

CALVERT COUNTY

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

ORDINANCE

**PREPARED BY
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING**

**410-535-2348 or 301-855-1243
TDD 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862**

**Sept. 23, 1984
(Rev. 02/17/88)
(Rev. 03/24/92)**

Calvert County Floodplain Management Ordinance - Sept. 23, 1984
(Rev. 02/17/88)
(Rev. 03/24/92)

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FLOODPLAIN ZONES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF CALVERT COUNTY AND REQUIRING A PERMIT FOR ALL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN ZONE; PROVIDING CERTAIN MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CONSTRUCTION WITHIN THE FLOODPLAIN ZONE; SETTING FORTH STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES FOR SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL OF PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT; AND ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE.

THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, DIVISION OF INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS, HEREIN REFERRED TO AS THE "LOCAL PERMITTING OFFICIAL" WILL HAVE THE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO IMPLEMENT THIS ORDINANCE.

BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CALVERT COUNTY AS FOLLOWS:

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Article I Purpose and General Provisions

Sect. 1.1 Purpose and Authority

The purposes of this Ordinance are to protect human life and health, minimize property damage, encourage appropriate construction practices to minimize future damage, protect individuals from unwittingly buying land subject to flood hazards, and to protect water supply, sanitary sewage disposal, and natural drainage. The prevention of unwise development in areas subject to flooding will reduce financial burdens to the community and the State, and will prevent future displacement and suffering of its residents. This protection is achieved through the review of all activities proposed within identified floodplains and by the issuance of permits for those activities that comply with the objectives of this Ordinance.

Floodplains are an important asset to the community. They perform vital natural functions such as temporary storage of floodwaters, moderation of peak flood flows, maintenance of water quality, groundwater recharge, prevention of erosion, habitat for diverse natural wildlife populations, recreational opportunities, and aesthetic quality. These functions are best served if floodplains are kept in their natural state. Wherever possible, the natural characteristics of floodplains and their associated wetlands and water bodies should be preserved and enhanced.

This Ordinance provides a unified, comprehensive approach to floodplain management which addresses these natural floodplain functions and the Federal and State programs concerned with floodplain management. These programs are: the National Flood Insurance Program (44 CRF 59-79); the State's Waterway Construction Permit Program for nontidal floodplains; the State's Tidal and Nontidal Wetlands Permit Programs; the U.S Army Corps of Engineers' Section 10 and 404 Permit Programs; and the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. Decisions to alter floodplains, especially floodways and stream channels, should be the result of careful planning processes which evaluate resource conditions and human needs.

This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to the authority of the Maryland Flood Hazard Management Act of 1976 (Annotated Code of Maryland, ~~Natural Resources~~ Article, Title 8, Subtitle 9A).

Sect. 1.2 Abrogation and Greater Restrictions

This Ordinance supersedes any ordinance in effect in flood-prone areas. However, any other ordinance shall remain in full force to the extent that its provisions are more restrictive.

Sect. 1.3 Applicability

Any person or entity proposing to do any development within the floodplain zone regulated by this Ordinance must first obtain a permit for that development from the local permitting agency, and must comply with all provisions of this Ordinance.

Sect. 1.4 Partial Invalidity and Severability

If any part of this Ordinance is declared invalid, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected and shall remain in force.

Sect. 1.5 Disclaimer of Liability

The degree of flood protection provided by this Ordinance is considered reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on engineering experience and scientific methods of study. Floods of greater magnitude may occur or flood heights may be increased by man-made or natural causes. This Ordinance does not imply that flooding will not occur outside of the delineated floodplain zone, nor that permitted development and land uses within the floodplain will be free of flooding and associated flood damage. This Ordinance does not create liability on the part of the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, nor any officer, or employee thereof for any damage which may result from reliance on this Ordinance.

Article II Definitions

- 2.1 Accessory structure - a detached structure on the same parcel of property as the principal structure, the use of which is incidental to the principal structure, eg. a shed or detached garage.
- 2.2 Base Flood - the 100-year frequency flood event as indicated in the Flood Insurance Study, as amended, the elevation of which is used for regulatory purposes in this Ordinance.
- 2.3 Basement - an enclosed area which is below grade.
- 2.4 Breakaway Wall - a wall that is not part of the structural support of a building and is intended to collapse under specific lateral loading forces without causing damage to the supporting foundation system of the building.
- 2.5 Certificate of Occupancy or Use - a permit to legally occupy or use a building for the intended purpose.
- 2.6 Development - any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including, but not limited to buildings and other structures, dredging, fill, grading, paving, clearing, excavation, dumping, extraction, or storage of equipment or materials. Development includes subdivision of land.
- 2.7 Elevation Certificate - form supplied by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to certify as-built elevations of structures above mean sea level (NGVD).
- 2.8 Flood - general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from overflow of inland or tidal waters, or rapid unusual accumulation of runoff from any source.
- 2.9 Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) - map which depicts the minimum special flood hazard area to be regulated by this Ordinance (unless a Floodway Map is available).
- 2.10 Floodplain - that land typically adjacent to a body of water with ground surface elevations that are inundated by the base flood.
- 2.11 Floodproofing - any combination of structural or nonstructural changes which reduce or eliminate flood damage to improved property.
- 2.12 Floodproofing Certificate - form supplied by FEMA to certify that a building has been designed and constructed to be structurally dry floodproofed to the Flood Protection Elevation.

