

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 2:30 p.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, Interim County Administrator
Joe Casey, Interim Deputy County Administrator
Paul Correa, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Dan Coxworth, Development Services Director
Jackie Watkins, Engineering and Natural Resources Director

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding Tres Alamos Community Alliance Concerns.

Chairman Antenori explained that after being elected, community members reached out seeking answers from the government. Chairman Antenori set up this meeting to allow residents to voice concerns directly to County Supervisors and senior administrative staff. He stated the goal is to gather input, have county agencies review the issues, and later brief the Board on possible solutions or actions.

Mr. Walker, Tres Alamos Community Alliance (TACA) emphasized respect for the supervisors' role while seeking their help in addressing ongoing issues. He clarified that the requests do not involve county funding but rather corrective actions concerning community concerns and a lack of county response. He stated the main issues presented included industrial operations at 2150 North Ocotillo Road, the absence of a mining exemption, the removal of a growing biomass pile, and the need for consistent oversight and enforcement. He stated residents observed an increase in truck traffic depositing mixed green and wood waste, raising concerns about environmental and zoning compliance.

In response to the Board, Mr. Walker clarified that the term "biomass" can have different definitions, and the community uses it based on general research. He acknowledged that there is no universally agreed-upon definition but maintained that the material in question fits common understandings of biomass. He also stated that the community does not dispute it being called green waste since they are uncertain of its full composition.

Gene Reddick, TACA representative suggested that the biomass may have come from the Sierra Mining site in southern Tucson, which was ordered by the state to remove similar material around the same time the pile appeared. He acknowledged there is no definitive proof without a subpoena or further investigation. He noted that the same trucks from Sierra Mining were seen transporting the material.

Mr. Walker discussed concerns about a potential incinerator and its possible connection to the incoming biomass, emphasizing that the community does not engage in speculation without a basis. He recalled that during the industrial rezoning process, there were discussions about incineration and smelting, which raised concerns at the time. He introduced the topic of Ocotillo Road and the conflicting information about its weight limit.

Mr. Reddick presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Reddick provided historical context on the construction and weight limits of Ocotillo Road, explaining its original 12-ton limit and the damage caused by heavy truck traffic over the years. He detailed past agreements for road improvements that were never fully completed and described the resurgence of trucking activity by Sierra Mining, which has led to road deterioration and community concerns. He requested official clarification on the road's weight limit, proper signage, enforcement of restrictions, and notification to the property owner regarding compliance.

Randy Duram, TACA representative, discussed concerns regarding alterations to the Earth and landscape that have caused significant erosion and damage. Mr. Duram showed several images and drone shots of the area, pointing out the erosion and washouts that have worsened since 2018, particularly along the ravine and driveway. He expressed frustration with grading work done by George Scott and Kevin Rash, which altered the natural flow of water and caused further erosion. Mr. Duram emphasized that the work was done without his permission, resulting in significant soil disturbance and damage to his property. He noted that despite his attempts to resolve the issue through the County and Sheriff's Department, he has not received a satisfactory solution. Mr. Duram's main concern is returning the land to its previous state and addressing the watershed issues that have been exacerbated by the alterations.

Mr. Duram pointed out that issues mentioned earlier in the meeting reflect broader problems with accountability and performance within county staff. Walker noted that while many employees are doing well, there are areas where organizational and behavioral improvements are necessary. He urged the current supervisors to make significant changes to ensure ethical, selfless performance, and to hold staff accountable. He highlighted the need for firm direction and higher standards to restore integrity and excellence in county operations. Mr. Walker concluded by stressing that meaningful change is required to better serve the taxpayers.

Mr. Reddick stated the property was sold in 2005, but despite operating as a mining site, no mining permit was ever issued. He stated that, according to state regulations, a mining permit should have been obtained for the operation of a sand and gravel pit. He clarified that when county officials were contacted, they referred to the site as exempt from local regulations, but state mining inspectors do not classify it as a legitimate sand and gravel pit.

Shane Matson, property owner clarified that the site is referred to as a "borrow pit" because there is no crushing or screening involved, just hauling material previously processed by Huachuca Concrete. He expressed being unaware of drainage issues

affecting his neighbors and emphasized his willingness to meet with them to resolve these concerns. Regarding road issues, he denied intentionally violating any regulations and mentioned that he had removed problematic trucks from his fleet. He suggested that, although pickups can also damage roads, a meeting with the county and local community would help address the drainage and road concerns efficiently.

Chairman Antenori emphasized the need for the county to assess issues related to road weight limits, water runoff, and hydrology, and to determine if any solutions could be implemented. He also mentioned the history of a previous agreement regarding road work that was never completed and suggested prioritizing the road's repair. He requested that Mr. Faccio is involved in exploring potential remedies.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board