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## Impact fee cut from storm-water regulations

*By Emily Hagedorn*  
*ehagedorn@courier-journal.com*

A controversial impact fee that some say would hurt development and be passed onto homebuyers was struck from Bullitt County's proposed subdivision and storm-water regulations.

The Bullitt County Joint Planning Commission voted Thursday to eliminate a proposal to make developers pay 2.5 cents per each square foot in site plans, said Martin Riedling, commission chairman.

But other fees might be added to the plan, he said.

A \$250 fee per hook-up to detention and retention basins was proposed, but the commission is waiting for guidance from the county attorney's office before including it.

The commission did not vote on the entire proposal, which could come at the next commission meeting Aug. 13.

The commission has worked for two years to write regulations establishing minimum standards of design and construction for subdivision plats, plans, streets, lot layouts, storm-water control and drainage structures, which would bring the county into compliance with the Clean Water Act.

Some developers and builders have opposed the impact fee, which would be put into a trust account of the city or county where the land is located and spent by the municipality to maintain storm-water structures.

"This is the kind of thing that can be used against us" in business deals, said Jesse Flynn of Flynn Brothers Contracting at a July 23 public hearing. "Sometimes it comes down to a small issue."

Riedling said Friday that charging an impact fee will mean that only those affected will have to pay for storm-water problems, as opposed to all taxpayers.

The government will have the money upfront, as opposed to homeowners having to go after developers after the fact or municipalities having to raise taxes to pay for issues.

The commission's plan, if approved, would go to the cities and Fiscal Court, which can choose to adopt it and overwrite their own policies, or turn it down.

Reporter Emily Hagedorn can be reached at (502) 582-7086.

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