

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL/EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON
Tuesday, August 18, 2014**

A special meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2014 11:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Patrick G. Call, Chairman; Ann English, Vice-Chairman; Richard R. Searle, Member

Staff Present: Michael J. Ortega, County Administrator
Jim Vlahovich, Deputy County Administrator
Britt W. Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Kim Mulhern
Mary Darling

Chairman Call called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

This executive session is authorized under A.R.S. § 38-431.03, Subsection (A), paragraph 3 and 4.

1. Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(3) and (A)(4), the Board may vote to go into Executive Session for legal advice or discussion or consultation with the Board of Supervisors' attorney to consider its position and instruct its attorneys regarding contemplated litigation over the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Revision to the Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Wolf.

Supervisor Searle said there was no need to go into executive session at the moment. He stated that the main focus of the discussion was the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mexican Wolf; the current situation is that three of the proposed alternatives expand recovery area to the border which impacts Cochise, Santa Cruz, and Hidalgo Counties and the United States Fish and Wildlife (USFW) has not been receptive to any input.

Ms. Mary Darling, Darling Geometrics, agreed that the USFW had not been receptive to comments and added that the draft EIS was legally inadequate, had a vague description of what areas would be impacted, and had very tight deadlines for other agencies to comment.

Supervisor Searle added that the USFW had not incorporated any comments to the draft EIS and they may not do so in the final EIS; this was troubling since many agencies had suggested major changes and most were not in favor of the experimental population being released into their jurisdictions. He suggested that the Board partner with other interested parties to challenge the USFW. He noted that by stopping the process and suing USFW agencies would give affected counties time to officially add their input through court proceedings.

Vice-Chairman English asked if the Department of the Interior had been contacted to address the concerns with USFW.

Ms. Darling said that a letter on behalf of the Board had been sent to the Director of the Department of the Interior, but the County had not received a response.

Supervisor Searle suggested that the Board plan for supporting litigation regarding this matter.

Vice-Chairman English stated that although she is in support of taking action, she would need to put a limit on the cost of this effort.

Chairman Call asked for more detail on the logistics of partnering with other agencies and what would have to be done in order for the County to participate and show a strong commitment on this effort.

Supervisor Searle stated that he would contact coalitions already in place to see if they had any interest in the Mexican Wolf experimental population in Arizona.

Chairman Call noted that the County is not against protecting animals, but the issue here is that federal agencies are ignoring local governments on an issue that critically impact the citizens.

Chairman Call adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

Patrick G. Call, Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlenthe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board