opening can be no more than 12 inches above the adjacent grade.
 - b. The parts of the foundation located below the flood protection elevation must be constructed of flood-resistant materials.

- c. Mechanical and utility equipment must be elevated or floodproofed to or above the flood protection elevation; and
 - d. The use must be limited to parking, building access or limited storage.
- (b) No new on site sewage disposal system, or addition to an existing on site sewage disposal system, except where an addition has been ordered by a government agency to correct a hazard to public health, shall be allowed in the Floodway District. Any replacement, repair, or maintenance of an existing on site sewage disposal system in a floodway area shall meet the applicable requirements of all municipal ordinances, Sec. 58-905(c) and Wis. Admin. Code Ch. SPS 383.
- (c) No new well or modification to an existing well used to obtain potable water shall be allowed in the Floodway District. Any replacement, repair, or maintenance of an existing well in the Floodway District shall meet the applicable requirements of all municipal ordinances, Sec. 58-905(c) and Wis. Admin. Code Ch. NR 811 and NR 812.

Sec. 58-802. – Floodfringe District.

- (a) No modification or addition shall be allowed to any nonconforming structure or any structure with a nonconforming use unless such modification or addition has been granted a permit or variance by the municipality and meets the requirements of Sec. 58-782 except where sub. (b) is applicable.
- (b) Where compliance with the provisions of sub. (a) would result in unnecessary hardship and only where the structure will not be used for human habitation or be associated with a high flood damage potential, the Board of Appeals, using the procedures established in Sec. 58-904, may grant a variance from those provisions of sub. (a) for modifications or additions using the criteria listed below. Modifications or additions which are protected to elevations lower than the flood protection elevation may be permitted if:
- (1) No floor is allowed below the regional flood elevation for residential or commercial structures.
 - (2) Human lives are not endangered.
 - (3) Public facilities, such as water or sewer, shall not be installed.
 - (4) Flood depths shall not exceed two feet.

- (5) Flood velocities shall not exceed two feet per second; and
 - (6) The structure shall not be used for storage of materials as described in Sec. 58-782(e).
- (c) All new private sewage disposal systems, or addition to, replacement, repair or maintenance of a private sewage disposal system shall meet all the applicable provisions of all local ordinances, Sec. 58-905(c) and Wis. Admin. Code Ch. SPS 383.
 - (d) All new wells, or addition to, replacement, repair, or maintenance of a well shall meet the applicable provisions of this article, Sec. 58-905(c) and Wis. Admin. Code Ch. NR 811 and NR 812.

Sec. 58-803. – Flood Storage Districts.

No modifications or additions shall be allowed to any nonconforming structure in a flood storage area unless the standards outlined in Sec. 58-791(c) are met.

DIVISION 7. ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 58-901. – Administration.

The department of community development shall administer this article.

Sec. 58-902. – Director of Community Development.

- (a) *Duties and Powers.* The director of community development or their designee is authorized to administer this article and shall have the following duties and powers:
 - (1) Advise applicants of the provisions of this article, assist in preparing permit applications and appeals, and assure that the regional flood elevation for the proposed development is shown on all permit applications.
 - (2) Issue permits and inspect properties for compliance with provisions of this article and issue certificates of compliance where appropriate.
 - (3) Inspect and assess all damaged floodplain structures to determine if substantial damage to the structures has occurred.
 - (4) Keep records of all official actions such as:
 - a. All permits issued, inspections made, and work approved.

- b. Documentation of certified lowest floor and regional flood elevations.
 - c. Floodproofing certificates.
 - d. Water surface profiles, floodplain zoning maps and ordinances, nonconforming uses and structures including changes, appeals, variances and amendments.
 - e. All substantial damage assessment reports for floodplain structures.
 - f. List of nonconforming structures and uses.
- (5) Submit copies of the following items to the WDNR Regional office:
- a. Within 10 days of the decision, a copy of any decisions on variances, appeals for map or text interpretations, and map or text amendments.
 - b. Copies of case-by-case analyses and other required information.
 - c. Copies of substantial damage assessments performed and all related correspondence concerning the assessments.
- (6) Investigate, prepare reports, and report violations of this article to the municipal zoning agency and attorney for prosecution. Copies of the reports shall also be sent to the WDNR Regional office.
- (7) Submit copies of amendments to the FEMA Regional office.
- (b) *Building Permit.* A building permit shall be obtained before any development; repair, modification, or addition to an existing structure; or change in the use of a building or structure, including sewer and water facilities, may be initiated. Application to the department of community development shall include:
- (1) General Information.
 - a. Name and address of the applicant, property owner and contractor.

