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**[EXT SENDER] Urban services**

1 message

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**Susan Drumheller** <susandrumheller29@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 17, 2022 at 9:05 AM

To: Bonner County Planning <planning@bonnercountyid.gov>, allan.songstad@bonnercountyid.gov, dave.frankenbach@bonnercountyid.gov, josh.pilch@bonnercountyid.gov, Don Davis <don.davis@bonnercountyid.gov>, debby.trinen@bonnercountyid.gov, wayne.benner@bonnercountyid.gov

Dear Commissioners,

There was a fair amount of discussion, as we were all getting tired last night, about the matter of urban level of services. We tend to get hung up on definitions and what's in the code now. I think it's important to focus on what the intent of these goals and objectives are, so they can guide better codes and definitions. Because in this area, we are sorely lacking.

Two years ago, the county amended the subdivision ordinance to dramatically reduce health district oversight of land divisions. This happened with no public involvement that I know of - there was no public comment at the hearing before the BOCC, which was during business hours in the middle of July. I only found out about it months later. Yet our original (revised) code was written with the understanding the PHD would be reviewing plats before they were approved, and building locations permits before they were approved. That is no more. Shared wells with individual septic systems might be OK in high density areas in a county that actually makes sure that wastewater systems are not going to impact well water, but we don't have those protections anymore in our county. The minutes from the BOCC meeting are attached (and this was not first heard by the P&Z, so no recommendation was forwarded to the board).

That's why it's important to make sure we include language in the code that creates an intent to have adequate services for those higher density areas to protect water quality.

The state regulates drinking water systems with 15 hookups or more. There seems to be a real emphasis on being consistent with state code. Maybe that definition is something that should be attached to urban water in the county code, not the plan, but it stands to reason that the intent of the term "urban services" is a public, or regulated system. overseen by professionals with regular testing, for high density areas.

I just want to make sure you understand the context for why we are pushing on some of these issues. Thanks again for considering these comments.


Thank you for all your time and efforts,

Susan Drumheller

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