

County Flood Management Structure Policy

WHEREAS, precipitation events are increasing in intensity resulting in extensive damage to county roads, bridges, and culverts.

WHEREAS, runoff from intense precipitation events stresses and degrades aging county roads, bridges, and culverts.

WHEREAS, county budgets are overwhelmed with damaged road, bridge, and culvert repairs to the extent that repair projects are delayed in completion.

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognizes existing local policy regarding infrastructure replacement when distributing disaster relief funds.

THEREFORE, Fayette County will consider flood management structures at locations that the existing structure is in need of repair or replacement and meets the criteria as defined herein this policy.

1 COUNTY FLOOD MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this section 1 regarding flood management water retention is to (i) minimize roads, bridge/culvert damage from high-volumes of runoff during high precipitation events; (ii) protect communities and residents from flooding (iii) protect agricultural land and farming activity along riparian areas; (iv) reduce the amount of nutrients entering surface and ground waters; (v) minimize soil erosion; (vi) protect agricultural lands from the effects of drought; (vii) provide and protect habitat for wildlife, including endangered species of migratory birds, amphibians, fish, and reptiles.

1.2 Definitions

- **Flood management structure** – dam or retaining/detaining structure created to temporarily detain or permanently retain water to reduce the impact of heavy rain fall by reducing runoff.
- **Zone of inundation** – area of land permanently or temporarily covered in water above flood management water retaining structure
- **Detention Structure** -
- **Retention Structure** -

1.3 Location

1. Roads under the County's jurisdiction will receive priority for flood management water retention structures. In the event that maintenance responsibilities or ownership is shared with another entity, the county may work with that entity if both parties are in agreement that a flood management water retention structure is suitable for a location.
2. The use of flood management structures will not permanently impede flowing water or streams.
3. Failed or failing structures or damaged structures will receive priority to be replaced by a flood management water retention structure. Flood management water retention structures can also be used as protection of larger bridges or culverts by being placed upstream of the larger bridge or culvert.

1.4 Size

1. Area draining to the point of the flood management structure will not typically exceed 500 acres
2. Each site, including drainages larger than 500 acres, will be subject to hydrologic evaluation by the County Engineer to determine flood management structure feasibility.

1.5 Landowner Participation

1. Upstream landowner(s) must voluntarily agree that a flood management water retention structure may be installed through an easement agreement (doc#) with the County for the zone of inundation.
2. The county will not obtain land through eminent domain for flood management water retention structures.