

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 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; 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: Jackie Watkins, Engineering & Natural Resources Director
Bradley Simmons, Engineering Manager
Joaquin Solis, Floodplain Administrator
Mark Apel, Environmental Projects Coordinator

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 the Engineering & Natural Resources Department Informational Update, including the following topics:
 - Engineering Division Update; and,
 - Flood Control Division Update.

Ms. Watkins presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Watkins began with the road department division and stated that the special event permitting is being updated to make sure the applicant is aware of all of the requirements. Some of the permits can take 40-60 hours of staff time. Ms. Watkins stated that they will be coming back to the Board for a change in fees as they have not been updated in the last 10 years. The bike race "El Tour De Zona" will require Charleston Road to close on March 26, 2023.

Ms. Watkins gave an update on the signage program; Charleston Road is complete and Davis Road is ongoing. Nighttime winter inspections for reflectivity are complete in the Western portion of the County and they are currently working on the Eastern portion.

Ms. Watkins presented that the plans for the box culvert project on Leslie Canyon and

Geronimo Trail are 90% complete and the specifications are 75% complete. This project will be bid late February or early March and there will be a detour on the Leslie Canyon project for approximately 1 month. The box culverts are pre-cast, which will speed up the project. In response to the Board, Ms. Watkins stated that on this part of the road there is a ten ton weight limit and a stock truck and trailer will be able to get through this detour.

Ms. Watkins stated that the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) is being updated which covers the speed humps and speed tables. Studies, which include traffic counts, are being performed on San Xavier in Sierra Vista and Rogers Avenue in Naco.

Ms. Watkins reported that the Arizona Transportation Board will consider turning Naco Highway back over to the state as it carries interstate truck traffic between the port of entry to Highway 92. In response to the Board, Ms. Watkins stated that about half of Naco Highway and the border check point are in Bisbee city limits.

Ms. Watkins stated that the policy for road easements and Right-of-Way (ROW) widths will be updated as some do not need a 100ft ROW due to mountain areas. In response to the Board, Ms. Watkins stated that a dedicated ROW can be bought back by the owner for \$250. Easements cannot as the property owner already owns the property.

Ms. Watkins stated that the Theater Drive project will be put on the Sierra Vista Metropolitan Planning Organization (SVMPO) list for possible grant funding. The Moson Road Prescoping study is complete.

Ms. Watkins stated that the application for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant is being developed for the 22 mile section of Davis Road between Highway 80 and N Central Highway to acquire ROW and the design plan. Senator Kelly's discretionary funds have approved \$2.8 million for the Davis Road Milepost 5 & 13 project and they are looking for additional funds for the \$6 million dollar project. In response to the Board, Ms. Watkins stated that this project was started before the Port-of-Entry (POE). These two areas flood during the monsoon season and the detour is long and it is difficult to turn around. Staff is in the process of acquiring ROW and completing design of the project from Central to Highway 191.

Ms. Watkins stated that the Floodplain Division received 100% correctness on the Community Rating System (CRS) for 2022 construction certification. Staff is preparing the CRS reports and finalizing updates to Flood Control District (FCD) Regulations to assist in reaching a level 8 CRS rating to qualify for 5% more off on flood insurance for citizens.

Ms. Watkins stated that they are completing 4 to 5 commercial reviews for development plans, land disturbance and drainage analysis per month. In response to the Board, Ms. Watkins stated that they are following the legislation that states they must turn around the request in 30 days. Rough drafts of the hydraulics for St. David and Bisbee have been completed for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and will be reviewed with FEMA at the end of the month. Maps may be available by the end of the year for the public.

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has new requirements and storm water will need to be collected when it rains in Hereford, Bisbee and Douglas. In response to the Board, Ms. Watkins stated that ADEQ enforces regulations for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).

Mr. Solis gave an update on Leslie Canyon Pond. The consultant has begun analysis of flow depths to meet ADWR jurisdictional requirements. In response to the Board, Mr. Solis explained that a weir is a control outlet for water to go through and a jurisdictional dam is anything that holds 50 acre feet of water or is higher than six feet in height from the downstream area.

Mr. Solis stated that they are looking to bring the water from the mountains and around the Bay Acres community. The consultant did a field visit in December to evaluate how to address the water crossing the roadways. When the consultant gets it 60% designed, they will know the amount of area needed for ROW acquisition. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance will be started after the construction cost estimate. The last cost estimate was completed 10 years ago and was approximately \$8 to \$9 million dollars.

Ms. Watkins stated that the design for the Coyote Wash project has started, which is \$330,000. The County has the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) grant for the \$1.5 million dollar construction. Mr. Apel stated that they are finishing phase two investigation of direct discharge of Sierra Vista treated effluent to be piped down to River Stone property. A REPI grant of \$900,000 for this project was received in partnership with Sierra Vista. The Board and Ms. Watkins discussed erosion in the Coyote Wash. A contractor is on board for the design concept of the Bisbee Effluent project.

Ms. Watkins summarized watershed studies on Cochise Stronghold Rd. Staff has applied for a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant for Willcox Basin and will apply for a grant for the Rucker Canyon area from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE).

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Tim Mattix, Clerk of the Board