- 2.13 Flood Protection Elevation (FPE) - the elevation of the base flood plus one foot freeboard.
- 2.14 Floodway - the channel and adjacent land area required to discharge the waters of the 100-year flood of a watercourse without increasing the water surface elevations more than a specified height.
- 2.15 Floodway Map - map which depicts floodways and special flood hazard areas to be regulated by this Ordinance.
- 2.16 Floodway Fringe - that portion of the floodplain outside the floodway.
- 2.17 Freeboard - an increment of elevation added to the base flood elevation to provide a factor of safety for uncertainties in calculations, wave actions, subsidence, or other unpredictable effects.
- 2.18 Historic Structure - a structure listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places, the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, a local inventory of historic places certified by the Maryland Historic Trust or the Secretary of the Interior, or preliminarily determined as meeting the requirements for such listing by the Maryland Historic Trust or the Secretary of the Interior, or determined as contributing to the historic significance of a historic district registered with Secretary of the Interior.
- 2.19 Local Permitting Official - the Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning, and the Calvert County Department of Public Works, Division of Inspections and Permits, both of which have the authority and responsibility to implement this ordinance.
- 2.20 Lowest Floor - the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area, including basement. An unfinished enclosure constructed of flood resistant materials used solely for parking of vehicles, storage, or building access in an area other than a basement is not the lowest floor, as long as it is supplied with water equalizing vents.
- 2.21 Manufactured Home - a transportable structure which is built on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities.
- 2.22 NGVD - National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 elevation reference points set by the National Geodetic Survey based on mean sea level.
- 2.23 New Construction - a structure for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective date of the adoption of a Floodplain Management Ordinance, and includes any subsequent improvements.

- 2.24 One Hundred (100) Year Frequency Flood - the Base Flood, having a one chance in a hundred (one percent chance) of being equalled or exceeded in any year.
- 2.25 Permanent Construction - any structure occupying a site for more than 180 days per year.
- 2.26 Recreational Vehicle - a vehicle built on a single chassis which is 400 square feet or less at the longest horizontal projection, self propelled or towable, and designed primarily for temporary living while traveling or camping.
- 2.27 Start of Construction - the date of issue of the building permit for any development, including new construction and substantial improvements, provided that the actual start of the construction or improvement was within 180 days of permit issuance. The actual start of construction is the placement of slab or footings, piles, columns, or actual placement of a manufactured home. For substantial improvement, the start of construction is the first alteration of any structural part of the building.
- 2.28 Structure - a walled and roofed building, including, but not limited to, residences, manufactured homes, non-residential buildings, gas and liquid storage tanks, garages, barns, and sheds.
- 2.29 Substantial Damage - damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50% of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.
- 2.30 Substantial Improvement - any repair, reconstruction, or improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of the market value of the structure (less land value) either: (a) before the improvement or repair is started; or (b) if the structure has incurred substantial damage and been restored, before the damage occurred. The County may use State assessment values to determine the market value of the structure. Substantial improvement occurs when the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of the building commences. The minimum repairs needed to correct previously identified violations of local health, safety, or sanitary codes, and alterations to historic structures which do not preclude their continued designation as historic structures are not considered substantial improvements.
- 2.31 Temporary Structure - any structure completely removed within 180 days from issuance of the permit.
- 2.32 Variance - the grant of relief from a term or terms of this Ordinance.

2.33 Wetland - any land which is: (1) considered private wetland or State wetland pursuant to Title 9, Wetland and Riparian Rights, Natural Resources Article, Annotated Code of Maryland; or (2) defined as wetland under the procedures described in the "Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands" by the federal and/or state government.

Article III Permit Procedures

Sect. 3.1 General

A permit is required for all development in any Floodplain Zone. It shall be granted only after all necessary permit applications are submitted to and approved by the federal and State agencies. Receipt of federal or State permits does not exempt development from the provisions of this Ordinance.

Sect. 3.2 Information for a Permit

Applications for a Building Permit shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:

- a. name, address, and phone number of applicant (owner or agent of owner);
- b. name, address, and phone number of owner, if different;
- c. name, address, and phone number of contractor
- d. legal description of site location;
- e. proposed uses for the site;
- f. type, dimensions, and estimated cost of development proposed;
- g. site characteristics and improvements; and
- h. other information deemed appropriate by the local permitting official.

All permit applications must have a site plan drawn to scale which shows:

- a. dimensions of site;
- b. size and location of existing and proposed structures or alterations;
- c. setbacks;
- d. elevation contours in mean sea level (NGVD);
- e. delineation of the 100-year flood elevation and boundary; and
- f. proposed elevation of the lowest floor and method of elevation, if applicable.

The local permit official may require plans for tree maintenance, stormwater management, revegetation, establishment of vegetated buffers, and final grading as part of the permit application process.

All applicants shall agree in writing to provide an Elevation Certificate completed by a registered professional engineer or surveyor to certify the as-built lowest floor of a structure which must be elevated to or above the Flood Protection Elevation. An Elevation Certificate must be submitted before a Certificate of Occupancy or Use may be issued. Work undertaken prior to submission of the certification is

at the applicant's risk. For enclosed areas below the Flood Protection Elevation, a Nonconversion Agreement may be required, which includes an agreement to install water equalizing vents as specified in Sect. 6.2 of this Ordinance.

