

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA

Date: March 28, 2006

JOSÉ M. SANCHEZ
Chairman

STEVEN L. BESICH
Clerk of the Board

TOMMIE C. MARTIN
Vice-Chairman

By: Marian Sheppard
Chief Deputy Clerk

SHIRLEY L. DAWSON
Member

Payson College Campus
Payson, Arizona

PRESENT: José M. Sanchez, Chairman; Tommie C. Martin, Vice-Chairman; Shirley L. Dawson, Member; Steven L. Besich, County Manager/Clerk; Marian Sheppard, Chief Deputy Clerk; and, Bryan Chambers, 2nd Chief Deputy County Attorney.

The Gila County Board of Supervisors met in Regular Session at 9:00 a.m. this date. Supervisor Shirley Dawson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Father Norman Burke of St. Paul's Episcopal Church delivered the Invocation.

Peter Cahill, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, requested the adoption of Proclamation No. 06-01 declaring April 2006 as Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteer Recognition Month in Gila County. Judge Cahill stated that there have been great partnerships formed on this issue throughout County government and efforts made by many citizens of Gila County. Supervisor Dawson recognized Cecilia Gonzales, CASA Foster Care Director, and encouraged citizens to become CASA volunteers. Vice-Chairman Martin reiterated the importance of this issue and requested that this information be provided on the County's website. Chairman Sanchez advised that Ms. Gonzales had presented each Board member with a blue ribbon which states "Pinal/Gila Prevent Child Abuse". Ms. Gonzales requested that people wear this ribbon throughout the

month of April to bring awareness to the plight of abused children. Chairman Sanchez requested that Steve Besich, County Manager/Clerk, read aloud the Proclamation. Upon motion by Supervisor Dawson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Martin, the Board unanimously adopted Proclamation No. 06-01. **(A copy of the Proclamation is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors' Office.)**

Vice-Chairman Martin addressed agenda item number 3, which is the presentation of various reports pertaining to northern Gila County water-related issues to include, but not limited to the Mogollon Rim Water Resources Management Study (MRWRMS) Report, Blue Ridge Reservoir and ADOT (Arizona Department of Transportation) wells along Highway 260. She thanked all of the attendees at today's meeting and stated that the issue of water is the most important issue in the northern part of Gila County second to fires and forest health. She stated, "I consider water as a resource first and a commodity second. I always tie water into forest health." Vice-Chairman Martin advised that Harry Jones was hired by the County many years ago when Ron Christensen was the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to address any water-related issues that arose. Vice-Chairman Martin called on Mr. Jones to present. For the record, Mr. Jones offered a copy of the script for his presentation, as follows:

General Observations:

- **Your financial commitment and support of the MRWRMS has been encouraging and has allowed a strong, science based effort to occur to solve long-standing problems that have been addressed on a regional basis. There is far less of a "go on your own attitude" today. We owe significant gratitude to our partners, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Town of Payson, and many other participants, especially Salt River Project, Tonto National Forest, Arizona Department of Water Resources, and the U.S. Geological Survey.**
- **Support of Board of Supervisors is appreciated. Some 44 rural communities from 14 connections to 2,000 know that you care and are willing to help and plan for the future in a reasonable way. Once the first phase of the study is completed, we will have a set of technology based information tools available to these communities**

so they can specifically look for localized solutions and water management plans. Each of the communities from Hunter Creek, to Star Valley, to East Verde Park to Pine and Strawberry should avail themselves of the information and expensive research none of these communities could have afforded on their own. These communities will realize finding solutions for the local subdivision or community is not about just looking locally, or about talking to the local well driller or amateur hydrologist. In many ways, it will be about understanding the regional situation and how it affects the local community. It will be about starting with professionally developed regional knowledge and then getting expert advice on how to proceed with their local community.

- There has been less than desirable knowledge gained about individual private wells, although reasonable assumptions have been made in total about these water sources and expected water demands based on population and land use projections. We had less than desired ability to collect all the water chemistry and isotope samples we would have liked, but we have an adequate quantity of samples to understand the regional picture.
- My efforts and time in the Mogollon Study have concentrated on the Needs Assessment and the Demand Analysis phases of the project. In this regard, I need to recognize the contributions of Bob Gardner, who passed away a few months ago, in collecting much of the basic data. I am certainly aware we have not been able to collect all the exact information we would like, but in terms of the big picture, we are far ahead of what we knew 2-3 years ago.

