

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL/EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON
Tuesday, June 18, 2019**

A special meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

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

Staff Present: Edward T. Gilligan, County Administrator
Sharon Gilman, Associate County Administrator
Sara Ransom, Civil Deputy County Attorney
Christine Roberts, Civil Deputy County Attorney
Kim Lemons, Deputy Clerk of the Board
Amanda Baillie, Public Information Officer

Attendees: Jackie Watkins, County Engineer
David Smith, Mayor, City of Bisbee
Shar Porier, Sierra Vista Herald

Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 4:15 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

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

1. Potential executive session and special session to approve option agreement providing the County the right to purchase a minimum of 200 acre feet of effluent from the City of Bisbee for a five year period.

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

Mr. Gilligan said this item is for discussion and possible motion to accept an agreement with the City of Bisbee, to use a portion of Bisbee's effluent for a recharge project. The County, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), City of Sierra Vista, and the City of Bisbee as members of the Cochise Conservation Recharge Network (CCRN) have discussed this option as part of a comprehensive recharge strategy. This option does not place any responsibility for funding on the County, it provides an opportunity to continue to network with funding partners, to develop a project at third party expense to benefit the San Pedro River aquifer. The initial

funding will be \$35,000 to enter into a five-year agreement with TNC covering \$10,000. The County can exercise an option to do a project, with a flat fee payment to the City of Bisbee and an annual payment for water use but only with third party funding.

Mr. Gilligan said the best news about this option is the County and the City of Bisbee will continue discussions regarding the best use of the water resource and it creates revenue for the City of Bisbee. Currently, the discharge from the wastewater system goes into the ground.

Chairman English said it shows we are trying to explore every avenue to do our part to conserve the river.

Mr. Gilligan said it adds value to existing projects and creates external interest in this area to build additional partnerships to solve complex water issues.

Supervisor Borer asked for clarification on the scope of the \$35,000 investment.

Mr. Gilligan said it ensures for 5 years that with a third-party investor to create a recharge project using at least 200-acre of the Bisbee effluent as a source for the project, that the County has the exclusion right to make it happen.

Ms. Ransom added that the effluent charge is \$60 per acre feet up to 200-acre feet but the City of Bisbee can elect to provide more. The County's intent is to find a third-party partner to assign these water rights to and Bisbee always have the right to accept or reject those terms. She also clarified that the County is paying the \$35,000 but with good authority that the TNC intends to support this project.

Mr. Gilligan stated that TNC has been a good partner, acquiring conservation lands, and focusing on the potential value of water protection. This agreement is also a long-term economy decision for the City of Bisbee. All parties have been working to strike a balance, with everyone's needs met, that provides mutual benefits and protections for all.

Supervisor English made a motion to approve the option agreement providing the County the right to purchase a minimum of 200 acre feet of effluent from the City of Bisbee for a five year period in the amount of \$35,000.

Chairman Judd adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

APPROVED:

Peggy Judd, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kim Lemons, Deputy Clerk of the Board