

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Ann English, Chairman; Peggy Judd, Vice-Chairman, telephonic; Tom Crosby, Supervisor

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator  
Sharon Gilman, Deputy County Administrator  
Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney  
Tim Mattix, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Kris Carlson, Civil Deputy County Attorney

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.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**

---

***ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION***

**Board of Supervisors**

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding creating a Water Improvement Program Grant Program per A.R.S. § 11-254.09.

Vice-Chairman Judd presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. She stated her opinion that people with dry wells need to be helped, and the Active Management Area (AMA) ballot proposition probably will not solve the problem. A.R.S § 11-254.09 allows the County to designate or be the entity to collect donations and distribute funds to help low-income or fixed-income County residents whose wells have gone dry. She reviewed the statute in detail, noting that funds could be used to deepen existing wells or provide plumbing into homes. The program may be regional, rather than countywide; she has found that businesses and individuals want to donate for their region. She shared maps of affected areas and proposed regional divisions. She continued to review the statute, noting that general fund monies may not be used and program reporting requirements. County staff previously suggested a local group form a 501(c)(3) without County involvement, but the community requested for the County to be more involved. Recipients would follow the rules and requirements if the County collected and managed the funds.

The Board discussed the City of Wilcox managing the program since it appears the problem is localized there. Wilcox would then handle the application criteria for

awarding grants. Vice-Chairman Judd suggested the County consult with the County Supervisors Association (CSA).

Ms. Roberts stated that there are no clear federal guidelines on how a program like this could be set up. Discussion ensued regarding funding sources and management of the funds. Mr. Carlson stated that he contacted County Attorney Offices throughout Arizona and no county has done this. The statute limits the ability and criteria to be successful due to establishing eligibility criteria for low and fixed income individuals; a private entity creating a 501(c)(3) may not be bound to comply with that regulation. Discussion ensued regarding statutory limitations, the effort it would take to start the program, and the significant funding required for the program.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

APPROVED:

---

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

---

Tim Mattix, Clerk of the Board