

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 2:00 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  
Marty Haverty, Director of Public Works  
Jason Faccio, Operations Superintendent  
Fred Nixon, Operations Superintendent  
Steven Jones, Financial Manager  
Mark Apel, Environmental Projects Coordinator

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION**

***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.

Jackie Watkins presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Watkins began with the Engineering Division and stated that the application for special event permitting has been updated and is in CitizenServe.

Ms. Watkins stated that nighttime inspections for retro reflectivity of signage have been completed. She explained the increased rate of decline on roads that have an increased amount of truck traffic, such as Shelton Road and Bell Ranch Road, and the need for more aggregate base and asphalt on these roads. The 17 major county roads will be prioritized and the asphalt will be milled and replaced on major roads every one to two years. The cost per road is approximately \$1 million. The box culvert on Geronimo Trail, milepost 8, will be replaced. The reconstruction meeting is on Monday; work will start at the end of May and be completed in June. There are 61 bridges and some are structurally obsolete and functionally deficient. A consultant will look at the inspection reports from the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and prioritize the roads, which will be replaced 1 to 2 per year.

Ms. Watkins reported that a drone study is being performed on San Xavier in Sierra Vista and Rogers Avenue in Naco through the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) and the applicant on San Xavier wants temporary speed humps. After testing the temporary speed humps, the neighborhood will vote and if 60% of the neighbors want them, they will be installed. Eleven speed humps would be needed to maintain 25 to 30 miles per hour. The neighbors would pay for the asphalt and the County would install it.

Ms. Watkins stated that Moson Road is being designed with funding from the Sierra Vista Metropolitan Planning Organization (SVMPO) and the design contract will be brought to the Board in June. She reviewed the costs and grant funding associated with the project and stated that Moson Road is in the draft of the State budget. In response to the Board, Ms. Watkins stated the wash is not part of this project, and the discussed requirements associated with federal funding.

Ms. Watkins reviewed the plans and Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding for Davis Road including the right-of-way acquisition between Highway 80 and North Central Highway (Central), finishing the initiation process for the work on mile posts 5 and 13, and acquiring right-of-way from Central to US 191. She stated that the future design for Davis Road from US 191 to Highway 80 is a four-lane highway depending on port of entry traffic. The section from Central to US 191 will expand to the south and will have two lanes and 8-foot shoulders. When the future traffic count gets high enough, it will be a four-lane road.

Ms. Watkins stated the Road Design and Construction Manuals will be updated. She stated that a needs analysis will be explored regarding roads that are maintained and not maintained by the County. This will include traffic counts, addresses and how many people live there.

Ms. Watkins stated that with drones, drainage issues were investigated at Willow Lakes, Bay Acres and Cochise Stronghold. The next flight at Jefferson Whitewater School will be completed to investigate flooding. She stated that a consultant will be developing a drainage design manual which will help developers give a complete report. Ms. Watkins stated that updates to the Floodplain Regulations are being finalized and will be submitted to the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review, which will assist with reaching level 8 in the Community Rating System (CRS) to reduce insurance rates by 5%. In response to the Board, Ms. Watkins stated that FEMA has started studies and will have final maps in 2026. She stated that staff met with FEMA last week and saw the drafts of Bisbee and St. David; the St. David draft map will be taken to St. David Flood Control District for comment. The FEMA public meeting will be in 2025, with final maps in 2026.

Ms. Watkins reported that the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) is being audited by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) in Bisbee, Benson and Douglas. Grant applications for funding have been submitted to complete watershed studies at Willcox Basin, Elfrida on Rucker Creek Road, and Turkey Creek in Willcox. Ms. Watkins stated that Turkey Creek flooded Kansas Settlement Road for two weeks last year. She stated that the first step to doing a flood control and recharge project there would be completing a floodplain study and then go into design plans. In response to the Board, Ms. Watkins stated that the Natural Resource Conservation Districts (NRCD) will be applying for a grant to complete a floodplain study for Turkey Creek and Elfrida will be completed by the Army Corps of

Engineers (USACE) or the County. She stated that FEMA only has one repetitive loss structure, which was in St. David, from last year's flooding.

Ms. Watkins reviewed updates from FEMA regarding flooding, including mitigation, climate effects, hydrology, hydraulics, and flood mapping. Ms. Watkins stated that some of the maps have not been updated since 1984 and more detailed flood maps are available due to the Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) mapping that was completed 2 years ago. By the end of the calendar year, FEMA will have completed base level engineering for the western part of the County. Vice-Chairman Judd stated that the result of this could be that more people would have to purchase flood insurance and be able to make claims when a flood occurs.

Ms. Watkins gave an update on Leslie Canyon Pond. She stated that ADWR may pay 50% of the design cost of \$219,250 to get it out of jurisdictional requirements, design will be complete by the end of the year. Ms. Watkins stated that the design of the Bay Acres project is approximately 1/3 complete, and once designed, grant funding will be sought for construction and cost of right-of-way.

Ms. Watkins reviewed the Upper San Pedro projects. She stated that a \$900,000 Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) grant was obtained for engineering and design for Riverstone. Ms. Watkins stated that the Horseshoe Draw was repaired last year but still has some water in it and erosion will be repaired next month. In response to the Board, Ms. Watkins stated that the Horseshoe draw helps flood concerns of the residents on Paloma Trail by capturing the water in the pond, and then when full, the water is released through the culverts. She stated that the Bisbee effluent design project is going well.

Ms. Watkins reviewed the purpose of the Coyote Wash project and stated that a diversion dam is being constructed to restore the natural hydrograph of the wash predevelopment, and the design will be completed by the end of the fiscal year. There is a \$1.5 million REPI grant for the construction at Coyote Wash. In response to the Board, Ms. Watkins stated that the water goes into the wash at a high velocity, which is causing erosion, and by restoring the natural hydrograph it will restore the wash to the natural flow rate. In response to the Board, Ms. Watkins stated that the washes in the city of Sierra Vista are recognized by the city as city washes.

The Board and staff held a detailed discussion regarding maintenance of County roads and how it is determined which roads are maintained. Ms. Watkins stated by state statute, a road must have existed prior to 1990 or be brought to County standards, to be maintained by the County. She stated that the roads that are currently being maintained will be analyzed and will follow the guidelines, set by Resolution, to drop or add a road. Ms. Watkins cited the example of High Knolls subdivision and stated that there is the option to create a Road Improvement District, where the Home Owners Association would pay to maintain the roads in subdivisions where the County does not maintain them.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Tim Mattix, Clerk of the Board