



Story County Planning and Development
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Story County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Marcus Amman, Senior Planner
RE: Story County Building Code Direction
DATE: January 27, 2026
RE: Discussion and Direction for Adoption of an Enforceable Building Code

County Staff has requested feedback from localities in Story County as well as Counties in Iowa and their building code adoption. Staff received a total of ten (10) responses, five (5) from cities and five (5) from counties.

Of the 10 responses nine (9) stated they have adopted building codes, one (1) stated that they do not have building codes. Four (4) of the localities hire third party to do the inspections while the other five (5) have staff to complete inspections. The adopted code year varies by locality with the oldest one being 2006 but are in the process of updating to a more current year.

County Regulation

Staff has been directed by the approved Planning and Development Work Program to assess the steps needed for the County to adopt and enforce a building code. Adoption of a building code is also in the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Currently Story County does not have an adopted building code. Staff requested quotes for an implementation study for a building code that were due back on Monday April 28, 2025. Staff did not receive any quotes. Staff then reached out to Facilities Management to create a working group for assistance in what implementation of a building code would involve given their knowledge of existing codes.

In the calendar year of 2025, Staff reviewed 33 new dwelling and home additions. Of these 33, none were required by County Code to meet any building codes. Staff reviewed a total of 72 other permits (accessory structures) that did not have to meet building codes.

Staff cannot confirm if any of these structures do meet building codes.

Staff has identified a tentative timeline for adoption of a building code matching the State's adopted codes. In this timeline, the adoption and public awareness would take place between March and October of this year, with Implementation being effective November 2nd, 2026. Agricultural structures would continue to be exempt.

Recommendation

Staff is requesting direction to pursue additional information on adopting a building code, identify a firm timeline for adoption, and request quotes for third party inspection services while Staff is either trained to complete building code inspections or a Staff position is created for implementation and enforcement of an adopted building code.



PLEASE RECYCLE