

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT  
MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2024**

A meeting of the Cochise County Flood Control District was held on Tuesday, November 26, 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, Supervisor

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator  
Joe Casey, Associate County Administrator  
Paul Correa, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney  
Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: 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**

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***CALL TO THE PUBLIC***

Allison Morse was called upon but did not speak.

***CONSENT***

1. Approve the Minutes of the Flood Control District meeting for November 12, 2024.

Supervisor Judd made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Flood Control District meeting for November 12, 2024. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **ACTION**

2. Approve Memorandum of Understanding supporting the establishment of the Sulphur Springs Water Alliance.

Mark Apel presented this item. Mr. Apel stated the proposed memorandum of understanding formalizes the county's partnership with this alliance, strategically positioning all parties to collaboratively address current and future water management challenges.

Chairman English made a comment to suggest the alliance's upcoming website accurately reflects the participating members, including the county's involvement.

In response to the Board, Mr. Apel stated the memorandum of understanding focuses on fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders to address water management concerns in the region, and its intent is not to challenge state or federal involvement but to create a unified voice to communicate local priorities effectively. Mr. Apel stated individuals or entities interested in joining would present themselves to the group, which would then follow an established procedure to approve or deny their inclusion. Mr. Apel stated the group is firmly rooted in local representation, with participants including farmers, municipalities, industrial and commercial users, and residents from within the valley. He stated the goal is to ensure fair representation of all local stakeholders while excluding influence from outside entities.

Vice-Chairman Crosby expressed concerns about maintaining local control over water resources and preventing external influence from state and federal entities.

Supervisor Judd made a comment raising concerns about the Active Management Area (AMA) limitations, including its inability to address recharge, fund support for struggling homeowners, or assist with rural water delivery systems. Supervisor Judd stated the issues, such as homes impacted by fissures or the need for new wells, highlight gaps in the AMA's scope. She stated that the Sulfur Springs Water Alliance may advocate for these priorities, but the ability to influence the AMA to adapt to these specific challenges is uncertain.

In response to the Board, Mr. Apel stated the Sulfur Springs Water Alliance has successfully unified a diverse range of stakeholders in the valley, creating a collaborative approach to address water issues. He stated that not everyone agrees on every point, the group operates by consensus, ensuring collective positions on critical matters, such as the proposed AMA for the Willcox Basin. He stated the AMA's recent letter to Arizona Department of Water Resource (ADWR) did not endorse or reject the AMA but instead highlighted concerns and recommendations for policies if the AMA is implemented. Mr. Apel stated the alliance is dedicated to addressing misinformation and educating the public about water issues, including ensuring representation from key local industries like wineries.

In response to the Board, Mr. Apel stated there is a significant water deficit in both basins, with more water being withdrawn than is naturally recharged or augmented. He noted the recharge projects are being discussed as a solution, and the county has secured funding for a watershed study in the Willcox Basin to explore flood control and recharge opportunities.

Supervisor Judd made a motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding

supporting the establishment of the Sulphur Springs Water Alliance. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

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

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board