

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 9:00 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, Interim County Administrator
Joe Casey, Interim Deputy County Administrator
Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Jackie Watkins, Engineering and Natural Resources Director
Mayra Moreno, Administrative Manager
Joaquin Solis, Environmental Project Coordinator
Bradley Simmons, Engineer II
Stacy Fenhaus, Budget Manager

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Budget Work Session - Discussion of the County Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, specifically: Engineering

Jackie Watkins, Engineering and Natural Resources Director, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Watkins stated there are three separate fund accounts tied to grant funding, and she provided highlights of key projects. A \$1 million grant is allocated for the Douglas port of entry, part of the city's \$8 million grant. She stated Moson Road has \$1.79 million set aside for design work, with a total construction estimate of \$50 million due to needed bridges and drainage structures. She stated Kansas Settlement Road, a \$1.5 million, is planned for one mile of construction—not design—which will go out to bid through a construction contract process.

Ms. Watkins stated that right-of-way acquisition for the Douglas port of entry is being funded through the City of Douglas' \$8 million grant. She stated a contract is in place to handle title, escrow, appraisals, and environmental review and additional property costs will be covered by the City of Douglas.

Ms. Watkins stated that construction on Davis Road at miles 5 and 13 is supported by a \$2.89 million Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) grant, with the total project cost estimated at \$6.5 million. She stated the design is being updated, as the original plans date back to 2015. She noted ongoing right-of-way acquisition efforts funded by a \$400,000 Federal Highways grant, with 12 properties already acquired and three

more in progress.

Ms. Watkins stated that Moson Road is supported by a \$6 million grant placed in a separate fund account, with approximately \$5.3 million still available. She stated around \$1.2 million is allocated for right-of-way activities, including title work, appraisals, negotiations, and a Phase One environmental review for 49 properties. She stated the project spans roughly 7.8 miles from Highway 90 south to Hereford Road.

Ms. Watkins explained several flood control and recharge projects currently underway. She stated the Palominas Recharge Project is in its ninth year and involves 13 basins east of Palominas Road using infiltration trenches and dry wells. She stated Coyote Wash, north of Highway 90, is a \$6.5 million recharge project aimed at reducing flooding. She stated the Horseshoe Draw project, located south of Highway 92, involves repairing storm damage to a detention basin outlet. She stated additional efforts include a grant application for the Three Canyons research project, designed to reduce flooding through property-level infiltration, and continued United States Geological Survey (USGS) stream monitoring in the San Pedro Valley, with the county contributing \$125,000 toward the long-standing program.

Ms. Watkins stated that the Bisbee effluent property project involves an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Bisbee, which received a \$2 million grant. She stated the grant will be used to extend a pipeline to a recharge site and the site is planned for the west side of the San Pedro River.

Ms. Watkins discussed the Bay Acres project, which is in the design phase and includes constructing a berm and ditch system to divert floodwater toward Whitewater Drive. She stated the project aims to reduce flooding in the Bay Acres Colonia area. She mentioned other projects include Leslie Canyon Ponds, where a dam outlet is being redesigned, and the Palominas watershed study, which analyzes flooding issues and recharge potential using soil and stream data.

The Board and staff reviewed Fund 251 Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF), which supports road maintenance, signage, surveys, right-of-way work, and related staffing. The Board and staff discussed funding for watershed studies in Douglas and Rucker, including a grant from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers covering 100% of study costs in economically disadvantaged areas like Elfrida.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board