If an improvement to an existing structure is proposed, adequate information on the cost of the improvement and the market value of the structure before the improvement must be supplied to the local permitting official to allow a determination of substantial improvement. The local permitting official may use tax assessment records to determine substantial improvement. In floodway and coastal high hazard areas, permits shall be tracked by property location to determine if the cumulative value of improvements constitutes substantial improvement of a structure.

Sect. 3.3 Subdivision Proposals

In addition to the information required in Sect. 3.2, an applicant for subdivision in the nontidal floodplain zone shall submit a plan to demonstrate that a building site for each lot is outside of the 100-year floodplain, as required by the County Zoning Ordinance, Section 4-4.05.C.4.

Sect. 3.4 Issuance of Permit

Considerations

Prior to issuance of a permit, the local permitting official shall determine the location of the project relative to floodways, floodplains, or V-zones and shall note on the permit the proper elevation to which the lowest floor of proposed structures must be elevated. In approximate floodplains where an elevation is not available, the applicant shall be required to obtain such elevation. The applicant must agree to secure all other required permits, an Elevation Certificate, Floodproofing Certificate, engineering analysis, or other required verifications deemed appropriate by the local permitting official.

Permits shall be granted by the local permitting official only after determining that the proposed development will be in complete conformance with the requirements of this Ordinance and all other applicable local codes and ordinances. All other necessary permits or approvals must be applied for or granted. Permits are valid only after all other necessary permits are granted.

After Issuance and During Construction

After issuance of a permit, no changes of any kind shall be made to the application, permit, or any of the plans, specifications, or other documents submitted

with the application without the written approval of the local permitting official. A copy of the permit or other verification must be displayed at the construction site during construction activity.

Work on the permitted activity shall begin within 180 days of the issuance of the permit, or the permit shall expire, unless a written extension is granted by the local permitting official. Work shall be completed within 18 months of the date of the permit unless a greater time is specified in the permit or a written extension is granted.

During construction, the local permitting official or an authorized representative shall inspect the site to determine that the work is in compliance with the permit. Any work found to be noncompliant must be corrected before any additional work is undertaken.

Record of Permits

A record of all floodplain permits shall be maintained and be available upon request by the Federal Emergency Management Agency or its authorized agent (Water Resources Administration) during periodic assessments of this community's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. All documents needed to support any permit action, such as Elevation Certificates, map amendments or revisions, variance actions, shall be available for review during these assessments.

Sect. 3.5 Conditioned Permits For Accessory Structures and Garages

A conditioned permit may be issued at the discretion of the local permitting official when the 300 square foot exemption is exceeded for accessory structures up to a total size of 600 square feet. In order to qualify, the structure's use must be incidental to the primary structure, and it can be used only for limited storage and parking of vehicles. The provisions of Sect. 6.6 must be met.

A conditioned permit is subject to the applicant's completion of a Nonconversion Agreement stating that the use of the accessory structure may not change from that permitted and that it must be equipped with the proper water equalizing vents. A statement of the greater flood risk and possibly higher flood insurance premiums must be included. In addition, a recordation on the deed or Memorandum of Land Restriction must be made as described in Sect. 7.2, stating that the permitted structure may not be used for human habitation without first complying with the construction requirements of this Ordinance.

Sect. 3.6 Fees

A fee may be charged at the time of application.

Sect. 3.7 Penalties

A. Notification, Correction

1. A violation of this Ordinance occurs when there is:
 - (a) any work on property which requires approval of the Local Permitting Official and which
 - (i) has not been approved , or
 - (ii) is not within the authority or is not in compliance with any issued permit, or
 - (iii) is otherwise not in compliance with this Ordinance, or
 - (b) any use of property which is not in compliance with this Ordinance.
2. The owner, tenant, or occupant of a property shall not cause or allow a violation of this Ordinance.
3. The Local Permitting Official may give notice of a violation of this Ordinance which shall:
 - (a) be in writing,
 - (b) state the nature of the violation,
 - (c) state the conditions or actions necessary to correct or abate the violation, and
 - (d) be served upon the owner, tenant or occupant of the property or their authorized agent by:
 - (i) personal delivery, or
 - (ii) certified mail, restricted delivery, to the last known address, or
 - (iii) if certified mail is returned by the postal service marked "unclaimed", then by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to the last known address.

4. Unless a stop work order is issued, the owner, tenant, or occupant shall be given from between seven and sixty days to correct or abate the violation, at the discretion of the Local Permitting Official, from the time of actual receipt of the notice of violation, provided that actual receipt of the notice shall be deemed to occur three days after the posting of the first-class mail if the mail is not returned as undeliverable by the postal service.
5. The Local Permitting Official may issue a stop work order upon observance of:
 - (a) work in progress on property that is a violation pursuant to subsection A(1)(a) of this section, or
 - (b) any use of property which is not in compliance with this Ordinance and which creates or could tend to create a danger to public health, safety, or welfare.
6. A stop work order shall:
 - (a) be in writing,
 - (b) state the nature of the violation,
 - (c) state the nature of the special circumstances requiring a stop work order,
 - (d) state the conditions or actions necessary to correct or abate the violation, or under which work may be resumed, as appropriate, and
 - (e) be served upon the owner, tenant, or occupant of the property or their authorized agent, or to any person doing work on the property in violation of this Ordinance, by:
 - (i) personal delivery, or
 - (ii) posting the property in a manner reasonably calculated to give notice to those persons deemed to be in violation, provided that service of an additional notice of violation be attempted as soon as practicable thereafter in the manner provided in subsection A(3)(d) of this section.
7. Upon service of a stop work order the work or

use cited shall cease immediately.

8. Any owner, tenant, occupant, or person doing work who violates the stop work order is subject to:

(a) a fine of \$500 per day so long as the violation occurs, and

(b) revocation of any County permit pertaining to the work or use in violation.

B. Citation, Fine

If the violation is not corrected, the Local Permitting Official may prepare a citation to be delivered to a party believed to be committing a civil violation. The citation may be served in person or by Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested. A copy to the citation shall be retained by the Local Permitting Officer and shall bear a certification attesting to the truth of the matters set forth. A fine of \$500 per day may be imposed for each violation. Each day upon which a violation occurs or continues shall constitute a separate offense for which a separate fine may be imposed, provided however, that the total civil penalty of related violations shall not exceed \$10,000. The citation shall contain:

1. the name and address of the party charged,
2. the nature of the violation,
3. the place where and the date that the violation occurred,
4. the amount of the fine assessed,
5. the manner, location, and date in which the fine may be paid,
6. the name and address of the official to contact to request an administrative appeal of the citation.

C. Administrative Appeal

Any party aggrieved by the receipt of a citation may request that the issuance of the citation and any response thereto by the recipient be reviewed by the Director of Planning and Zoning for Calvert County ("Director"). Such request must be made within thirty (30) days of receipt of the citation or the recipient will be deemed to have admitted to the violations cited therein. The Director shall schedule an informal meeting with the person

cited to be held within ten (10) working days of the request or at any other time that is mutually agreeable. At such meeting the Director shall review the matter presented and shall have sole discretion to suspend, reduce, or vacate the fine or to take such other action as may be deemed appropriate. The Director shall render a decision promptly after the meeting, but in any event in no more than 30 days. The Director's decision is final. No action to enforce the citation may be taken during the pendency of the appeal period or any resulting appeal.

D. Repeat Violations:

Any party who corrects a violation after receiving a citation, and at a later date is found to have a violation of the same nature and on the same property as the original violation, shall receive an additional citation for each recurring violation. The citation shall be issued in accordance with subsection B of this section. No additional notice of violation, as described in subsection A of this section, shall be required.

E. Enforcement of Citation

If the citation is not appealed, or any appeal is finally decided, the County Attorney may bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction, on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, to recover any fine assessed under this Ordinance.

F. Notice to Federal and State Authorities

The Federal Insurance Administrator and the Water Resources Administration must be notified by the Local Permitting Official within 30 days after the issuance of the citation of any violation which requires a fine. New or renewal federal flood insurance may be denied any structure remaining in violation of this Ordinance. The violation may also violate State law, may be subject to separate action, and may incur a separate penalty.

G. Injunctions

The Board of County Commissioners may bring an action in the Circuit Court of Calvert County for an injunction to restrain any violations of this Ordinance or of the Flood Hazard Management Act of 1976, or to order the abatement of a condition resulting from any violation, or for an order mandating the restoration of lands and waters to the conditions existing prior to the violation.

Article IV Establishment of Floodplain Zones

Sect. 4.1 Identification of Flood Zones

The regulatory floodplain shall be those areas of Calvert County which are subject to the 100-year flood, delineated on the most recent revision of the community's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and described in the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FIRM maps and the FIS, if available for the community, must be used. Areas along nontidal streams that do not have FEMA delineations as described above are subject to regulation by this Ordinance and the State.

Sect. 4.2 Floodplain Zones

A community may have one or more of the following floodplain zones:

Nontidal Floodplains consist of the Floodway and the Floodway Fringe. Nontidal floodplains may have detailed engineering study data, profiles, and water surface elevations, or may have approximate delineations only.

Tidal Floodplains consist of areas subject to coastal or tidal flooding by the 100-year flood. These areas are flooded due to high tides, hurricanes, tropical storms, and steady on-shore winds.

Coastal High Hazard Areas consist of areas subject to coastal or tidal flooding with the addition of high velocity water and wind action. These areas are designated as V-Zones on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

Sect. 4.3 Floodplain Boundaries

Floodplain Zone Determination

The local permitting official will determine the floodplain zone in which the development activity is proposed using, at minimum the FIS and FIRM, and also will use mixed alluvial soils ("My soils") as shown on the USDA soils maps, and/or elevation. Without prior approval from FEMA, the community shall use no other data to enforce floodplain management regulations.

Where map boundaries and elevations disagree, elevations prevail, with no approval from FEMA required.

Approximate Floodplain Determination

For development proposed in the approximate floodplain (no water surface elevations provided), the applicant must use the best available information to determine the elevation of the 100-year flood, and must delineate

this on the site plan submitted for approval. For new subdivisions, the applicant must have the 100-year flood elevations certified by a registered professional engineer based on hydrologic and hydraulic analyses which include a floodway analysis. For individual lot development, if no data are available, the point-on-the-boundary method may be used. In this method, the distance is scaled from a reference point at the site to the edge of the 100-year floodplain boundary indicated on the FIRM. An elevation of the 100-year flood is determined at that point by survey. Mixed alluvial ("My") soils and base flood elevations of adjacent floodplains may also be used.

Article V Development Regulations in Floodplain Zones

In order to prevent excessive flood damage and to allow for the protection of the natural and beneficial floodplain functions, the following provisions shall apply to all development, new construction, and substantial improvements to existing structures in all floodplain zones. If a structure is in more than one zone, the more stringent provisions shall apply to the entire structure. The specific requirements contained in Article VI also apply to development in this Article. Any approved development shall comply with all other zoning, environmental, water quality and sanitary regulations, as well as applicable State and federal requirements.

Watercourses

In all floodplain zones, any development which proposes to alter a watercourse must obtain a variance. Adjacent communities and property owners, FEMA, and the Maryland Water Resources Administration must be notified by the applicant before any modification may occur to watercourses. Any activity falling within the 100-year nontidal floodplain may require a waterway construction permit from the Water Resources Administration. If a development activity is proposed in a nontidal floodplain which has a drainage area of more than 400 acres, a waterway construction permit issued by the State will be required prior to issuance of County permit.

Wetlands

Encroachment by development into wetlands is not allowed without State and federal permits. It is State and federal policy that disturbance of wetlands shall be avoided. The applicant must demonstrate that no alternatives exist and the encroachment is the minimum necessary. Mitigation may be required by the appropriate regulatory authorities.

Sediment and Stormwater Management

Any land disturbance permitted in the floodplain must have a stormwater management and sediment and erosion control plan where required by State and local regulations. The plan must include design of land contours that will not increase surface water runoff onto neighboring properties. Ground cover must be established immediately after disturbance, and a plan for permanent plantings, including trees, should provide for adequate vegetative cover within the flood protection setback from watercourses to prevent erosion.

Part A. Nontidal and Tidal Floodplain Zones

Sect. 5.1 General

Development may not occur in the floodplain where alternative locations exist due to the inherent hazards and risks involved. Before a permit is issued, the applicant shall demonstrate that new structures cannot be located out of the floodplain and that encroachments onto the floodplain are minimized.

Sect. 5.2 Elevation Requirements - New and Substantially Improved Structures

All new or substantially improved residential and non-residential structures shall have the lowest floor elevated to or above the Flood Protection Elevation. Basements are not permitted. In nontidal and tidal floodplains, horizontal expansions which increase the footprint and that are less than substantial shall also have the lowest floor of the expansion elevated to or above the Flood Protection Elevation. The elevation of the lowest floor shall be certified by a registered surveyor or professional engineer on the Elevation Certificate, after the lowest floor is in place. Enclosures below the Flood Protection Elevation must be constructed with water equalizing vents to meet the specifications of Sect. 6.2.

Sect. 5.3 Fill

The placement of more than 600 cubic yards of fill per parcel/lot in the floodplain is prohibited except by variance. Elevating buildings by other methods must be considered unless 600 cubic yards or less of fill are required. An applicant shall demonstrate that fill is the only alternative to raising the building to at least the Flood Protection Elevation, and have verified by a registered professional engineer that the amount of fill used will not affect the flood storage capacity or increase flooding onto neighboring properties.

In the event buildings on adjacent properties are known or determined to be subject to flooding under current conditions, the local permitting official may require submission of hydrologic and hydraulic analyses to adequately demonstrate the effects of the proposed fill. The conditions described in Sect. 6.8 must be met whenever fill is used.

Sect. 5.4 Subdivision Requirements

To achieve long-term flood damage avoidance and protection of the natural and beneficial floodplain functions, creation of any new flood-prone building sites shall not be permitted in any new subdivisions regardless of size, number of lots, and location.

All other provisions of this Article and Article VI apply to subdivisions. The local permitting official may specify additional provisions in the plan review.

Nontidal Floodplains and Tidal Floodplains

In new subdivisions in nontidal and tidal floodplains, each lot platted must have a suitable building site outside the floodplain. Consideration must be given to clustering development lots out of the floodplain and preserving the floodplain as open space. An access road at or above the elevation of the 100-year flood shall be provided.

Part B. Coastal High Hazard Area (V-Zone)

Sect. 5.5 General

New development shall not be permitted in the coastal high hazard area where the action of wind and waves, in addition to tidal flooding, is a factor unless the applicant demonstrates that:

- a. no reasonable alternative exists outside the coastal high hazard area;
- b. the encroachment into the coastal high hazard area is the minimum necessary;
- c. the development will withstand the 100-year wind and water loads without damage;
- d. the development will not create an additional hazard to existing structures; and
- e. any natural dune system will not be disturbed.

Sect. 5.6 New and Substantially Improved Structures

All new or substantially improved structures shall be elevated on adequately anchored pilings or columns to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement due to the effects of the 100-year water loads and wind loads acting simultaneously on all building components. Water loading values shall be those associated with the base flood, and wind loading values shall be those required by local building standards. The bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member supporting the lowest floor shall be elevated to or above the Flood Protection Elevation. Building designs and elevations must be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect knowledgeable in such designs that the building has been designed to withstand the water and wind loads and be anchored properly. The use of slabs or other at grade foundation systems is prohibited.

The space below the Flood Protection Elevation shall be free of obstruction or may be enclosed with open wood lattice, insect screening, or breakaway walls. Glass walls are not to be considered breakaway walls. Breakaway walls shall be designed to collapse under a wind and water load less than would occur during the 100-year flood, and have a designed safe loading resistance of not less than 10 pounds and no more than 20 pounds per square foot. Enclosed areas below the Flood Protection Elevation shall be used solely for the parking of vehicles, limited storage, and building access. If such areas are enclosed, a Nonconversion Agreement, described in Sect. 3.5, must be signed by the applicant.

Sect. 5.7 Manufactured Homes and Recreational Vehicles

Manufactured homes are not permitted in the coastal high hazard area. Recreational vehicles must meet the requirements of Sect. 6.7.

Sect. 5.8 Fill and Excavation

The use of fill for the structural support of buildings is prohibited. Excavation under existing structures or excavation within any enclosed space is prohibited.

Earth or sand removed for the proper placement of pilings or columns shall be replaced. Excavation to create a basement is prohibited.

Sect. 5.9 Location of Structures

New construction within the reach of mean high tide is prohibited, except for shore erosion control projects and piers.

Sect. 5.10 Existing Structures

Existing structures located in the V-zone shall not be substantially improved or expanded vertically or horizontally unless the entire foundation system is certified by a professional engineer or architect as capable of supporting the existing building and the proposed improvement during the 100-year storm as specified in Sect. 5.6. Permits for incremental improvements shall be tracked, and when cumulative improvements constitute substantial improvement, the entire building must comply with Sect. 5.6.

Article VI Specific Requirements

In addition to the requirements outlined in Article V, the following specific requirements must be applied.

Sect. 6.1 Placement of Buildings and Materials

In general, buildings and accessory structures should be located entirely out of the floodplain. All structures permitted in the floodplain shall be oriented so as to offer the least resistance to the flow of flood waters. Materials which are buoyant, flammable, explosive, hazardous to health, or which at times of flooding may be injurious to human, animal, or plant life, shall not be stored below the Flood Protection Elevation.

Sect. 6.2 Enclosures Below Lowest Floor

Buildings which have been elevated and have fully enclosed areas below the Flood Protection Elevation, as well as garages and accessory structures which are not elevated (Sect. 6.6), shall be constructed with water equalizing vents which meet or exceed the following standards:

- a. a minimum of two openings on different walls 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; and
- 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 to equalize hydrostatic forces on the walls.

Fully enclosed areas below the Flood Protection Elevation shall be used solely for parking of vehicles, access to the building, or storage. If such areas are enclosed, a Nonconversion Agreement as described in Sect. 3.5 must be signed by the applicant.

In coastal high hazard areas, enclosures below the Flood Protection Elevation shall comply with the provisions of Sect. 5.6 of this Ordinance.

Sect. 6.3 Manufactured Homes and Manufactured Home Parks

New manufactured homes and manufactured home parks are prohibited in the coastal high hazard area. In other floodplain zones, all new, replacement, or substantially improved manufactured homes, whether in a manufactured home park or not, shall comply with Sect. 5.2 of this Ordinance.

Methods of anchoring shall include use of over-the-top and frame ties to ground anchors. Pilings or columns shall be used to maintain storage capacity of the floodplain. Concrete block support pilings must be reinforced by placing reinforcing bars inside and extending them into the footing, filling the hollows with cement, and using mortar to cement the blocks together. FEMA Publication 85, "Manufactured Home Installation in Flood Hazard Areas", should be consulted for specific recommendations.

Manufactured homes repaired or replaced because of substantial damage due to flooding or other causes are considered to be new structures and must fully comply with Sect 5.2.

Owners of manufactured home parks or subdivisions that are partially or fully within the floodplain must file an evacuation plan with the local emergency management agency. In nontidal floodplains, a flood free access road shall be provided in all new manufactured home parks and subdivisions.

Sect. 6.4 Anchoring

All structures shall be firmly anchored in accordance with acceptable engineering practices to prevent flotation, collapse, and lateral movement during flooding. All air ducts, large pipes, and storage tanks located below the Flood Protection Elevation shall be firmly anchored to resist flotation.

Sect. 6.5 Utilities

Electric

All electric utilities to the building side of the meter, both interior and exterior to the building, are regulated by this Ordinance. Distribution panel boxes must be at least 2 feet above the Flood Protection Elevation. All outlets and electrical installations, such as heat pumps, air conditioners, water heaters, furnaces, generators, distribution systems, must be installed at or above the Flood Protection Elevation.

Plumbing

Toilets, sinks, showers, water heaters, pressure tanks, furnaces, and other permanent plumbing installations must be installed at or above the Flood Protection Elevation.

Gas

Gas meters, distribution lines, and gas appliances must be installed at or above the Flood Protection Elevation.

Water Supply and Sanitary Facilities

Water supply distribution and sanitary disposal collection systems must be designed to minimize or eliminate the infiltration of flood waters into the systems or discharges from the systems into flood waters and shall be located and constructed so as to minimize or eliminate flood damage. On-site sewage disposal systems shall meet these same standards.

Sect. 6.6 Accessory Structures and Garages

Where feasible, accessory structures and garages should be located out of the floodplain or elevated to or above the Flood Protection Elevation. When these measures are not feasible the following apply:

- a. the floor of the structure must be at or above grade;
- b. the structure must be located, oriented, and constructed so as to minimize flood damage; and
- c. the structure must be firmly anchored to prevent flotation.

Attached Garages

A garage attached to the main structure shall be elevated to the greatest extent possible, but may be permitted as an exemption to the strict elevation requirement if it is used solely for parking of vehicles, storage, or building access and is no more than 600 square feet in area. Attached garages must meet the venting requirements of Sect. 6.2, have all interior walls, ceilings, and floors below the Flood Protection Elevation unfinished, and have no machinery or electric devices or appliances located below the Flood Protection Elevation. A Nonconversion Agreement as described in Sect. 3.5 must be signed by the property owner stating that the garage may never be used for human habitation without first becoming fully compliant with this Ordinance.

Detached Garages and Accessory Structures

An accessory structure or detached garage may be permitted as an exemption to the elevation requirement if it is less than 300 square feet, used solely for parking of vehicles and limited storage, meets the venting requirements of Sect. 6.2, has all interior wall, ceiling, and floor elements below the Flood Protection Elevation unfinished, and has no machinery, electric devices, or appliances located below the Flood Protection Elevation. A Nonconversion Agreement must be signed by the property owner.

An accessory structure or a detached garage between 300

square feet and 600 square feet may be permitted below the Flood Protection Elevation only by a conditioned permit described in Sect. 3.5.

An accessory structure or garage larger than 600 square feet in area must be elevated properly or be able to meet all applicable requirements under the variance procedure in Sect. 7.1 of this Ordinance.

Sect. 6.7 Recreational Vehicles

Recreational vehicles located within the floodplain may be exempted from the elevation and anchoring requirements provided they are:

- a. located on the site less than 180 consecutive days per year;
- b. fully licensed and ready for highway use; and
- c. properly permitted.

A recreational vehicle is ready for highway use if it is on its wheels and jacking system, is attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and securing devices, and has no permanently attached additions. If it cannot meet all of these criteria, the recreational vehicle must be considered a manufactured home and is subject to the elevation and construction standards of this Ordinance.

Sect. 6.8 Fill

Fill is discouraged because storage capacity is removed from floodplains. Other methods of elevating structures should be considered first, and fill used only if other methods are not feasible. Fill may not be used for structural support in coastal high hazard areas. Fill may not be placed in tidal or nontidal wetlands without the required State and federal permits.

Fill must consist of soil and rock materials only. Dredged material may be used as fill only upon certification of suitability by a registered professional geotechnical engineer. Landfills, rubble fills, dumps and sanitary fills are not permitted in the floodplain.

Fill used to support structures must be compacted to 95% of the maximum density obtainable by the Standard Proctor Test (ASTM Standard D-698), and its suitability to support structures certified by a registered professional engineer. Fill slopes shall be no greater than two horizontal to one vertical. Flatter slopes may be required where velocities may result in erosion.

The use of fill shall not increase flooding or cause drainage problems on neighboring properties.

Article VII Variances

Sect. 7.1 Reasons for Granting

The Calvert County Board of Appeals shall hear and decide appeals and requests for variances from the requirements of this Ordinance. Conditions may be attached to the variance action, and variance actions must be consistent with sound floodplain management. Variances may not be issued except as specified below.

Variances shall only be issued upon:

- a. a showing of good and sufficient cause;
- b. a determination that failure to grant a variance would result in exceptional hardship (other than economic) to the applicant; and
- c. a determination that the granting of a variance will not result in increased flood heights, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, create nuisances, cause fraud or victimization of the public, or conflict with existing local and State laws or ordinances.

The variance action shall be the minimum necessary, considering the flood hazard, to afford relief. In considering a variance action, comments from the State Coordinating Office of the Water Resources Administration must be taken into account and maintained with the permit file.

Sect 7.2 Conditions

Variances may not be granted for placement of fill in the coastal high hazard area for structural support.

For any variance issued, a letter shall be sent to the applicant indicating the terms and conditions of the variance, the increased risk to life and property in granting the variance, and the increased premium rates for National Flood Insurance coverage. The applicant shall be notified in writing of the requirement for recordation of these conditions on the deed or Memorandum of Land Restriction prior to obtaining a permit, and of the need to secure all necessary permits as conditions for granting a variance. The Memorandum is described in Article 3-102 and 3-103 of the Real Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The local permitting official shall maintain a record of all variance actions and the justification for their issuance, as well as all correspondence.

Sect. 7.3 Functionally Dependent Uses

Variances may be issued for new construction and substantial improvements for the conduct of a

functionally dependent use. A functionally dependent use cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. It includes only docking facilities, port facilities that are necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or passengers, and ship building and ship repair facilities, but does not include long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities. The variance may be issued only upon sufficient proof of the functional dependence. The provisions of Sect. 7.1 and 7.2 must be met and the structure must be protected by methods that minimize flood damage up to the Flood Protection Elevation and must create no additional threats to public safety. This may require methods of "wet floodproofing" which allow the structure to flood without significant damage. Methods of floodproofing must not require human intervention.

