



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

SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

12:00 p.m.

Present: Chair Patrice Horstman and Vice Chair Jeronimo Vasquez were present virtually via Zoom meeting technology. Supervisor Lena Fowler was present telephonically. Supervisor Judy Begay joined the meeting telephonically at 12:08 p.m.

Absent/Excused: Supervisor Matt Ryan.

Also Present: County Manager Steve Peru, Deputy County Manager Andy Bertelsen, Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani, Public Deputy County Attorney Yvonne Vieau, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Lindsay Daley and Deputy Clerk of the Board Valerie Webber were present virtually via Zoom meeting technology.

Chair Horstman called the Special Session portion of the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

Board of Supervisors Consent Agenda:

1. Consideration and possible action to approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$5 Million, as a loan from the General Fund Emergency Reserve to the Flood Control District to address the ongoing costs for flood response and mitigation in the Schultz/Pipeline and West Pipeline Flood areas. The costs are a direct result of post-wildfire flooding from the Schultz, Tunnel and Pipeline wildfire burn scars. **County Manager**

Deputy County Manager Andy Bertelsen explained that due to the recent emergencies, staff is requesting the Board approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$5 Million, as a loan from the County General Fund Emergency Reserve to the Flood Control District to address the ongoing costs for flood response and mitigation in the Schultz/Pipeline and West Pipeline Flood

areas. The costs are a direct result of post-wildfire flooding from the Schultz, Tunnel and Pipeline wildfire burn scars. Approving the transfer allows the Flood Control District to mitigate flood response.

On July 15, 2022 the Chair of the Board of Supervisors declared a local emergency due to post-fire flooding caused by the recent Pipeline and Tunnel Fires of 2022. The Pipeline Fire burn scar area also overlaps the Schulz burn scar area from 2010.

The rainfall over the burn scar areas will continue through the monsoon seasons and for monsoon seasons for many years over the burn scar areas. The impact of post-wildfire flooding to the local communities is severe and repetitive, creating a need for Flash Flood Warnings issued by the National Weather Service and shelter-in-place emergency notifications to the public beginning June 25, 2022 and continuing. A warning has already been issued today.

It is requested that \$5 million be transferred as a loan from the County General Fund Emergency Reserve to the Flood Control District to address the on-going costs for flood response and mitigation in the Schultz/Pipeline and West Pipeline Flood areas. The costs are a direct result of post-wildfire flooding from the Schultz, Tunnel and Pipeline wildfire burn scars.

Supervisor Judy Begay joined the meeting telephonically at 12:08 p.m.

Chair Horstman noted for the record she just signed another emergency declaration due to the current flooding in the communities and spoke about the need for the loan from the General Fund to assess costs and address the ongoing costs for flood response and mitigation in the Schultz/Pipeline and West Pipeline Flood areas.

Vice Chair Vasquez spoke to the need to address the flooding issues to help the citizens.

Upon inquiry from Supervisor Fowler, County Manager Peru noted the terms are still being determined and will be brought back to the Board in a meeting within the next month.

Supervisor Begay noted the Board must do what needs done during an emergency and she supports the request.

Motion: approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$5 Million, as a loan from the General Fund Emergency Reserve to the Flood Control District to address the ongoing costs for flood response and mitigation in the Schultz/Pipeline and West Pipeline Flood areas, obviously the costs are a direct result of post-wildfire flooding from the Schultz, Tunnel and Pipeline wildfire burn scars, **Moved by:** Supervisor Jeronimo Vasquez, **Seconded by:** Supervisor Judy Begay. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Resolve as the Flood Control District Board of Directors, **Moved by:** Supervisor Judy Begay, **Seconded by:** Supervisor Jeronimo Vasquez. The motion passed unanimously.

