

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
Tuesday, November 29, 2017**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, November 29, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at Pierce Wines Arizona, 4511 E. Robbs Road, Willcox, Arizona.

Present: Ann English, Chairman; Patrick G. Call, Vice-Chairman; Peggy Judd, Member

Staff Present: Edward T. Gilligan, County Administrator
Britt W. Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Amanda Baillie, Public Information Officer
Karen Riggs, Highway and Floodplain Director
Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Steve and Shirley Seplak, Owners of SAS-Z Nuts
Barbara and Dan Pierce, Owners of Pierce Wines Arizona, LLC
Monica and Chad Preston, Owners of Birds and Barrels Vineyard
Sam Pillsbury, Owner of Pillsbury Vineyard Estates
Jesse Noble, Vineyard Manager of Pillsbury Vineyard Estates
Denzil Farbo, Willcox Resident
Alan Baker, Willcox Chamber of Commerce
Mark Jorve, Owner of Zarpara Vineyard
Rod Keeling, Owner of Keeling Schaefer Vineyards

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 10:15 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

INTRODUCTIONS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Willcox Wineries Tour and Road Review.

Ms. Pierce presented on the vineyards in the community and handed out a packet with information about the vineyards. She focused her discussion on the tourism portion as related to the local wine industry and noted that there has been an increase in visitations and sales at the 11 tasting rooms in the area. She added that more structured roads would positively impact wine industry tourism, which would benefit the community.

Mr. Keeling said that other than road improvement the County could also support the wine industry by improving regulations within the process to open wineries in the area.

Ms. Pierce emphasized that the wine industry community wanted to partner with the County to promote tourism.

Chairman English clarified that the County would look at current processes to see where to improve and added that water regulations are not under the County's prevue.

Mr. Jorve said that signage was also a critical part of the plan.

Mr. Hanson suggested a Road Improvement Maintenance District (RIMD) and said he could meet with some of the owners to discuss.

Ms. Riggs said the County could do some work under maintenance without having to worry about the cost of a new project.

Mr. Baker said he would research grants that could contribute materials for road improvements.

Vice-Chairman Call suggested a follow up meeting at the end of January.

Mr. Keeling asked if the signage project could be done as soon as possible to guide tourists.

Ms. Riggs said she would work with the winery owners to map out a trail of signs.

Mr. Keeling said he would provide the plan for the signage.

The wine owners thanked the Board for their interest in the local wine industry.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board