Article VIII Effective Date and Subsequent Amendments

This ordinance is hereby enacted, as authorized under the Maryland Flood Hazard Management Act of 1976, and shall become effective March 24, 1992. This Ordinance shall be amended as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, 44 Code of Federal Regulations. All subsequent amendments to this ordinance are subject to approval of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

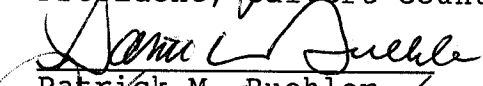
Signed:

Date:

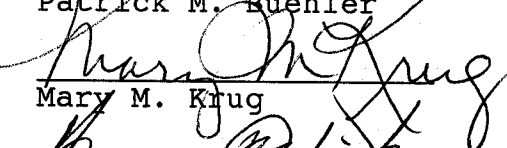


Michael J. Moore
President, Calvert County Board of County Commissioners

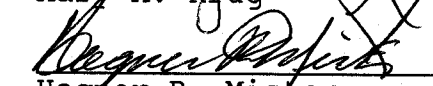
March 24, 1992



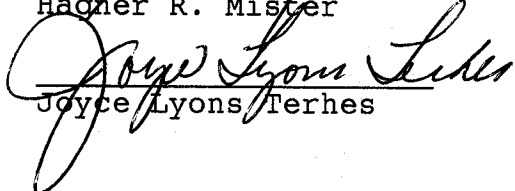
Patrick M. Buehler



Mary M. Krug



Haqner R. Mister



Joyce Lyons Terhes

AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY ELEVATION CERTIFICATE

This agreement becomes part of permit # _____
issued by Calvert County.

Date of Agreement: _____

Name of Property Owner: _____

Location: _____

Description of Proposed Building: _____

This part to be completed by the Local Permitting Official:

The above construction has determined to be in the 100-year floodplain regulated by the Floodplain Ordinance of Calvert County. The Flood Protection Elevation at this site has been determined to be _____ feet NGVD. The Ordinance requires that the lowest floor shall be elevated to one foot above the level of the 100-year flood (base flood) as delineated by the Flood Insurance Rate Maps issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other appropriate procedures outlined in the Ordinance, and that an Elevation Certificate be completed and signed by a registered professional engineer or surveyor and a copy returned to this office. This Certificate must be completed after floor supporting members are in place, and must show an elevation of at least as high as the elevation provided. This should be done as soon as possible, since all construction done prior to completion of Certificate is at applicant's risk and must be brought into conformance with the Ordinance.

Applicant's Agreement:

I agree to have Elevation Certificate completed and signed by a registered professional engineer or surveyor and return it to this office as soon as possible. I also agree to correct any deficiencies to assure that the lowest floor is at least as high as the elevation provided above. All elevations shall be mean sea level, Nations Geodetic Vertical Datum.

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Note: This form should be used for all new construction and substantial improvements in tidal, nontidal, and coastal high hazard floodplains only.

NONCONVERSION AGREEMENT

Date of Application and Agreement _____

Application is hereby made for a Permit _____, Conditioned Permit _____, or Variance _____ to build a _____

_____ which does not conform to the elevation requirements of the Floodplain Management Ordinance of Calvert County.

Property Owner: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

Property Description: _____

Deed Reference: Liber _____ Folio _____ Dated _____

Tax Map _____ Parcel _____ Block _____ Section _____ Lot _____

Flood Protection Elevation at site is _____ feet, NGVD

In consideration for the granting of a permit, Conditioned Permit, or Variance for the above structure which does not conform to the requirements of the Floodplain Management Ordinance of Calvert County, the Property Owner agrees to the following:

1. That the enclosed area, if permitted, will be used solely for parking of vehicles, storage, or access to the building and will never be used for human habitation without first becoming fully compliant with the Floodplain Management Ordinance in effect at the time of conversion.
2. That all interior walls, ceilings, and floors below the Flood Protection Elevation will be unfinished and constructed of flood resistant materials.
3. That no electrical, mechanical, or plumbing devices will be installed below the Flood Protection elevation.
4. That the enclosed area will be supplied with at least two water equalizing vents of at least one square inch of opening for every square foot of enclosed area. The bottom of the vents may be no more than one foot above grade and they must be on at least two different walls. The openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves, or other coverings, provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.
5. That the requested structure may increase the risk to life and property and may result in increased premium rates for National Flood Insurance.

6. That the conditions above must be recorded on the deed to the property or on a Memorandum of Land Restriction, and shall run with and bind on the land to the heirs, assigns, or successors of the applicant.
7. That any variation in construction beyond what is permitted shall constitute a violation and be abatable as such.
8. That this Nonconversion Agreement becomes part of Permit # _____.

Signature of Property Owner: _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____

At a minimum, the statement "This structure has been allowed without conforming to the Floodplain Management Ordinance of Calvert County. No conversion to habitable space is to occur unless the enclosed building area below the Flood Protection Elevation becomes fully compliant to this Ordinance. At this site, the Flood Protection Elevation is _____ feet above mean sea level, National Geodetic Vertical Datum." has been recorded on the deed to the above property or on a Memorandum of Land Restriction.

Signature, Recorder of Deeds: _____

Date: _____

Based on the above conditions being met and proper recordation in the land records of Calvert County a permit may be issued for an enclosed structure which is not elevated in conformance to the Floodplain Management Ordinance of Calvert County.

Signature, Permitting Official: _____

Date: _____

Note: This Agreement must be used whenever an enclosed structure is requested to be built or substantially improved within the 100-year floodplain below the Flood Protection Elevation. This Agreement must be signed whenever Conditioned Permits or Variances are to be issued, for example, garages and accessory structures which exceed the 300 square foot exemption and foundation enclosures which exceed 5 ft. in height.