Flood Control District Consent Agenda:

2. Consideration and possible action to accept a transfer of funds in the amount of \$5 million, as a loan from the General Fund Emergency Reserve to the Flood Control District and authorize the funds to be spent on on-going costs for flood response and

mitigation in the Schultz/Pipeline and West Pipeline Flood Areas. The costs are a direct result of the post-wildfire flooding from the Schultz, Tunnel and Pipeline wildfire burn scars. **Flood Control District**

Deputy County Manager/Flood Control District Director Lucinda Andreani read the agenda title into the record and recommended motion: Consideration and possible action to accept a transfer of funds in the amount of \$5 million as a loan from the General Fund Emergency Reserve to the Flood Control District and authorize the funds to be spent on on-going costs for flood response and mitigation in the Schultz/Pipeline and West Pipeline Flood Areas. The costs are a direct result of the post-wildfire flooding from the Schultz, Tunnel and Pipeline wildfire burn scars.

Deputy County Manager/Flood Control District Director Lucinda Andreani read the recommended motion into the record: Accept a transfer of funds in the amount of \$5 million as a loan from the General Fund Emergency Reserve to the Flood Control District and authorize the funds to be spent on on-going costs for flood response and mitigation in the Schultz/Pipeline and West Pipeline Flood Areas. The costs are a direct result of the post-wildfire flooding from the Schultz, Tunnel and Pipeline wildfire burn scars.

She noted for the record that the County has already issued 16 emergency alerts this wildfire season, largely results of the Schultz fire burn area as well as the Pipeline Fire. She added that the Pipeline Fire burned 27,000 acres and impacted 9 watersheds. To date, Wupatki Trails area has had about 4 to 5 major flood events; the first major event was 3 feet and on July 15th there was about 4 feet of flooding through that area. She described flooding that took place in several homes and added that there has been significant flows largely impacting Government Tank, Wupatki Trails, Lennox, Copeland Watershed, Paintbrush Watershed and one flood event in Schultz Creek Area this past weekend.

Director Andreani spoke about damage that has been done to alluvial fans and outlined where the costs are going in all areas of mitigation. She spoke about costs related to the Schultz Fire efforts and said the costs of these efforts will rival same.

Individual Board members thanked staff and all the agencies involved in the continued flood mitigation efforts and spoke about the need to continue to support staff and the community.

Clerk of the Board Lindsay Daley read comments provided by Director Ryan prior to the start of the meeting into the record as follows:

I will continue to support the Levy increase. I will continue to encourage scrutiny in terms of efficiency. We cannot accommodate all desires and so must be focused. I fully support our proactive mitigation efforts in forest restoration as a preventative measure truly needed and must be a part of our budgeting. I also believe we need long term strategies to be inclusive including developing a broader long- term program to eventually create a program that is strategic and inclusive. With that we balance science and investment.

Director Fowler thanked everyone involved with helping out, noting staff has worked non-stop and she is concerned. The Board has to really look at addressing this in the future and, there is a need to see how the 5 million dollars will be directed towards this effort. We really need to look

internally at the impacts to staff, to see how staff is being assigned to this effort in light of concerns of burn out and short staffing. She asked who all the contractors are on the ground and added that they always get renewed contracts, and we need to have some diversity of the contracts. There is a bigger picture, and it needs to be addressed. She asked how we can sustain this if it happened in other areas of the County. We need to look at staffing.

Supervisor Begay noted she has some of the same questions and thanked staff and all agencies working to mitigate the emergencies.

County Manager Peru stated staff will be making appointments with each Board member to tease out all questions relative to the loan, staffing, etc. Staff will also be providing additional information to the Board during an upcoming meeting in August. Staff is reprioritizing work currently and response to the citizens is at the top of their list.

Chair Horstman stated she appreciates the efforts of staff time with continued planning and emergency mitigation efforts and added that most of this Board has been addressing multiple emergencies since they took office. She spoke about the importance of taking the actions needed during emergencies to mitigate the substantial effects of the fires and flooding.

She requested a motion to approve the agenda item and read same into the record.

Motion: Approve this transfer, **Moved by:** Supervisor Jeronimo Vasquez, **Seconded by:** Supervisor Lena Fowler. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Resolve as the Board of Supervisors, **Moved by:** Director Lena Fowler, **Seconded by:** Supervisor Jeronimo Vasquez. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further discussion, Chair Horstman adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(SEAL)



Patrice Horstman, Chair

ATTEST:



Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors