

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT  
MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024**

A meeting of the Cochise County Flood Control District was held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

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

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

Attendees: Jackie Watkins, Engineering and Natural Resources Director  
Joaquin Solis, Environmental Project Coordinator  
Bradley Simmons, Civil Engineer II

Vice-Chairman Crosby called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.

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

***ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION***

**Board of Supervisors**

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding the Flood Control District update.

Jackie Watkins presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Watkins stated Leslie Canyon project near Douglas involves a design contract of \$219,000, with completion expected next year. She noted the goal is to lower the outlet structure, removing the Long Canyon Pond from a jurisdictional dam designation. Ms. Watkins stated the project at Bay Acres is nearing completion. She stated the initiative aims to construct a drainage channel on the east side of Bay Acres, directing water to the Palm Grove wash.

In response to the Board, Ms. Watkins noted the drainage system will divert water from Coyote Wash to an old gravel pit, facilitating gradual water release to recharge the aquifer and mitigate flooding issues on Moson Road.

Ms. Watkins reviewed the Upper San Pedro projects. She stated the Riverstone project is currently in the design phase. Ms. Watkins stated the project, wet-dry mapping of the Carr Canyon Wash will be conducted to address concerns raised by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) regarding water flow in

the area. She noted the project aims to transport effluent from the Sierra Vista treatment plant to recharge basins, enhancing the aquifer's sustainability. Ms. Watkins stated the Bisbee effluent project has made progress, with a Design Concept Report completed and 30% of the design finalized. She stated efforts are underway to finalize agreements and identify suitable discharge locations for the treated effluent, which will be situated on the west side of the San Pedro River, enhancing the overall water management strategy in the region.

Ms. Watkins stated the upcoming watershed studies include a high-level assessment for Pomerene Road, aimed at addressing flooding issues that impede travel in the area during heavy rainfall. The study will explore potential solutions for water management, such as capturing and directing runoff into culverts at low points along the road. She stated in 2022, an application for the BRIC grant is still under consideration but if awarded, a high level study on recharge and flood control will be done for the basin. She stated the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is set to conduct a study on Rucker Canyon Watershed to explore solutions for flooding issues.

Ms. Watkins stated the Department recently participated in the Willcox STEAM Day in June, showcasing various technologies and educational tools to engage students. She stated the utility equipment was showcased to show how the machines are used for potholing, allowed students to create personalized street signs, fostering creativity and hands-on learning. Ms. Watkins stated the rolling river was used to demonstrate the concept of how building a house too close to a drainage channel can increase water flow and cause erosion.

Ms. Watkins stated in terms of regulatory updates, the Flood District would like to propose an increase in permit fees. The last adjustments were made in 1987, with some fees updated in 2013.

In response to the Board, Ms. Watkins stated the permits are crucial for ensuring that new developments, particularly homes in flood-prone areas, adhere to safety standards.

Vice-Chairman Crosby adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

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Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board