- b. Legal description, proposed use, and whether it is new construction or a modification.
- (2) Site Development Plan. A site plan drawn to scale shall be submitted with the permit application form and shall contain all of the following where applicable:
- a. Location, dimensions, area and elevation of the lot.
 - b. Location of the ordinary highwater mark of any abutting navigable waterways.
 - c. Location of any structures with distances measured from the lot lines and street center lines.
 - d. Location of any existing or proposed on-site sewage systems or private water supply systems.
 - e. Location and elevation of existing or future access roads.
 - f. Location of floodplain and floodway limits as determined from the official floodplain zoning maps.
 - g. The elevation of the lowest floor of proposed buildings and any fill using the vertical datum from the adopted study – either National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) or North American Vertical Datum (NAVD).
 - h. Data sufficient to determine the regional flood elevation in NGVD or NAVD at the location of the development and to determine whether or not the requirements of Divisions 3 or 4 are met.
 - i. Data to determine if the proposed development will cause an obstruction to flow or an increase in regional flood height or discharge according to Sec. 58-761. This may include any of the information noted in Sec. 58-772(a).
- (3) *Hydraulic and Hydrologic Studies to Analyze Development.* All hydraulic and hydrologic studies shall be completed under the direct supervision of a professional engineer registered in the State. The study contractor shall be responsible for the technical adequacy of the study. All studies shall be reviewed and approved by the WDNR.

- a. Zone A floodplains and in AE zones within which a floodway is not delineated:
1. Hydrology. The appropriate method shall be based on the standards in Wis. Admin. Code §. NR 116.07(3).
 2. Hydraulic modeling. The regional flood elevation shall be based on the standards in Wis. Admin. Code § NR 116.07(4) and the following:
 - i. determination of the required limits of the hydraulic model shall be based on detailed study information for downstream structures (dam, bridge, culvert) to determine adequate starting WSEL for the study.
 - ii. channel sections must be surveyed.
 - iii. minimum four-foot contour data in the overbanks shall be used for the development of cross section overbank and floodplain mapping.
 - iv. a maximum distance of 500 feet between cross sections is allowed in developed areas with additional intermediate cross sections required at transitions in channel bottom slope including a survey of the channel at each location.
 - v. the most current version of HEC-RAS shall be used.
 - vi. a survey of bridge and culvert openings and the top of road is required at each structure.
 - vii. additional cross sections are required at the downstream and upstream limits of the proposed development and any necessary intermediate locations based on the length of the reach if greater than 500 feet.
 - viii. standard accepted engineering practices shall be used when assigning parameters for the base model such as flow, Manning's N values, expansion and contraction coefficients or

effective flow limits. The base model shall be calibrated to past flooding data such as high-water marks to determine the reasonableness of the model results. If no historical data is available, adequate justification shall be provided for any parameters outside standard accepted engineering practices.

- ix. the model must extend past the upstream limit of the difference in the existing and proposed flood profiles in order to provide a tie-in to existing studies. The height difference between the proposed flood profile and the existing study profiles shall be no more than 0.00 feet.

3. Mapping. A work map of the reach studied shall be provided, showing all cross-section locations, floodway/floodplain limits based on best available topographic data, geographic limits of the proposed development and whether the proposed development is located in the floodway.

