

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025**

A meeting of the Cochise County Flood Control District was held on Tuesday, August 19, 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: Sharon Gilman, County Administrator
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.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Micah Garcia expressed concern about potential contaminants effecting drinking water and the river, and requested comprehensive public engagement, environmental studies, regulatory oversight, and third-party reviews before the project proceeds.

CONSENT

Board of Directors

1. Approve the Minutes of the Flood Control District meeting for August 5, 2025.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Flood Control District meeting for August 5, 2025. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

2. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

Chairman Antenori removed Consent Agenda Item 2 to have a detailed discussion with the Board and with the public that have asked to speak on the issue.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Lloyd Trachtenberg spoke in opposition and discussed his reasons.

Jack Ricky Veal spoke in opposition and discussed his reasons.

Teri Mentzer spoke in opposition and discussed her reasons.

Holly Richter spoke in support and discussed her reasons.

Ricardo Garcia spoke in opposition and discussed his reasons.

Laura White spoke in support and discussed her reasons.

Sheldon Strite spoke in opposition and discussed his reasons.

Connie Isaacson spoke in opposition and discussed her reasons.

Steven L. Marlatt spoke in support and discussed his reasons.

Chairman Antenori read into the record the non-speakers who were in support of the purchase, Simone Kiere, Jennifer Druckman, and Kathryn Daily. One member who was opposed to the purchase, John Hyde.

Chairman Antenori emphasized that all meetings and work sessions are public, with no secret gatherings, and no flood control project has been approved yet as the Board is still gathering information. He stressed that land purchase is separate from the project, has tangible value, and could be sold later if the project does not move forward. He stated the Board aims to optimize water use, improve recharge efforts across basins, and will consider multiple options before deciding on any project, ensuring no hazardous contaminants are introduced into the aquifer.

Supervisor Gomez emphasized that the land purchase does not commit the county to the Bisbee effluent project. She stressed transparency, public involvement, and continued research before any project decisions are made. Supervisor Gomez suggested exploring alternative approaches that could meet goals more safely and invited further input.

Vice-Chairman Crosby stated that citizens are not obligated to understand scientific data to oppose the effluent project and their opinions should be respected regardless of research. He noted that aquifer decline would occur even without human presence and referenced his prior water studies. He emphasized that avoiding the land purchase or recharge project entirely would eliminate potential risks and concerns.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to remove Item number 12598 from agenda item number two on today's Flood Control District agenda for a separate vote. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Ms. Gilman explained that the county is exploring potential funding from Fort Huachuca to reimburse the land purchase. She clarified that receiving such funding would not automatically prevent the effluent recharge project, but the Board would consider public input before moving forward.

Jackie Watkins, Engineering and Natural Resources Director, explained that the county applied for Eco-funds to reimburse the land purchase and emphasized that acquiring the property is necessary to continue studies for the project. She outlined the project's history, noting research since 2019, multiple work sessions, media coverage, and a completed design concept study, while stressing that all required environmental and regulatory evaluations will follow. Ms. Watkins highlighted alternative options for using

the land to benefit the aquifer and surface water, and assured that no project would proceed without proper permits.

Supervisor Gomez emphasized that the Board has full authority over the land and is better positioned to manage it than outside parties. She reassured the public that purchasing the land does not commit the county to the effluent project. She asked residents to have faith in the Board's process and judgment regarding the land.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to remove item number 12598 from item number 2 on today's agenda and item number 12602 from the agenda.

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

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve warrants number 12598 and 125602 from item number 2 from the agenda. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve the demands and budget amendments except for or excluding items 12598 and 125602. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board