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MEMO

TO: Rebecca A. Burke, Chairperson
Ernest P. Larson, Vice-Chairperson
Jeff C. Wheeland, Secretary

CC: Fred Marty, Director of Administration & Chief Clerk

FROM: Kurt Hausammann, Jr., AICP, LCPC Executive Director

SUBJECT: Lycoming Creek Stormwater Plan & Model Ordinance
Lycoming County Stormwater Plan & Model Ordinance

DATE: March 31, 2010

Lycoming County has a history of flooding which has been exacerbated by increased stormwater runoff from new development, clearing, and roads. For example, the Lycoming Creek watershed had major floods in 1972, 1975, 1979, 1984, 1996, 1997, and 2004, and we almost had a major event earlier this year. We have documented a 43% increase since 1938 in the 100 year flood level at the No. 2 bridge.

The Planning Department, with guidance from the County Planning Commission and funding from DEP, has developed a Lycoming County and a Lycoming Creek Watershed Stormwater Management Plan and Model Stormwater Ordinance. The purpose of the Stormwater Plans and Model Ordinance is to better manage stormwater to maintain or decrease current flood levels, prevent damage to stream banks, improve water quality, and increase groundwater infiltration.

The Lycoming County Planning Commission unanimously approved the above referenced documents at their March 18th meeting. These Plans are the result of more than four years of intensive study with input from professional consultants and many affected parties; including municipal officials, state officials, watershed association representatives, the Lycoming Conservation District, local engineers, and local builders. Over the last year we have received substantial constructive input from the development community and made a number of revisions to the Ordinance in order to address their comments - please see the Comment/Response document which is in the Briefing Binder.

The Plans and Model Ordinance are only part of our program to improve stormwater management. We are reviewing the County Zoning and Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance with an eye towards decreasing impervious surface requirements and facilitating low impact development. This has the potential to decrease development costs for our builders.

We are available to give you a fuller briefing about the Plans and Model Ordinance, or respond to any questions you may have.

RECOMMENDATION: We respectfully request that the Commissioners schedule a Public Hearing (suggested date 4/29), and authorize staff to distribute the draft Plans, Model Ordinance, and supporting documents to our municipalities and post on the County website.