Chairman Willingham called the meeting of the Rusk County Zoning Committee to order at 5:01 P.M. in the Law Enforcement Center at the Rusk County Courthouse. Members present were: Dave Willingham, Kathy Mai, Phil Schneider, John Stencil and Tom Costello. Staff present: CeCe Tesky and Yvonne Johnson.

Chairman Willingham recessed the zoning meeting and opened the public hearing at 5:01 P.M. He explained the purpose of the hearing was to take comments on the proposed changes to the floodplain ordinance.

Tesky gave an update on how the new floodplain maps were presented and handled by the zoning department and FEMA. Tesky received a letter from Meg Galloway with the DNR about using the LiDAR mapping to remap the floodplain area in Rusk County.

Willingham asked for anyone present who wished to speak in favor of the changes. Dan Boyle, who lives 7 miles south of Bruce on the river, said he has filed a floodplain claim with FEMA. His insurance was canceled in October. He checked into private insurance and it was too expensive. He hopes the maps will be adopted so he can get flood insurance.

Willingham asked for anyone present who wished to speak against the changes. Jason Gilles stated he feels for the people in the floodplain. He said there are about 30 people who need or want insurance, and the changes will affect 200 who don’t. Gilles said if the county adopts the maps, they will throw away their hand with FEMA. He questioned if there was something the county could do to protect the ones who need the insurance.

Tesky explained that their have been 32 LOMAs done since the new maps were released.

Bob Chady, who lives near the floodplain and is a supervisor for the town of Hubbard spoke. He said it is the job of elected officials to protect the tax base and the people they represent. The township should support the county to help people be eligible for flood insurance. The county is also ineligible for certain grants and disaster aid if we are not a participating unit. Chady said it is in the interest of both those in the county and the tax base that these maps be adopted as soon as possible.

Someone asked if the DNR and FEMA were invited to this meeting. Tesky answered that they are both aware of the meeting.

Chairman Willingham asked three times for anyone else present in favor or opposed to the changes to speak. There being no further testimony, Willingham closed the public hearing at 5:21 P.M. to reopen the zoning meeting.

Willingham commented that this has been a horrible experience and this committee and the county and that people will be upset either way this goes. This has been a dilemma for the
NOT COMMITTEE APPROVED

county for the last year. The county has approved LiDAR data mapping and it will be helpful to various county departments.

Stencil said adopting the maps and getting reinstated to the floodplain program will be a benefit to many and a good investment by the county.

Schneider had hoped with the new elected officials, things would change. They haven’t. He hopes the DNR will remap as soon as possible, but is concerned about the time frame.

Tesky explained that she is very apprehensive about the CAV visit. She would encourage the town officials that are getting a response from elected officials to keep moving forward. Tesky explained that the county had a CAV visit in 2006 that she was unaware of until she received a phone call in January. Tesky explained that the committee could make the effective date of the map adoption the same day that we are reinstated in the NFIP.

Willingham explained that he has had good response from Galloway and Bruce Baker.

Motion by Costello/Stencil to forward the resolution for the floodplain changes to the County Board for consideration. Motion carried.

Willingham adjourned the meeting at 5:48 P.M.

Yvonne Johnson
Assistant Zoning Administrator