PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2025

A meeting of the Cochise County Flood Control District was held on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Frank Antenori, Chairman; Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman; Kathleen L. Gomez, Supervisor

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

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the Flood Control District meeting for July 8, 2025.

2. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

   Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1 and 2. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

   Chairman Antenori called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

ACTION

Engineering & Natural Resources

3. Approve the Purchase Agreement for parcel numbers 104-74-010D, 104-80-0013A, and 104-74-010B from Mark Knaeble and Kathleen Heaney, husband and wife, in the amount of $300,000 for the Bisbee Effluent Recharge Project.

   Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve the Purchase Agreement for parcel numbers 104-74-010D, 104-80-0013A, and 104-74-010B from Mark Knaeble and Kathleen Heaney, husband and wife, in the amount of $300,000 for the Bisbee Effluent Recharge Project. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

   Mark Apel spoke in favor and discussed his reasons.

Stephen Pauken spoke in favor and discussed his reasons.

Jack Ricky Veal spoke in opposition and discussed his reasons.

John Isaacson spoke in opposition and discussed his reasons.

Micah Garcia was called upon but did not speak.

Chairman Antenori read into the record that non-speaker Eileen Swiers expressed support, along with 28 anonymous individuals who were also in favor of the Purchase Agreement.

Vice-Chairman Crosby expressed doubt about the effectiveness of recharge efforts, citing their reliance on rainfall and the lack of a federal title for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA).

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to table the item for three months to allow time for a broader review of the County's water issues.

Supervisor Gomez acknowledged the difficulty of securing land for an effluent project but shared concerns about potential water contamination and the lack of time to fully evaluate the issue. Supervisor Gomez emphasized the need for more information on treatment processes and legal compliance before moving forward.

Chairman Antenori clarified that the current motion only concerns the purchase of the parcel, not the full effluent project. He noted that upcoming work sessions will address the pipeline, effluent transfer, and recharge details, and emphasized that the land could be resold if the project does not move forward.

Jackie Watkins, Director of Engineering and Natural Resources, clarified that the item strictly concerns purchasing the property and not the discharge of effluent. She emphasized that the county will fully comply with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) water quality regulations, including any future rules related to Per- and PolyfluoroalkylSubstances (PFAS).

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to table the item for three months to allow time for a broader review of the County's water issues. Motion failed for lack of second.

Chairman Antenori called for a vote regarding the original motion, and it was approved 2-1. (Crosby opposed).

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board