2/22/09

(Page 1/2)

To: Laura Hendrix
Ravalli County Floodplain Administrator

and

Ravalli County Commissioners

Beth cc this to Laura Hendrix (Glenda)

RECEIVED
FEB 23 2009
Ravalli County Commissioners

From: Dan Floyd
Bell Crossing Bridge Disaster Mitigation Committee

Subject: Request to Investigate Potential Disaster at the Bell Crossing Bridge.

I sent a letter to the County Commissioners in December and it was posted on the Commissioners Correspondence web site December 5, 2008. Most of the letter appeared, except the one page addendum that showed the extent of the potential damage to 16 houses if and when the river cuts through the bank. This attachment is noted as being with the "Administrative Staff."

When I talked with you (Laura) on Thursday February 19, you stated that you were not familar with the Bell Crossing situation. I am curious about who the "Administrative Staff" is if it is not you. Who is reviewing the information I submitted?

As the Floodplain Administrator, you are charged under Section 3-5 of the Ravalli County Floodplain Regulations, with the responsibility of Floodplain Management.

(Cont)

Section 1-6(1) specifically states that the purpose of the Floodplain Regulation is to protect human life and health to the greatest extent; Section 1-6 (11) states to prevent unnatural diversions of Floodwater to property that is normally Flood free and Section 1-6 (13) states to maintain the normal movement of surface water .... and the natural hydrological and ecological functions of wetlands, riparian areas, and other Flood prone areas.

The situation at the Bell Crossing Bridge is not normal and is caused by a bridge that is inadequately sized to carry the sediment in the river under the bridge. Work has been done by the Department of Transportation to protect the bridge to the detriment of downstream landowners.

I do hope that you will persue this issue with the same zeal and determination that the County has expended in the Tom Robak, Gary Shook and other investigations. This situation is orders of magnitude worse ~~that~~ than any of those cases and could cost the County multiple millions of dollars in damage claims.

Thank You in advance.

Dan Zylstra

cc: George Corn - Ravalli County Attorney
Larry Schock - DNRC MRO
John Cramer - Ravalli Republic
Michael Howell - Bitterroot Star
Todd Tillinger - Army Corps of Engineers