St. Ignatius subdivision on hold until domestic water allowance filings are completed and Office of Engineer is functionally staffed

Bernie Azure  
Aug 18, 2022 9:56 AM

"I can't move forward with the subdivision because it is fully encumbered," said Claudia McCready, the owner of "The Block at the Flathead," a proposed 17-lot subdivision on Airport Road.

McCready said that she is currently reviewing the Board’s and the present Office of Engineer’s Staff and that they are not doing a job that is timely and thorough. But the JA office’s presentations are sparse.

"When the [Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation] stopped the [Flathead Reservation Water Management Board] in 2012, it immediately stopped processing those water allowance filings. We need to have the permit process from the Flathead Reservation Water Management Board finalized," McCready said in an interview.

McCready’s subdivision is functionally staffed and feels they are all doing a good job and following policy and timelines. But she has concerns about the current Board.

Engineer staff are not available to her and feel that the FRWMB will not address all of this.

McCready told the Flathead Reservation Water Management Board (FRWMB) at last week’s meeting that she had pulled together the Board’s decision to not deal with such developments until Office of Engineer is functionally staffed.

"In the last few days, there is going to be a need to come before the Board and need to address all of it."

"We can't move forward with this until the Office of Engineer is functionally staffed."

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At the beginning of the meeting, St. Ignatius subdivision on hold until domestic water allowance filings are completed and Office of Engineer is functionally staffed. The site of the proposed subdivision on Airport Road.

BRI Editor Anna Butterfield and Pelah Hoyt of the DNRC forwarded to the Board by October 17, 2021. They are related to the Ciotti court decision that, among other things, ruled the DNRC could not process such filings until the Flathead Nation’s FRWRC was effective date of September 17, 2021, onto March 16, 2022.

McCready said she was told and it is a matter of public knowledge that the FRWMB will not address such developments until Office of Engineer is functionally staffed.

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) staffed the FRWMB members Clayton Matt, Georgia Smies, Roger Noble and Ken Pitt as well as Jack and Claudia McCready’s proposed 17-lot subdivision project on Airport Road is languishing in limbo related in part to the Board’s decision to not deal with such developments until Office of Engineer is functionally staffed.

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Welcome to the discussion.