



**OFFICE OF THE COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND THE
COCONINO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

**June 23, 2022, 6:30 p.m. – Special Session for Community Outreach Meeting
Regarding Flood Preparation**

The meeting was virtual and held via Zoom software.

Present: Chair Patrice Horstman, Vice Chair Jeronimo Vasquez and Supervisor Judy Begay were present virtually via Zoom technology.

Absent/Excused: Supervisor Matt Ryan and Supervisor Lena Fowler.

Also Present: County Manager Steve Peru, Deputy County Manager/Flood Control Administrator Lucinda Andreani, Deputy County Manager Sue Brown, Deputy County Manager Andy Bertelsen, Public Affairs Director Trey Williams, Deputy County Attorney Yvonne Vieau and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Lindsay Daley were present virtually via Zoom meeting technology.

Chair Horstman called the Special Session meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Chair Horstman asked the Supervisors present to introduce themselves and they did.

Chair Horstman provided opening comments, thanking the community for their attendance as the Pipeline and Haywire Fires continue. She thanked firefighters and explained that the County will continue to be here for fire suppressions and post wildfire flood mitigation. She explained who will present at the meeting to share information regarding post-wildfire flooding. She stressed the importance of buying flood insurance and signing up for emergency notifications and staying informed.

Chair Horstman explained that the presentation item on the agenda is under the Flood Control District so they will need to resolve as the Flood Control District Board of Directors.

Motion: to resolve as the Flood Control District Board, **Action:** approve, **Moved by:** Supervisor Judy Begay, **Seconded by:** Vice Chair Jeronimo Vasquez. The motion passed unanimously. Supervisor Matt Ryan and Supervisor Lena Fowler were absent for this vote.

Flood Control District Discussion Item:

1. Presentation to the communities of Timberline, Wupatki Trails, Fernwood and Doney Park regarding flood threat, risk and mitigation efforts in these communities as a result of the Pipeline, Tunnel and Schultz Fires. **Flood Control District**

Present: Director Patrice Horstman, Director Jeronimo Vasquez and Director Judy Begay, were present virtually via Zoom software.

Absent/Excused: Director Matt Ryan and Director Lena Fowler.

Also Present: County Manager Steve Peru, Deputy County Manager/Flood Control Administrator Lucinda Andreani, Deputy County Manager Sue Brown, Public Affairs Director Trey Williams and Deputy County Attorney Yvonne Vieau.

Deputy County Manager/Flood Control Administrator Lucinda Andreani spoke about the community experiencing two fires and post-wildfire flooding. She explained her experience in addressing the flood impacts from the Schultz fire. Deputy Manager Andreani explained that the Pipeline fire affected the West Side/Schultz Creek watershed that drains into the City of Flagstaff; however, the focus of the meeting tonight is to address the east side of Flagstaff and explained that the City of Flagstaff will be setting up a meeting for the west side of the city that is impacted. She also explained that the Museum burn area and watershed was not further impacted by the Pipeline fire.

Deputy County Manager Andreani spoke about the history of the area, which experienced the 2010 Schultz fire and flooding for years following. She explained that there has not been a lot of recovery in terms of trees from that fire and that 8 watersheds were impacted from that fire. She provided the background of the Schultz flood events, with 55 flood events in the neighborhoods. She explained that there was a Presidential Disaster Declaration for the Schultz flooding because it was so severe. She spoke about how the Flood District mobilized resources with sandbags and barriers and secured resources to mitigate flooding immediately and long-term. She spoke about the effort to mitigate flooding with the various watershed and that there were two watersheds in which property owners chose not to do any mitigation corridors, which were Copeland and Peaceful watersheds. She explained that there were mitigation efforts on and off the forest to Highway 89. She went over the design assumptions and criteria for the Schultz long-term flood mitigation and how the area had never experienced flooding before the Schultz fire. She explained that an assessment was done after the recent Tunnel Fire to identify flood risk areas; however, now assessments are being done as a result of the more current Pipeline Fire which brings a greater risk of flooding. She explained that there are different engineering firms that are doing the assessments for the different areas impacted.

