



## OFFICE OF THE COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### EMERGENCY SESSION, SPECIAL SESSION AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

August 18, 2021

9:00 a.m. – Special Session

**Present:** Chair Matt Ryan, Supervisor Judy Begay, Supervisor Patrice Horstman and Supervisor Jeronimo Vasquez were present virtually via Zoom meeting technology.

**Absent:** Vice Chair Lena Fowler

**Also Present:** Deputy County Attorney Yvonne Vieau, County Manager Steve Peru, Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani, Deputy County Manager Sue Brown, Emergency Management Director Wes Dison, Human Resources Director Erika Philpot, Deputy Clerk of the Board Valerie Webber and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Lindsay Daley were present virtually via Zoom meeting technology.

Chair Ryan called the Emergency/Special Session meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Chair Ryan explained that item #1 on the agenda was added because of flood events that occurred yesterday. Chair Ryan introduced County Manager Steve Peru.

1. As members of the policy group of the Emergency Operations Center, the Board of Supervisors may receive an update, participate in discussion, and provide direction regarding the ongoing Museum Fire Flood Emergency- specifically the recent flood event from August 17, 2021, including informational updates from the Emergency Operations Center, Incident Command, Flood Mitigation Team and Public Information Office. **Emergency Management** (*added to the agenda the evening before the meeting due to a flooding event, of which there is a local emergency declaration for on-going flooding*)

County Manager Peru stated that the emergency item was added to the agenda, and he read the agenda title for item 1. He explained that there were flood events that took place yesterday and called on Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani to speak.

Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani spoke about there being a major rainfall event yesterday as well as a storm event the day prior that affected the Lake Mary Road area. She stated that there were 74 calls into the flood call center, 12 homes with interior flooding, and several homes affected with debris. She introduced County Engineer Christopher Tressler to speak about the flood event.

County Engineer Christopher Tressler shared his screen and showed a slide labeled Museum Fire Area Precipitation Station Data for August 17, 2021. He explained there was 3.3 inches of rain yesterday and in some places the rain overtopped barriers and sandbags and was the biggest event they have seen. He went over a chart that showed the depth of water, which exceeded 5 feet at the channel at Linda Vista Road. He spoke about the rain received on the Museum Fire burn scar area and what happened at Forest Hills which is estimated to be about 4 inches of rain that he explained did not come from the compromised burn area and was from the upper headwater of Rio Def Flag.

Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani spoke about the event yesterday being a 200—500 year event. She said the mitigation within the City of Flagstaff performed well, the response from the Police Department was quick, cleanup has started and is continuing, a volunteer effort is planned for the weekend to assist people with removing debris, two conservation crews are being mobilized to help the elderly and disabled with sandbags and mitigation. She also spoke about teams being out to assess damage and mitigation. She stated they are meeting with NRCS and are going to request to be able to use funds for debris removal and cleanup activities.

Deputy County Manager Andreani also spoke about communication efforts and the City of Flagstaff taking the lead on a Facebook Live event that will be at 3:00 p.m. today, getting out an interagency update, putting out press releases and sending emails to those in the impacted area.

Deputy County Manager Andreani spoke about the Forest Hills, Magdalena Watershed and upper Rio getting rainfall up to 4 inches. She spoke about a house that had four feet of water in the house and another that had several inches of water. She also spoke about the importance of forest restoration on the west side of the peaks.

Director of Emergency Management Wes Dison spoke about the Emergency Operations Center hours of operation and that their function is for response, support, and coordination. He spoke about the declaration for the County that is already in place and not needing to do another one. He also spoke about a state declaration of emergency done for July 13-16 and one they are planning to do for the event that took place starting the night before yesterday. He also spoke about a federal emergency declaration that is being worked on for July 22-24 that includes Coconino County, Apache County and Navajo County, and he expects that the declarations will be in place sometime next week. He explained that the City of Flagstaff is going to assist with the volunteer event this weekend, getting a facility for the volunteer reception center, and United Way will work on staffing of volunteers.

Chair Ryan asked about whether outreach and coordination is being done with Fire Districts as the event has impacted areas outside of the City of Flagstaff. Director Dison stated that is happening.

Supervisor Patrice Horstman spoke about how she looked at the Forest Hills and Magdalena area and how the flooding exceeded the area, which is outside the Museum Fire scar area. She also spoke about the Facebook Live event happening today at 3:00 p.m. and encouraged people to share the information on social media. She also thanked staff for their work and said that the channeling that was done in the Mount Elden Estates area was working.

Upon inquiry from Chair Ryan, Deputy County Manager Andreani stated that people should call the call center if they are elderly or disabled and need support, or if they need assistance with debris removal.

