

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024**

A meeting of the Cochise County Flood Control District was held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Ann English, Chairman; Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman; Peggy Judd, (Telephonic), Supervisor

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

Attendees: Jackie Watkins, Engineering and Natural Resources Director
Mark Apel, Environmental Project Coordinator

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

ACTION

Engineering & Natural Resources

1. Approve Grant Agreement WC6-229-2024 between Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona and Cochise County Flood Control District for the Coyote Wash Stormwater Management Initiative, in the amount of \$3,000,000, effective upon signing.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Grant Agreement WC6-229-2024 between Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona and Cochise County Flood Control District for the Coyote Wash Stormwater Management Initiative, in the amount of \$3,000,000, effective upon signing. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion.

Jackie Watkins presented this item. Ms. Watkins stated the grant for Coyote Wash is intended to fund a project that has been in design for over 10 years and the construction is scheduled to begin in early 2025.

In response to the Board, Ms. Watkins stated the project aims to divert stormwater into an old gravel pit for gradual release, enhancing groundwater recharge and

reducing flooding, especially at a hazardous road section.

Ms. Tricia Gerrodette spoke in support of the Coyote Wash project and stated her reasons.

In response to the Board, Ms. Watkins stated the state legislature provided grants and loans to support various projects, including water systems. She stated the regional aquifer, known as the upper San Pedro aquifer, stretches from the narrows in Charleston to the Mexican border. She also noted that the grants are part of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds distributed by the state to various agencies for different types of projects, not limited to the Coyote Wash project.

In response to the Board, Mr. Apel stated Coyote Wash project aims to supplement the groundwater system by capturing stormwater that would otherwise flow out of the basin, rather than augmenting it with external sources. He stated the project addresses the increased runoff caused by impermeable surfaces in Sierra Vista, aiming to restore conditions where water infiltrates into the aquifer instead of running off. Mr. Apel stated the distinction between augmentation and supplementation is emphasized, as the latter refers to managing existing water within the system rather than introducing new external water.

Chairman English called for the vote and it was approved 2-1 (Crosby opposed).

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sharon Gilman, Interim Clerk of the Board