Brian Klimowski, Meteorologist in Charge with the National Weather Service in Flagstaff, spoke about the monsoon outlook for 2022 and that the monsoon circulation is in place and the fire threat is decreasing but the daily threat of flooding is increasing. He explained that they are expecting an active monsoon season- above normal. He also spoke about the tools in place for citizens to get flood threat warnings.

Joe Loverich, Engineer and Hydrologist with JE Fuller Hydrology and Geomorphology, spoke about the flood risk assessment process with preliminary flood modeling that has been done as a result of the Tunnel and Pipeline fires. He explained that soil burn severity impacts the flood modeling and that the Forest Service does the Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) assessment. He then provided an overview of the Flood Risk Assessment and showed a map of

the different watersheds in relation to the different fires. He explained that the burn of Weatherford Canyon, which is the upper watershed of the Government Tank watershed, goes into Doney Park and how that area did not burn in the Schultz fire previously so there will be more of a flooding impact in that area that has not been seen before as a result of the Pipeline Fire. He went over the Flood Modeling and explained that there is an expectation for a significant increase in flood events as a result of the Pipeline Fire. He explained that they have to make assumptions in their modeling and what kind of storm to model to assess the risk of the watersheds to determine what kind of flows could generate as a result of rainfall. He went over the Wupatki Trails/ Girls Ranch Rd., Brandis/Peaceful, Copeland, Campbell/Paintbrush and Government Tank watershed areas and the expectation for flooding in those areas based on rainfall. This included where there may be concentrated flood, sheet-flow impacts, sediment and debris impacts, overtopping of channels and flows reaching Doney Park where there will be a hard time draining. He explained that they will continue to update the modeling information as they get more information.

Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani spoke about a significant amount of infiltration taking place on the Campbell watershed where there are an extensive set of alluvial fan repairs. She spoke about the two twin berms that were constructed near the landfill and had a significant impact on keeping flooding out of Doney Park. She spoke about the Government tank watershed now having a southern flow that the community has never seen before. She explained that the Offenhouse watershed was not affected by the Pipeline fire. She also spoke about the expectation of ponding at the southeast of Cromer school and the Yancy road area. She explained that a terminal trench in Wupatki Trails was burned during the Tunnel Fire and Tiffany Construction is repairing it and will also be doing repair work on the Campbell trench that was burned. She spoke about debris and sediment having been cleared out from channels and work being done on the Brandis channel to deepen that channel. She explained that they are working with the Forest Service to try to place concrete barriers between landfill road and Doney Park.

Chris Dusza, Engineer with Civiltec Engineering spoke about meeting with homeowners after the Tunnel Fire to provide them information on flood risk; however now that they have the Pipeline fire things have changed as some other watersheds have burned that impact the Wupatki Trails area, Government Canyon Area and Paintbrush area and have expanded the scope of flooding. He explained they are doing paper assessments and looking at flow depths for the whole area. He explained that his firm is working on Wupatki Trails, Brandis, Copeland, Campbell, Paintbrush, and two other firms are working on the other areas. He explained that if residents have not received their maps that show flood risk, then it may be that they need contact information, and they should email the County Pipeline email address.

Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani explained that maps will be sent to property owners that show what is recommended for mitigating their homes with sandbag placement and barriers and that residents need to send an email to the Pipeline email to get them.

Chris Dusza explained how they determine whether properties need concrete barriers or sandbags and that if a property meets the threshold for concrete barriers, then a cooperator agreement needs to be signed by the property owner to allow the County to do the installation. He also explained that the contractor will need to know where the septic tank and leach fields are on properties. He requested property owners who had barriers on their property from the Schultz flood to contact the county. He explained that maps will be on the website with recommendations for where sandbags and barriers should go on properties, including the amount and height of sandbags based on the expected flows.

Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani asked that property owners email their name, address and cell phone numbers. She explained that the Flood District is trying to get the barriers needed. She also explained that they will only mitigate homes and that legally property owners are responsible for where the water enters their property and leaves their property and that they need to get the barrier as close to their home as possible. She requested property owners to reach out to friends, family and church groups to help them.

Ray Garcia, the Facility and Capital Improvement Project Manager with the County Public Works Department spoke about the sandbag locations for people to pick up sandbags and he spoke about the sandbag maps being on the county website. He explained that they made 64,000 sandbags and they are being produced at the Public Works site by various groups and they are looking at producing approximately 10,000 sandbags a day. He explained that there is a sandbag event this Saturday for volunteers to build sandbags. He spoke about sandbags being solely for homes and the County and Tiffany construction cannot load sandbags for property owners or place them for property owners unless property owners are elderly or disabled.

Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani explained that people can volunteer to help with sandbags by signing up with United Way. She explained that the county has been monitoring the rain events in the area for a few years. She introduced Mike Lopker who is assisting with the flood monitoring system.

Mike Lopker, Consultant and Former Deputy Public Works Director with the County, spoke about the flood monitoring system. He explained that the County has 9 rain gages, and some rain gages were affected by the fires, and they are doing repairs on the gages, so they are operational. He spoke about the process of monitoring the rain during rainfall events and what actions take place at different thresholds including when they send out Rave alerts. He spoke about sirens having been installed in the Museum flood area to help warn people and that Flood Directors are on duty around the clock during the monsoon season. He explained what they do when thresholds are met, such as sending out observers to the area, communicating with the National Weather Service through a chat line and directing emergency management to do alerts to property owners, fire and police if needed, to resolve issues as they happen. He spoke about the thresholds being established for the Schulz/ Pipeline fire area and that they will have the same process in place. He encouraged everyone to sign up for emergency notifications.

Wes Dison, Director of Emergency Management, explained the County emergency notification system and how the County contracts with Rave for the system. He spoke about it being targeted to one's physical location and how Rave serves as a pass through. He explained that the National Weather Service uses the system to send out notices and that one should read or listen to the message when received. Director Dison also explained why some people do not get notifications and explained the IPAWS system used and how they designate areas to send notifications to depending on threat.

Brian Klimowski, Meteorologist-in-Charge with the National Weather Service in Flagstaff, explained the alerts that will come from the National Weather Service- on cell phones and that there is an enhanced threat of flash flooding; however, no alerts have been issued yet.

Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani spoke about a flood preparedness guide that will be going out to residents. She explained that property owners should be getting flood insurance with the National Flood Insurance Program. She requested that people check the website 2-3 times a

day as they will be loading maps that recommend mitigation and the form of mitigation and encouraged everyone to sign up for emergency notifications. She also spoke about the waiting period exceptions regarding flood insurance. She explained that if anyone has questions, they should email their question to the Pipeline email address and that they are developing a Frequently Asked Questions document tailored for the area. Deputy Manager Andreani thanked the presenters and partners and spoke about how they are working closely with National Resource Conservation Service for mitigation and are staying focused on emergency mitigation but will also be looking at long-term mitigation and encouraged people to talk to their neighbors about mitigation opportunities.

Chair Horstman thanked Deputy Manager Andreani and all the presenters. She explained that the presentation tonight was recorded so that those who missed it can go back and watch.

Motion: to resolve as the Board of Supervisors, **Action:** approve, **Moved by:** Director Jeronimo Vasquez, **Seconded by:** Director Judy Begay. The motion passed unanimously. Director Matt Ryan and Director Lena Fowler were absent for this vote.

Chair Horstman encouraged community members to be safe and get flood insurance.

Chair Horstman adjourned the Special Session meeting at 8:26 p.m.

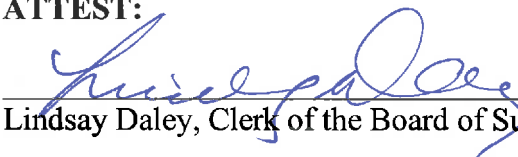
COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(SEAL)




Patrice Horstman, Chair

ATTEST:



Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors