

ARTICLE 3
REAL ESTATE SUBDIVISIONS

18-5-301. Authority vested in board of county commissioners.

The regulation and control of the subdivision of land in the unincorporated areas in each county is vested in the board of county commissioners of the county in which the land is located. Nothing in this article shall contravene or limit the authority of any county to regulate and control the subdivision of land pursuant to the provisions of W.S. 18-5-201 through 18-5-207.

18-5-302. Definitions.

(a) As used in this article:

(i) "This article" means W.S. 18-5-301 through 18-5-315;

(ii) "Board" means the board of county commissioners of the county in which the land sought to be subdivided is located;

(iii) "Encumbrance" means a mortgage or other lien of record, securing or evidencing indebtedness and affecting land to be subdivided including liens for labor and materials. Taxes and assessments levied by public authority are not an encumbrance under this article except such taxes and assessments as may be delinquent;

(iv) "Person" means a natural person, firm, corporation, partnership, or association, or any combination of the above, or any other legal or commercial entity;

(v) "Sell" or "sale" includes sale, contract to sell, lease, assignment, auction, award by lottery, or any offer or solicitation of any offer to do any of the foregoing, concerning a subdivision or any part of a subdivision;

(vi) "Subdivider" means any person who lays out any subdivision or parts thereof either for the account of the subdivider or others;

(vii) "Subdivision" means the creation or division of a lot, tract, parcel or other unit of land for the immediate or future purpose of sale, building development or redevelopment, for residential, recreational, industrial, commercial or public uses. The word "subdivide" or any derivative thereof shall have reference to the term subdivision, including mobile home courts, the creation of which constitutes a subdivision of land;

(viii) "Sewage system" means all pipelines, conduits, pumping stations, force mains and other constructions used for collecting or conducting wastes to a treatment plant or disposal system; any plant or other works used for the purpose of treating, stabilizing or holding wastes; and any system used for disposing of wastes, either by surface or underground methods, including any treatment plant, disposal wells and absorption fields;

(ix) "Water supply system" includes development of the source and all structures for conveyance of raw water to the treatment plant or delivery systems; all water treatment plants including disinfection facilities; and all finished water delivery systems including pipelines, pumping stations and finished water storage facilities. Separate water supply systems used solely for irrigation or stock water are not included.

18-5-303. Exemptions from provisions.

(a) Unless the method of sale or other disposition is adopted for the purpose of evading the provisions of this article, this article shall not apply to the following subdivisions of land however, the following subdivisions are subject to requirements which may be adopted by the board of county commissioners regarding documentation of the proper use and implementation of the following exemptions:

(i) A division of land made outside of platted subdivisions for the purpose of a single gift or sale to a member of the landowner's immediate family, subject to the following requirements:

(A) A member of the immediate family is limited to any person who is a natural or adopted child, stepchild, spouse, sibling, grandchild, grandparent or parent of the landowner;

(B) The purpose of the division is to provide for the housing, business or agricultural needs of the grantee;

(C) The land shall have been titled in the name of the grantor for a period of not less than five (5) years prior to the division and parcels created under this paragraph shall be titled in the name of the immediate family member for whom the division is made for a period of not less than one (1) year unless such parcels are subject to involuntary transfer including, but not limited to, foreclosure, death, judicial sale, condemnation or bankruptcy;

(D) No parcel smaller than five (5) acres created under this paragraph shall be further divided unless the owner obtains a subdivision permit pursuant to W.S. 18-5-304;

(E) Where the landowner is a corporation and eighty percent (80%) of the shares are held by individuals related by blood or marriage, the sale or gift may be made subject to the provisions of this section to an immediate family member of any shareholder who has owned at least five percent (5%) of the outstanding shares for at least five (5) years continuously before the date of the sale or gift.

(ii) A division which may be created by any court of this state pursuant to the law of eminent domain, by operation of law or by order of any court in this state;

(iii) A division which is created by a lien, mortgage, deed of trust or any other security instrument, easements and rights-of-way;

(iv) Lands located within incorporated cities or towns;

(v) A division which is created by the sale or other disposition of land to the state of Wyoming or any political subdivision thereof;

(vi) A division which affects railroad rights-of-way;

(vii) A division which is a sale or other disposition of land for agricultural purposes or affects the alignment of property lines for agricultural purposes;

(viii) A division which is created by boundary line adjustments where the parcel subject of the sale or other disposition is adjacent to and merged with other land owned by the grantee;

(ix) A division which creates cemetery lots;

(x) A division which is created by the acquisition of an interest in land in the name of the husband and wife or other persons in joint tenancy or as tenants in common, and the interest shall be deemed for purposes of this subsection as only one (1) interest;

(xi) A division of land creating a parcel five (5) acres or less for the purpose of establishing unmanned communication facilities, compressor stations, metering stations, fiber optic booster stations or similar unmanned facilities.

(b) This article shall not apply to the sale or other disposition of land where the parcels involved are thirty-five (35) acres or larger, subject to the requirement that ingress and egress and utility easements shall be provided to each parcel by binding and recordable easements of not less than forty (40) feet in width to a public road unless specifically waived by the grantee or transferee in a binding and recordable document.

18-5-304. Subdivision permit required.

No person shall subdivide land or commence the physical layout or construction of a subdivision without first obtaining a subdivision permit from the board of the county in which the land is located.

18-5-305. Enforcement; rules and regulations.

Each board shall enforce this article and in accordance with the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act [§§ 16-3-101 through 16-3-115] shall within six (6) months after March 10, 1975, adopt such rules and regulations as necessary to implement the provisions of and to insure compliance with the intent and purposes of this article.

18-5-306. Minimum requirements for subdivision permits.

(a) The board shall require the following information to be submitted with each application for a subdivision permit, provided the board may by rule exempt from any of the following requirements of this subsection or subsection (c) of this section the subdivision of one (1) or more units of land into not more than a total of five (5) units of land:

(i) Evidence satisfactory to the board that the proposed subdivision complies with any applicable zoning or land use regulations;

(ii) A survey plat submitted by the subdivider containing the following:

(A) Date of preparation, scale and north arrow;

(B) The location of the subdivision including the section, township and range;

(C) The location and dimension of existing and proposed streets, alleys, roads, highways, public ways, utility rights-of-way, easements, parks and the location of proposed permanent buildings and structures if known.

(iii) Evidence satisfactory to the board that:

(A) The subdivider or his agent who offers any part of the subdivision for sale or who solicits any offers for the purchase thereof, may convey merchantable title subject only to noted reservations or restrictions of record and subject only to a proportionate share of real property taxes or assessments charged or assessed for the year in which any such sale may be legally effected; or

(B) Binding arrangements have been made by the person or his agent who offers any part of the subdivision for sale, to assure purchasers of any part of the subdivision that upon full payment of the purchase price a deed can and will be delivered conveying merchantable title subject only to noted reservations or restrictions of record and subject only to a proportionate share of such taxes and assessments thereon as may be levied or assessed for the year in which the sale may be legally effected.

(iv) A study evaluating the sewage system proposed for the subdivision and the adequacy and safety of the system. The study shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(A) Identification of the type of sewage system to serve the subdivision and identification of the entity or entities responsible for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed facility;

(B) For all types of sewage systems except individual on-lot sewage systems, a report submitted by the subdivider as to the adequacy and safety of the proposed sewage system. The report shall address, at a minimum, the following issues:

(I) An assessment of the adequacy of the proposed sewage system in relation to the proposed population density of the subdivision and any other existing or proposed land and water uses in the vicinity of the subdivision that may affect the adequacy of the system;

(II) An estimate of the total number of gallons per day of sewage generated by the proposed subdivision where a central sewage system is proposed;

(III) A demonstration that technical requirements and design standards of the department of environmental quality applicable to central sewage systems can and will be met;

(IV) Where utilization of or connection to an existing private or public sewage system is proposed, documentation that application to such entity has been made and that the entity can and will provide service;

(V) A detailed demonstration that the proposed sewage system for the subdivision is compatible with the proposed water supply system for the subdivision. The study shall demonstrate that the operation of the sewage system will not affect the suitability or safety of the proposed water supply system and a determination of the potential impacts of downgradient use of groundwater;

(VI) Demonstration that the proposed sewage system will meet all county, state and federal standards.

The demonstration shall address the relationship of the development to any local or state approved water quality management plans established pursuant to section 201 of the federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. section 1281 and demonstrate no conflict exists with any state approved local wellhead protection plan or local source water protection plan established pursuant to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

(C) Where individual on-lot sewage systems are proposed by the subdivider, a report submitted by the subdivider shall document the safety and adequacy of the proposed on-lot sewage systems including the following:

(I) Adequacy of separation distances;

(II) Separation of drainfield relative to groundwater and impervious soils;

(III) Suitability of the subdivision soil conditions;

(IV) Suitable topography;

(V) Proposed population density;

(VI) Protection of groundwater uses; and

(VII) Watersheds located on or draining into, under or over the proposed subdivision.

(D) Where individual on-lot sewage systems are proposed, the words "NO PROPOSED CENTRALIZED SEWAGE SYSTEM," in bold capital letters shall appear on all offers, solicitations, advertisements, contracts, agreements and plats relating to the subdivision.

