

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
Tuesday, September 9, 2014**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 1:30 p.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
Britt W. Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Karen Riggs, Highway and Floodplain Director
Gussie Motter, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Chairman Call called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.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

INTRODUCTIONS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding the Palominas Recharge Project with a Tour of the project site to follow.

Ms. Karen Riggs used a PowerPoint presentation to give the background and update of the project. In 1987, the soil conservation service published a report with their proposal to divert the water but it was never developed. In 2006, a floodwall was built around the Palominas School and Cochise County paid for it because the entire area was sheet flooded and was therefore a flood control district issue necessitating protection of the school and dykes.

Originally, this was a 10-year storm design channel which would reduce flood damage potential. Homeowners were concerned about diversion, although proven incorrect by the County; that was the perception. A flood channel was built to the San Pedro River, on County owned property which includes a large buffer of sacaton grass.

Ms. Riggs said a detention basin was needed on the Mansker property to complete the flood control plan. The Nature Conservancy was looking at the same property, and there was an opportunity to apply for the Walton Family Foundation grant.

In 2011, during the Monument Wildfire, the County worked with the Walton Family Foundation for grant approval to take budgeted flood control district money to make a pilot recharge project for the Upper San Pedro Basin.

Ms. Riggs showed photos of construction on the approximate 40-acre project site including the basin, box culverts, relief channel, and emergency spillway. The basin is designed to empty in less than thirty-six hours and the goal was to get the water underground as soon as possible to reduce evaporation.

This project will use real-time monitoring equipment of all the dry wells, infiltration trenches, precipitation gauges, and depth of existing wells. Included in the grant are three quarterly reports and one final annual report that will show performance to date. The County needs to determine maintenance costs for future monitoring and operation maintenance. Nothing in this project needed an Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) permit.

Ms. Riggs stated there was \$130,000 for the project, including the Walton Grant match; \$65,000 of which was used on the Mansker Property. The remaining funds will be used on the Riverstone project. After that the County will examine Bella Vista to see what gives us the best recharge value.

The Board and staff watched a video of the site utilizing Google Earth as Ms. Riggs and Chairman Call pointed out important factors including sheet flow and the group discussed.

The Work Session discussion was adjourned at 2:14 pm to visit the site and to memorialize with a video because of the cutting edge nature of this project for storm water recapture and the many benefits to and support of the residents of Cochise County.

Chairman Call adjourned the meeting at 2:14 p.m.

APPROVED:

Patrick G. Call, Chairman

ATTEST:

Gussie Motter, Deputy Clerk of the Board