

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL/EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON
Tuesday, May 6, 2019**

A special meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 6, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Peggy Judd, Chairman; Thomas E. Borer, Supervisor (telephonic); Ann English, Vice-Chairman

Staff Present: Edward T. Gilligan, County Administrator
Sharon Gilman, Associate County Administrator
Kim Lemons, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Sara Ransom, Civil Deputy County Attorney
Matt Walton, Public Access Coordinator, AZGameFish

Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 10:05 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 special session and possible executive session is authorized under A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3),(4)

1. Approve and execute Assignment Agreement to convey the rights, obligations and responsibilities of the Easement Conveyance Agreement for Recreational Access, signed by the County and El Dorado and the Recreational Access Easement Agreement (collectively the "Easement Agreements") to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission ("Commission").

Chairman Judd read and opened the item for discussion.

Ms. Ransom said this agreement was a year in the making and the County Attorney's Office is recommending Board approval. Mr. Walton with Arizona Game and Fish has been working on access to this area for a significant amount of time. Two easement agreements were approved in February 2018 with the understanding that after the assignment was approved, the County would assign the easements and convey rights and obligations to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission ("Commission") so it could complete the construction of the roads and parking area and provide access to the citizens of Cochise County. El Dorado Benson LLC has consented to Cochise County's assignment of both agreements already.

Vice-Chairman English said the end goal has always been to convey rights to a government agency to give citizens access.

Chairman Judd concurred.

Supervisor Borer did not have any questions after reading the easement agreements.

Mr. Walton said there are no firm timelines, but as stated in a letter (attached to this item) if the interim road to the parking area is built by the Commission, the Forest Service will work within its national lands to connect the interior roads in the Whetstones to the border and parking area. Including the process of having public hearings for citizen comments, environment assessments, addressing private owners with easements or route around if owner does not give access. Working with state agencies, the BLM, Secretary of Agriculture, the word from the Forest Service region in Albuquerque is that access within the Forest Service land will connect to the road and parking area the Commission will construct thanks to the County's assignment, so roads that have been detached and inaccessible since 1986 will be reconnected.

Vice-Chairman English agrees that the public needs to have access to recreational opportunities on these public lands.

Mr. Walton said once there is Whetstone access, the Forest Service can effectively manage.

Vice-Chairman English made a motion to approve and execute Assignment Agreement to convey the rights, obligations and responsibilities of the Easement Conveyance Agreement for Recreational Access, signed by the County and El Dorado and the Recreational Access Easement Agreement (collectively the "Easement Agreements") to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission ("Commission"). Chairman Judd seconded the motion.

Chairman Judd called for the vote and it carried 3-0.

Chairman Judd adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

APPROVED:

Peggy Judd, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kim Lemons, Deputy Clerk of the Board