- i. If the proposed development is located outside of the floodway, then it is determined to have no impact on the regional flood elevation.
- ii. If any part of the proposed development is in the floodway, it must be added to the base model to show the difference between existing and proposed conditions. The study must ensure that all coefficients remain the same as in the existing model, unless adequate justification based on standard accepted engineering practices is provided.

b. Zone AE Floodplains

1. Hydrology. If the proposed hydrology will change the existing study, the appropriate method to be used shall be based on Wis. Admin. Code § NR 116.07(3).
2. Hydraulic model. The regional flood elevation shall be based on the standards in Wis. Admin. Code § NR 116.07(4) and the following:

- i. Duplicate Effective Model. The effective model shall be reproduced to ensure correct transference of the model data and to allow integration of the revised data to provide a continuous FIS model upstream and downstream of the revised reach. If data from the effective model is available, models shall be generated that duplicate the FIS profiles and the elevations shown in the Floodway Data Table in the FIS report to within 0.1 foot.
- ii. Corrected Effective Model. The Corrected Effective Model shall not include any man-made physical changes since the effective model date but shall import the model into the most current version of HEC-RAS for WDNR review.
- iii. Existing (Pre-Project Conditions) Model. The Existing Model shall be required to support conclusions about the actual impacts of the project associated with the Revised (Post-Project) Model or to establish more up-to-date models on which to base the Revised (Post-Project) Model.
- iv. Revised (Post-Project Conditions) Model. The Revised (Post-Project Conditions) Model shall incorporate the Existing Model and any proposed changes to the topography caused by the proposed development. This model shall reflect proposed conditions.
- v. All changes to the Duplicate Effective Model and subsequent models must be supported by certified topographic information, bridge plans, construction plans and survey notes.
- vi. Changes to the hydraulic models shall be limited to the stream reach for which the revision is being requested. Cross sections upstream and downstream of the revised reach shall be identical to those in the effective model and result in water surface elevations and top widths

computed by the revised models matching those in the effective models upstream and downstream of the revised reach as required. The Effective Model shall not be truncated.

3. Mapping. Maps and associated engineering data shall be submitted to the WDNR for review which meet the following conditions:
 - i. Consistency between the revised hydraulic models, the revised floodplain and floodway delineations, the revised flood profiles, topographic work map, annotated FIRMs and/or Flood Boundary Floodway Maps (FBFMs), construction plans, bridge plans.
 - ii. Certified topographic map of suitable scale, contour interval, and a planimetric map showing the applicable items. If a digital version of the map is available, it may be submitted in order that the FIRM may be more easily revised.
 - iii. Annotated FIRM panel showing the revised 1% and 0.2% annual chance floodplains and floodway boundaries.
 - iv. If an annotated FIRM and/or FBFM and digital mapping data (GIS or CADD) are used, then all supporting documentation or metadata must be included with the data submission along with the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) projection and State Plane Coordinate System in accordance with FEMA mapping specifications.
 - v. The revised floodplain boundaries shall tie into the effective floodplain boundaries.
 - vi. All cross sections from the effective model shall be labeled in accordance with the effective map and a cross section lookup table shall be included to relate to the model input numbering scheme.

- vii. Both the current and proposed floodways shall be shown on the map.
 - viii. The stream centerline, or profile baseline used to measure stream distances in the model shall be visible on the map.
 - (4) *Expiration.* All permits issued under the authority of this article shall expire no more than 180 days after issuance. The permit may be extended for a maximum of 180 days for good and sufficient cause. If the permitted work has not started within 180 days of the permit date, the development must comply with any regulation, including any revision to the FIRM or FIS, that took effect after the permit date.
- (c) Certificate of Compliance. No land shall be occupied or used, and no building which is hereafter constructed, altered, added to, modified, repaired, rebuilt, or replaced shall be occupied until a certificate of compliance is issued by the director of community development, except where no permit is required, subject to the following provisions:
- (1) The certificate of compliance shall show that the building or premises or part thereof, and the proposed use, conform to the provisions of this article;
 - (2) Application for such certificate shall be concurrent with the application for a permit;
 - (3) If all ordinance provisions are met, the certificate of compliance shall be issued within 10 days after written notification that the permitted work is completed;
 - (4) The applicant shall submit a certification signed by a registered professional engineer, architect, or land surveyor that the fill, lowest floor and floodproofing elevations are in compliance with the permit issued. Floodproofing measures also require certification by a registered professional engineer or architect that the requirements of Sec. 58-905 are met;
 - (5) Where applicable pursuant to Sec. 58- 790(d), the applicant must submit a certification by a registered professional engineer or surveyor of the elevation of the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member supporting the lowest floor (excluding pilings or columns), and an indication of whether the structure contains a basement; and

