

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2022**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Friday, May 13, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Ann English, Chairman; Peggy Judd, Vice-Chairman

Absent: Tom Crosby, Supervisor

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator  
Sharon Gilman, Deputy County Administrator  
Paul Correa, Civil Deputy County Attorney  
Tim Mattix, Clerk of the Board  
Camila Rochin, Public Information Officer

Attendees: Lisa Marra, Elections Director  
Kris Carlson, Civil Deputy County Attorney

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

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***ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION***

**Board of Supervisors**

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding a ballot measure on the 2022 General Election ballot to designate the Willcox Groundwater Basin as an Active Management Area as authorized in A.R.S. 45-415 by the Arizona Department of Water Resources.

Chairman English noted that today's discussion is about the process the County goes through for ballot measures, rather than a discussion about the Active Management Area (AMA).

Ms. Marra and Mr. Carlson presented this item. Ms. Marra stated that initiative petitions were filed for the Willcox Groundwater Basin Initiative (Willcox Initiative), and the signature requirement was met; the Douglas initiative petition is pending, with a July 7, 2022 filing deadline. The Willcox Initiative impacts both Cochise and Graham Counties. Mr. Carlson stated that the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) generated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's), available on ADWR's website, about the initiatives; he read the ADWR definition of an AMA. Anyone interested should go to the ADWR website as they are the regulatory body for AMA's.

Ms. Marra reviewed constitutional and state law provisions requiring ballot measures to be placed on the ballot if requirements are met; the Willcox Initiative appears to have met all criteria. Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 45, states that 10% of the qualified electors in the proposed boundary may file a petition for an AMA designation. As Cochise County has the highest number of people in the proposed boundary, Cochise County will first need to call the election, and then notify Graham County. Cochise County will prepare a publicity pamphlet for the election. Ms. Marra reviewed the definition of an initiative, and detailed the initiative process and filing and election dates.

The Board and Ms. Marra discussed the publicity pamphlet and its timeline and requirements; the boundaries of the proposed AMA and precinct boundaries not matching, and ballot styles; and, the timeframe and process to call the election. Ms. Marra will work with the Clerk of the Board to determine the meeting at which the election will be formally called; it must be called no later than September 9, 2022. Mr. Karwaczka reiterated that this is a voter initiative, not a County initiative, and that ADWR is the contact and has the information regarding AMA's.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Tim Mattix, Clerk of the Board