Supervisor Jeronimo Vasquez thanked County and City staff that dealt with the different flooding issues. He asked if there are any services for people that may need a place to go. Deputy County Manager Andreani stated they should call the call center and staff will engage Red Cross.

Engineer Tressler explained that the County is receiving calls from people saying that they received flooding for the first time and wondering if the flood mitigation measures the County and City have done have changed flows. He explained that the County can't mitigate for every scenario. He also spoke about how they are working with the City of Flagstaff and training them to insure they are part of the effort as well.

Supervisor Vasquez thanked staff for their work and spoke about the flooding at Killip School.

Deputy County Manager Andreani spoke about people that may be frustrated or angry as the flooding is repetitive and that the County is on their team and that staff is working to help. She also said there is a joint City of Flagstaff and County meeting on Monday where more information will be presented.

Supervisor Horstman spoke about the flooding occurring outside the Museum fire scar area and that people needing assistance can call the flood call center. She also spoke about the City and County being limited on resources and it is important to advocate for FWPP funding for long term and permanent mitigation efforts.

Supervisor Judy Begay spoke about communication being important and she also inquired about activities that would happen if the County were to address forest restoration regarding flooding. Deputy County Manager Andreani explained that there may always be flood events during the monsoon season; however, post wildfire areas have repetitive and sustained flooding. Deputy County Manager Andreani spoke about the high priority areas and what areas are at risk.

Community Development Director Jay Christelman spoke about there being four, two-person damage assessment teams, three of which are at the Lake Mary RV Park due to the impact of the hail event from the night before yesterday. He explained that there were up to 80 structures damaged and some displaced from their foundations, which will need to be reported to the state. He also explained that there is a two-person crew at the Forest Hills area right now and that they plan on reconvening with the City of Flagstaff in both the Cheshire and Sunnyside areas for damage assessments with city staff. He also stated that onsite wastewater systems are being comprised in the Forest Hills area and will be looked at also.

Chair Ryan explained that the County is under a state of emergency, and this is the reason the update has occurred without a 24-hour notice and mentioned the Facebook live event happening today.

Supervisor Horstman stated that for the record there is a need to indicate that an emergency exists to allow a less than 24-hour notice required pursuant to the open meeting law A.R.S. 38-431.02D and she appreciates that getting put on the record.

Chair Ryan again mentioned the Facebook Live event at 3:00 p.m. today and the Joint City of Flagstaff County meeting on Monday.

Supervisor Horstman mentioned that the article in the Arizona Daily Sun today talks about the need for forest restoration.

Chair Ryan read the agenda title for item #2.

2. Discussion regarding and consideration of candidates seeking the position of Public Affairs Director for Coconino County. Pursuant to ARS 38-431.03(A)(1), the Board may vote to enter executive session on this item.

Chair Ryan explained the Board can go into executive session for item #2 on the agenda.

County Manager Peru introduced Human Resources Director Erika Philpot to speak regarding item 2 to go over what will happen this morning.

Human Resources Director Philpot spoke about there being three interview panels for the day to interview two people virtually for the Public Affairs Director position.

County Manager Peru spoke about the specific time of the interviews. He stated it is staff's recommendation that the Board go into executive session to conduct the interviews.

Deputy County Attorney Yvonne Vieau recommended the Board go into executive session for item 2.

**Motion:** to go into executive session for personnel, **Action:** approve, **Moved by:** Supervisor Patrice Horstman, **Seconded by:** Supervisor Jeronimo Vasquez. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Fowler was absent for this vote.

The motion was made at 9:48 a.m. and the Board left the public session.

Chair Ryan called the executive session to order at 9:50 a.m.

**Present:** Chair Matt Ryan, Supervisor Patrice Horstman, Supervisor Judy Begay, Supervisor Jeronimo Vasquez

**Absent:** Vice Chair Fowler

**Also Present:** Erika Philpot, Yvonne Vieau

At 10:20 am, candidate Trey Williams joined the meeting.

At 11:17 am, candidate Trey Williams left the meeting.

At 11:22 am, candidate Gregory Nelson joined the meeting.

At 12:22 pm, candidate Gregory Nelson left the meeting.

Chair Ryan adjourned the executive session at 1:03 p.m.

Chair Ryan reconvened the public session at 1:18 p.m.

**Present:** Chair Matt Ryan, Supervisor Patrice Horstman, Supervisor Jeronimo Vasquez, Supervisor Judy Begay.

**Absent:** Vice Chair Fowler

**Also Present:** County Manager Steve Peru, Deputy County Attorney Yvonne Vieau, Clerk of the Board Lindsay Daley.

There being no further discussion, Chair Ryan adjourned the meeting at 1:18 p.m. and thanked everyone for attending.


**COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

(SEAL)



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Matt Ryan, Chair

**ATTEST:**



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Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