- (6) Where applicable pursuant to Sec. 58- 790(d), the applicant must submit certifications by a registered professional engineer or architect that the structural design and methods of construction meet accepted standards of practice as required by Sec. 58- 790(d).
- (d) Other Permits. Prior to obtaining a floodplain development permit the applicant must secure all necessary permits from federal, state, and local agencies, including but not limited to those required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under s. 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Amendments of 1972, 33 U.S.C. 1344.

Sec. 58-903. – The Department of Community Development.

- (a) The department of community development shall:
 - (1) oversee the functions of the office;
 - (2) review and advise the governing body on all proposed amendments to this article, maps, and text; and
 - (3) publish adequate notice pursuant to Ch. 985, Stats., specifying the date, time, place, and subject of the public hearing.
- (b) The department of community development shall not:
 - (1) grant variances to the terms of this article in place of action by the Board of Appeals; or
 - (2) amend the text or zoning maps in place of official action by the governing body.

Sec. 58-904. – Board of Appeals.

The Board of Appeals, created under Wis. Stat. § 62.23(7)(e) and Sec. 2-461, *et seq.*, of this code, is hereby authorized or shall be appointed to act for the purposes of this article. The Board shall exercise the powers conferred by Wisconsin Statutes and adopt rules for the conduct of business.

- (a) *Powers and Duties.* The Board of Appeals shall:
 - (1) Appeals. Hear and decide appeals where it is alleged there is an error in any order, requirement, decision or determination made by an administrative official in the enforcement or administration of this article.

- (2) Boundary Disputes. Hear and decide disputes concerning the district boundaries shown on the official floodplain zoning map.
- (3) Variances. Hear and decide, upon appeal, variances from the standards of this article.

(b) *Appeals to the Board.*

- (1) Appeals to the board may be taken by any person aggrieved, or by any officer or department of the municipality affected by any decision of the Director of Community Development or other administrative officer. Such appeal shall be taken within 30 days unless otherwise provided by the rules of the board, by filing with the official whose decision is in question, and with the board, a notice of appeal specifying the reasons for the appeal. The official whose decision is in question shall transmit to the board all records regarding the matter appealed.
- (2) Notice and Hearing for Appeals Including Variances.
 - a. Notice. The board shall:
 1. Fix a reasonable time for the hearing;
 2. Publish adequate notice pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, specifying the date, time, place, and subject of the hearing; and
 3. Assure that notice shall be mailed to the parties in interest and the WDNR Regional office at least 10 days in advance of the hearing.
 - b. Hearing. Any party may appear in person or by agent. The board shall:
 1. Resolve boundary disputes according to sub. (c);
 2. Decide variance applications according to sub (d); and
 3. Decide appeals of permit denials according to sub (e).
 - c. Decision. The final decision regarding the appeal or variance application shall:

1. Be made within a reasonable time.
2. Be sent to the WDNR Regional office within 10 days of the decision.
3. Be a written determination signed by the chairman or secretary of the Board.
4. State the specific facts which are the basis for the Board's decision.
5. Either affirm, reverse, vary or modify the order, requirement, decision, or determination appealed, in whole or in part, dismiss the appeal for lack of jurisdiction or grant or deny the variance application; and
6. Include the reasons for granting an appeal, describing the hardship demonstrated by the applicant in the case of a variance, clearly stated in the recorded minutes of the Board proceedings.

(c) *Boundary Disputes.* The following procedure shall be used by the Board in hearing disputes concerning floodplain district boundaries:

- (1) If a floodplain district boundary is established by approximate or detailed floodplain studies, the flood elevations or profiles shall prevail in locating the boundary;
- (2) The person contesting the boundary location shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present arguments and technical evidence to the Board; and
- (3) If the boundary is incorrectly mapped, the Board should inform the zoning committee or the person contesting the boundary location to petition the governing body for a map amendment according to Division 8.