(v) If the subdivider proposes to utilize adjoining property for sewers, drainage, sewer lines, power lines or other utilities, the subdivider shall provide copies of binding easements of not less than twenty (20) feet in width for the proposed facilities from each property owner over whose land such services shall extend and shall provide a minimum access roadway right-of-way of sixty (60) feet to the subdivision for all public ways;

(vi) A study evaluating the water supply system proposed for the subdivision and the adequacy and safety of the system. The study shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(A) Identification of the type of water supply system proposed to serve the subdivision and identification of the entity or entities responsible for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed facility;

(B) For all water supply systems except individual on-lot wells, a report submitted by the subdivider demonstrating the adequacy and safety of the proposed water supply system. The report shall address, at a minimum, the following issues:

(I) The estimated total number of gallons per day for the subdivision water supply system;

(II) Documentation that the proposed water supply system will be compatible with and not adversely affected by the sewage system proposed for the subdivision or any other sources of pollution within a reasonable distance;

(III) List of all surface and groundwater rights which will be used or which may be affected, including state engineer application and permit numbers and description of expected effects;

(IV) Plans for the mitigation of water right conflicts resulting from the use of water within the proposed subdivision;

(V) When connecting to an existing water supply system, the report shall also contain:

(1) Documentation that public or private water suppliers can and will supply water to the proposed subdivision, stating the amount of water available for use within the subdivision and the feasibility of extending service to that area;

(2) Documentation concerning the potability of the proposed water supply for the subdivision.

(VI) Where a centralized water supply system is proposed containing a new source of water supply to be developed, the report shall also demonstrate that the water supply system is sufficient in terms of quality, quantity and dependability and will be available to ensure an adequate water supply system for the type of subdivision proposed. The report shall include a narrative summary of:

(1) Where the water supply system source is derived from groundwater, the geologic setting of the water supply system source and the area of influence such as nearby communities, sources of pollution, surface water bodies and aquifers described by a Wyoming registered professional geologist;

(2) The quantity, quality and source of the water to be used including proposed and existing surface and groundwater facilities and their locations. Where the proposed water supply system for the subdivision is from a groundwater source, a written report submitted by the subdivider demonstrating that the proposed source is sufficient in terms of quality, quantity and dependability for the type of subdivision proposed;

(3) The proposed disposal of water not consumed, including water obtained under permits, storm drainage, dewatering, sewage and other wastewater sources;

(4) A delineation of primary sources of water, secondary sources and occasional or seasonal sources;

(5) Graphic location of all water supply sources including wells, raw water intakes, treatment facilities, treated water storage facilities and ponds;

(6) Documentation of all data sources on the occurrence and availability of surface and groundwater;

(7) Historic stream flows and well levels;

(8) Senior water rights;

(9) Flood damage and flood protection;

(10) Impact of and protection from supply shortages.

(C) Where individual on-lot wells are proposed as the water supply system, a report submitted by the subdivider demonstrating the safety and adequacy of the water supply system shall address, at a minimum, the following:

(I) The estimated total number of gallons per day for the subdivision;

(II) Information relative to the potential availability and quality of groundwater proposed within the subdivision which may consist of new data, existing data on other working wells in the area, or other data, including drilling logs, from a test well drilled within the proposed subdivision indicating soil types, depth, quantity and quality of water produced in the test well;

(III) Documentation that the proposed water supply system will be compatible with and not adversely affected by the sewage system proposed for the subdivision or any other sources of pollution within a reasonable distance;

(IV) List of all surface and groundwater rights which will be used or which may be affected, including state engineer application and permit numbers, and description of expected effects; and

(V) Plans for the mitigation of water right conflicts resulting from the use of water within the proposed subdivision.

(D) Where individual on-lot wells are proposed, the words "NO PROPOSED CENTRAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM," in bold capital letters shall appear on all offers, solicitations, advertisements, contracts, agreements and plats relating to the subdivision.

(vii) Documentation satisfactory to the board that adequate access has been provided and that all proposed streets, alleys and roadways within the subdivision conform to the minimum standards adopted by the board and applied uniformly throughout the county which shall not in itself constitute consent of the board to locate, repair or maintain roadways and facilities. If, however, the subdivider proposes to make any streets, alleys or roadways

private, then the subdivider shall submit to the board properly acknowledged written certification that certain streets, alleys or roadways within the subdivision shall remain private and the board shall be under no obligation to repair, maintain or accept any dedication of such roads to the public use. If no such public maintenance is contemplated, the subdivider shall put a legend on the plat of the subdivision, on all advertisements and solicitations for the subdivision and on all offers, contracts or agreements for the sale and purchase of lots within the subdivision showing the streets, alleys and roadways showing in capital letters "NO PUBLIC MAINTENANCE OF STREETS OR ROADS";

(viii) Documentation satisfactory to the board that the subdivider has adequate financial resources to develop and complete any facility proposed or represented to be the responsibility of the subdivider, including but not limited to water supply systems, sewage systems, streets and roadways. The applicant shall provide a performance bond, acceptable letter of credit or other sufficient financial commitment to assure that any facilities proposed or represented to be part of the subdivision will in fact be completed as proposed, or escrow sufficient monies out of land sales to guarantee that the above facilities are installed. The amount of any bond or other financial commitment or escrow required under this paragraph shall reflect the estimated costs of providing the facilities;

(ix) Proof that the applicant has published notice of his intent to apply for a permit once each week for two (2) weeks within thirty (30) days prior to filing his application. The notice shall include the name of the subdivider and the general location of the land to be subdivided;

(x) Any other information consistent with this article and the board's published rules and regulations which the board deems pertinent or relevant to the evaluation of the application;

(xi) With respect to any water rights appurtenant to lands to be subdivided in accordance with this chapter and prior to final approval of the subdivision the subdivider shall provide:

(A) Evidence that the subdivider has submitted to the state engineer the documentation necessary to relinquish the water rights and has notified purchasers and the board of this action; or

(B) Evidence that the subdivider has submitted to the state engineer the documentation necessary to change the use, place of use or point of diversion to provide for beneficial use of the water rights outside the subdivision; or

(C) A plan, a copy of which was submitted to and approved by the state engineer prior to the final approval of the subdivision application, for the distribution of the water rights appurtenant to the land to be subdivided. The plan shall specify the distribution of the water to the lots within the subdivision and shall include all appropriate applications for change of use, change of place of use or change in point of diversion or means of conveyance in accordance with W.S. 41-3-103, 41-3-104 or 41-3-114; and

(D) If the subdivision is located within an irrigation district or within lands, served by a ditch, irrigation company or association or by an unorganized ditch, evidence that the plan has been submitted to the district board company, or association, or the remaining appropriators in the case of an unorganized ditch for their review and recommendations; and

(E) Evidence that the subdivider will specifically state on all offers and solicitations relative to the subdivision his intent to comply with this paragraph and that the seller does not warrant to a purchaser that he shall have any rights to the natural flow of any stream within or adjacent to the proposed subdivision. He shall further state that the Wyoming law does not recognize any riparian rights to the continued natural flow of a stream or river for persons living on the banks of the stream or river.

(b) The board shall require the applicant to obtain review and recommendations from the local conservation district regarding soil suitability, erosion control, sedimentation and flooding problems. The review and recommendations shall be completed within sixty (60) days.

(c) Upon receipt of a subdivision permit application filed with a county and prior to subdivision permit approval, the county or subdivider shall send three (3) copies of the portions of the application prepared under this section to the department of environmental quality for review of the safety and adequacy of the proposed sewage system and proposed water supply system. The review shall be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:

(i) The department may request assistance from the state engineer, the Wyoming water development office and any other state agency or local governmental entity in preparing its review. Any agency or entity requested to assist in the review shall fully cooperate to the extent possible with the department and shall furnish the information or recommendations requested within the time period specified by the department;

(ii) To the extent requested by a county government, the administrator of the water quality division, with the approval of the director of the department of environmental quality, shall delegate authority to the county to review any reports or studies required by this section directed at determining the safety and adequacy of the proposed sewage or water supply system contained as part of a subdivision application. Any authority delegated under this section shall be subject to the following conditions:

(A) The county entity shall demonstrate to the administrator of the water quality division that all sewage or water supply systems will be reviewed by a qualified professional with expertise in surface and groundwater protection from pollution and safe and adequate water supply systems;

(B) The local government shall demonstrate that the review of water supply and sewage systems will be in a manner as stringent as the department of environmental quality would require under this section;

(C) The review of subdivisions with a proposed sewage system consisting of wastes requiring an underground injection control permit under department of environmental quality regulations or sewage systems with a proposed surface water discharge shall not be delegated to the county; and

(D) The administrator shall periodically review the administrative programs of each county governmental entity receiving a delegation of authority under this section and may, with the consent of the director, revoke or temporarily suspend the delegation agreement entered into with any entity which has failed to perform its delegated duties or has otherwise violated the terms of its agreement of delegation.

(iii) The department shall file its written comments and recommendations on the application with the commission or board within thirty (30) days after receipt of the application. The department may extend its review period for an additional thirty (30) days if an extension is necessary to complete the review.

18-5-307. Planning commission may receive applications and make recommendations.

The board may allow the county planning and zoning commission authorized under the provisions of W.S. 18-5-201 through 18-5-206 as the proper agency to receive and evaluate applications for subdivision permits. If so authorized the planning commission shall receive the materials required by this article and shall submit a copy of the application to the department of environmental quality for review as provided by W.S. 18-5-306(c). After completing its evaluation, the commission shall make findings and recommendations to the board concerning an application within forty-five (45) days from the date the department of environmental quality submits its recommendation to the commission or from the date when the recommendation is due if no recommendation is made, whichever is earlier. If no action is taken by the planning commission within that time the plat is deemed to be approved by the planning commission.

18-5-308. Approval by the board.

(a) The board shall approve or disapprove the subdivision application and issue a subdivision permit or ruling:

(i) Within forty-five (45) days after receiving a report from the planning commission; or

(ii) If no planning and zoning commission has been appointed, within sixty (60) days after the department of environmental quality submits its recommendation to the board or from the date when the recommendation is due if no recommendation is made, whichever is earlier.

(b) If any part of the subdivision lies within one (1) mile of the boundaries of an incorporated city or town the approval of the governing body of the city or town must also be obtained in accordance with W.S. 34-12-103.

(c) If a subdivision application is approved by the board notwithstanding an adverse recommendation by the department of environmental quality, the subdivider shall furnish to all potential purchasers a copy of the department's recommendation prior to sale. The subdivider need not furnish the potential buyer with a copy of the department's recommendation if the board in approving the subdivision enters a written finding that the subdivider has corrected the inadequacy set forth in the department's recommendation. Any person violating this subsection is subject to the penalty provided by W.S. 18-5-314.

18-5-309. Permit fee.

Each application for a subdivision permit shall be accompanied by a fee to be determined by the board. The fee shall be the greater of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or ten dollars (\$10.00) per lot up to a maximum fee of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). All fees collected shall be credited to the county general fund.

18-5-310. Repealed By Laws 2001, Ch. 169, § 1, Ch. 208, § 2.

18-5-311. Investigatory powers.

(a) If the board has reason to believe that a person has engaged in activity which violates any provision of this article it shall make an investigation and may administer oaths or affirmations and upon its own motion or upon request of any party may subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, adduce evidence and require the production of any matter which is relevant to the investigation, including the existence, description, nature, custody, condition and location of any books, documents or other tangible things and the identity and

location of persons having knowledge of relevant facts or any other matter reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

(b) If any person subject to the provisions of this article has records required in W.S. 18-5-311(a) located outside this state, the person shall either make them available directly to the board or pay the reasonable and necessary expenses for the board or its representative to examine them at the place where they are maintained. The board may designate representatives, including comparable officials of the state in which the records are located, to inspect them on the board's behalf.

(c) Upon failure without lawful excuse to obey a subpoena or to give testimony and upon reasonable notice to all persons affected thereby, the board may apply to any district court for an order compelling compliance.

18-5-312. Enforcement.

The provisions of this article are enforceable by all appropriate legal remedies including but not limited to injunctive relief or a writ of mandamus. Upon failure or refusal of any county attorney to act upon a violation of the provisions of this article, the attorney general at the request of the board shall initiate civil or criminal proceedings to enforce the provisions of this article.

18-5-313. False statement or misrepresentation; penalty.

Any person who knowingly authorizes, directs or aids in the publication, advertisement, distribution or circulation of any false statement or misrepresentation concerning any subdivision for sale in this or any other state, and every person with knowledge that any such advertisement, prospectus, pamphlet or letter concerning land or any subdivision thereof contains any written statement that is false or fraudulent in any material part or who issues, circulates, publishes or distributes the same or causes the same to be circulated, published or distributed shall upon conviction be imprisoned for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days or be fined not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Each day of violation constitutes a new offense.

18-5-314. Penalties.

Any person who willfully violates any provision of this article or any rule or order issued under this article, and any person who as an agent for a subdivider, developer or owner of subdivided lands offers for sale any subdivided lands or subdivisions without first complying with the provisions of this article shall upon conviction be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisoned in a county jail for not more than thirty (30) days or both. Each day of violation constitutes a new offense.

18-5-315. Provisions minimum.

If any board has or enacts resolutions or regulations which impose requirements on subdividers or subdivisions which are more restrictive than the provisions of this article, the authority to enact such local resolutions or regulations being hereby granted, the local provisions are not superseded by the provisions of this article.