(d) *Variance.*

- (1) The Board may, upon appeal, grant a variance from the standards of this article if an applicant convincingly demonstrates all of the following:

- a. Literal enforcement of this article will cause unnecessary hardship.
 - b. The hardship is due to adoption of the floodplain ordinance and unique property conditions, not common to adjacent lots or premises. In such case the ordinance or map must be amended.
 - c. The variance is not contrary to the public interest.
 - d. The variance is consistent with the purpose of this article in Section 58-752.
- (2) In addition to the criteria in sub. (1), to qualify for a variance under FEMA regulations, the Board must find that the following criteria have been met:
- a. The variance shall not cause any increase in the regional flood elevation.
 - b. The applicant has shown good and sufficient cause for issuance of the variance.
 - c. Failure to grant the variance would result in exceptional hardship.
 - d. Granting the variance will not result in additional threats to public safety, extraordinary expense, create a nuisance, cause fraud on or victimization of the public, or conflict with existing local laws or ordinances.
 - e. The variance granted is the minimum necessary, considering the flood hazard, to afford relief.
- (3) A variance shall not:
- a. Grant, extend or increase any use prohibited in the zoning district.
 - b. Be granted for a hardship based solely on an economic gain or loss.
 - c. Be granted for a hardship which is self-created.

- d. Damage the rights or property values of other persons in the area.
 - e. Allow actions without the amendments to this article or map(s) required in Division 8.
 - f. Allow any alteration of an historic structure, including its use, which would preclude its continued designation as an historic structure.
- (4) When a floodplain variance is granted, the Board may notify the applicant in writing that it may increase risks to life and property and flood insurance premiums could increase up to \$25.00 per \$100.00 of coverage. A copy shall be maintained with the variance record.
- (e) *Appeals of Permit Denials.*
- (1) The Board shall review all data related to the appeal. This may include:
 - a. Permit application data listed in Sec. 58-902(b).
 - b. Floodway/floodfringe determination data in Sec. 58-790(e).
 - c. Data listed in Sec. 58-772(a)(2) where the applicant has not submitted this information to the director of community development.
 - d. Other data submitted with the application or submitted to the Board with the appeal.
 - (2) For appeals of all denied permits the Board shall:
 - a. Consider recommendations of the community development department; and
 - c. Either uphold the denial or grant the appeal.
 - (3) For appeals concerning increases in regional flood elevation the Board shall:
 - a. Uphold the denial where the Board agrees with the data showing an increase in flood elevation. Increases may only be allowed after amending the flood profile and map and all

appropriate legal arrangements are made with all adversely affected property owners as per the requirements Division 8; and

- b. Grant the appeal where the Board agrees that the data properly demonstrates that the project does not cause an increase provided no other reasons for denial exist.

Sec. 58-905. – Floodproofing Standards.

- (a) No permit or variance shall be issued for a non-residential structure designed to be watertight below the regional flood elevation until the applicant submits a plan certified by a registered professional engineer or architect that the floodproofing measures will protect the structure or development to or above the flood protection elevation and submits a FEMA Floodproofing Certificate. Floodproofing is not an alternative to the development standards in Divisions 2, 3, 4, or Sec. 58-790.
- (b) For a structure designed to allow the entry of floodwaters, no permit or variance shall be issued until the applicant submits a plan either:
 - (1) certified by a registered professional engineer or architect; or
 - (2) meeting or exceeding all of the following standards:
 - 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.
 - 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.
- (c) Floodproofing measures shall be designed, as appropriate, to:
 - (1) Withstand flood pressures, depths, velocities, uplift and impact forces and other regional flood factors.
 - (2) Protect structures to the flood protection elevation.

- (3) Anchor structures to foundations to resist flotation and lateral movement.
- (4) Minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters.
- (5) Minimize or eliminate discharges into flood waters.
- (6) Placement of essential utilities to or above the flood protection elevation; and
- (7) If any part of the foundation below the flood protection elevation is enclosed, the following standards shall apply:
 - a. The enclosed area shall be designed by a registered architect or engineer to allow for the efficient entry and exit of flood waters without human intervention. A minimum of two openings must be provided with a minimum net area of at least one square inch for every one square foot of the enclosed area. The lowest part of the opening can be no more than 12 inches above the adjacent grade.
 - b. The parts of the foundation located below the flood protection elevation must be constructed of flood-resistant materials.
 - c. Mechanical and utility equipment must be elevated or floodproofed to or above the flood protection elevation; and
 - d. The use must be limited to parking, building access or limited storage.

Sec. 58-906. – Public Information.

All maps, engineering data and regulations shall be available and widely distributed.

DIVISION 8. AMENDMENTS.

Sec. 58-950. – Standards.

Obstructions or increases may only be permitted if amendments are made to this article, the official floodplain zoning maps, floodway lines and water surface profiles, in accordance with Sec. 58-951.

- (a) In AE Zones with a mapped floodway, no obstructions or increases shall be permitted unless the applicant receives a Conditional Letter of Map Revision from FEMA and amendments are made to this article, the official floodplain zoning maps, floodway lines and water surface profiles, in accordance with

Sec. 58-951. Any such alterations must be reviewed and approved by FEMA and the WDNR.

- (b) In A Zones increases equal to or greater than 1.0 foot may only be permitted if the applicant receives a Conditional Letter of Map Revision from FEMA and amendments are made to this article, the official floodplain maps, floodway lines, and water surface profiles, in accordance with Sec. 58-951.

Sec. 58-951. – General.

The governing body shall change or supplement the floodplain zoning district boundaries and this article in the manner outlined in Sec. 58-952. Actions which require an amendment to the ordinance and/or submittal of a Letter of Map Change (LOMC) include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) Any fill or floodway encroachment that obstructs flow causing any increase in the regional flood height.
- (b) Any change to the floodplain boundaries and/or watercourse alterations on the FIRM.
- (c) Any changes to any other officially adopted floodplain maps listed in Sec. 58-755(b)(2).
- (d) Any floodplain fill which raises the elevation of the filled area to a height at or above the flood protection elevation and is contiguous to land lying outside the floodplain.
- (e) Correction of discrepancies between the water surface profiles and floodplain maps.
- (f) Any upgrade to a floodplain zoning ordinance text required by Wis. Admin. Code § NR 116.05, or otherwise required by law, or for changes by the municipality.
- (g) All channel relocations and changes to the maps to alter floodway lines or to remove an area from the floodway or the floodfringe that is based on a base flood elevation from a FIRM requires prior approval by FEMA.

Sec. 58-952. – Procedures.

Ordinance amendments may be made upon petition of any party according to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 62.23. The petitions shall include all data required by Sec. 58-790(e) and 58-902(b). The Building Permit shall not be issued until a Letter of Map Revision is issued by FEMA for the proposed changes.

- (a) The proposed amendment shall be referred to the zoning agency for a public hearing and recommendation to the governing body. The amendment and notice of public hearing shall be submitted to the WDNR Regional office for review prior to the hearing. The amendment procedure shall comply with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 62.23.
- (b) No amendments shall become effective until reviewed and approved by the WDNR.
- (c) All persons petitioning for a map amendment that obstructs flow causing any increase in the regional flood height, shall obtain flooding easements or other appropriate legal arrangements from all adversely affected property owners and notify local units of government before the amendment can be approved by the governing body.

Division 9. Enforcement and Penalties.

Sec. 58-990. – Enforcement and Penalties. Any violation of the provisions of this article by any person or entity shall be unlawful and an offense under this article, and a violator shall, upon conviction, forfeit not more than \$50, together with the costs of prosecution, for each offense. Each day of continued violation shall constitute a separate offense. Every violation of this article is declared to be a public nuisance and the creation may be enjoined and the maintenance may be abated by action at suit of the City of Mequon, the state, or any citizen thereof pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 87.30.