The Needs Assessment and Demand Analysis portions of the Study obviously focused the Study group on trying to develop and assess numerous potential long-term solutions to the problems recognized in the Needs Assessment. Blue Ridge is one of those long-term alternatives. However, as the Study group, including me, continued to look at the possible long-term solutions, I was compelled as part of my general Gila County responsibilities to look at the worst situations in the area to determine how we survive “purported water shortages” until the long-run solutions were able to be put in place. Basically, I needed to focus part of my time outside the Study on how we get from where we are today to where we need to be in the long-run.

This caused me to focus particularly at the Pine/Strawberry area, where the most immediate problems seem to occur in terms of outages, severe restrictions, and moratoriums; and also to look at the Geronimo Estates area, which had been under a complete moratorium for what is now 25 years. By bringing in scientifically based information from professional hydrologist, geologist, water

chemists, etc. we are now on our way to convincing ADWR (Arizona Department of Water Resources) and the ACC (Arizona Corporation Commission) that their long-term belief that no more water is available under Pine is simply not correct, and as such their short- and long-term policy of requiring no action to solve the problem has been deficient and hopefully needs to change. Basically, by focusing some of my time on the short-run, and the surrounding facts, we believe we can safely say that with a reasonable amount of investment on the part of the regulated utility, the problem can be solved, rather than allowing the regulated utility to hide behind the statement “there is no more water to be found,” such that a meter moratorium is acceptable to the Commission. Hopefully, as I describe some of the other non-study related activities I work on, you will be able to see how the short-and long-run activities are highly inter-twined.

Specific Projects I have Handled Besides the MRWRMS:

- You have heard a lot about the Blue Ridge project, ADOT water, technical data, and alternative solutions, thus I want to move to some of the more behind the scene activities I have participated in over the last couple of years.
- Beginning September, 2003 for a 15-month period I was heavily involved with John Nelson and several others in handling the affairs of the PSWID (Pine-Strawberry Water Improvement District), where 5 of 7 Board members had resigned over the summer of that year. The major activity that required our attention was intervention into the ACC rate hearing with Pine Water Company (PWCo). This project, done to protect the rights of the District property owners and water users, involved developing information and taking positions that saved the rate-payers and property owners of the District hundreds of thousands of dollars per year over the next four years. The rate portion of the case came to an abrupt end in about October of 2004 after a settlement agreement proposed by the Company was agreed to, allowing for an 11.8% increase instead of the 76% increase the Company was proposing. Numerous other issues were solved relating to ownership of the Magnolia pipeline and to reversal of more than \$500K of operating charges over 23 months passed down to Pine Water Company by Brooke Utilities, its unregulated parent firm that had claimed to actually own the pipeline. This intervention project, paid for almost exclusively from District funds, helped highlight to me, County management, and numerous residents the major influence the utility companies (mainly Brooke Utilities) and the regulatory Commission have on the availability or lack of availability of water to certain communities in northern Gila County. Today, almost three years after the start of

the PWCo rate case, the portion of the case dealing with the reasons for moratoriums in the service area is still going on. The Company has been required to complete a six month study of alternative sources of water so the Commissioners can hopefully make a decision to take action that would allow for the development of adequate water resources, and hopefully avoid a continuation of the long-standing moratorium that now limits the service area to only two new meters per month. Brooke Utilities claims of “no water to be found under Pine, Arizona” are gradually being removed and hopefully will allow the Commission to adopt policies that will permit “reasonable service” to be provided in this community.

- Another ACC activity I have spent time on during the last 14 months is attempting to understand the reason for a zero meter moratorium in Geronimo Estates, a community of \$150K-\$700K homes that has only 73 water meters on 252 lots. This community has been subject to a “zero” meter moratorium for 25 years, with virtually no effort on the part of the Payson Water Company, a division of Brooke Utilities, to solve the problem. The motivating factors in trying to help this situation is a failed effort to obtain a water meter to serve the new Whispering Pines Fire Department sub-station in Geronimo Estates. The Fire Department has been denied a meter for over 16 months, only wanting a meter to serve a simple hose bib to be used to wash blood off of our EMT personnel after a medical rescue or to simply wash mud off the steps of the fire engines and the brush truck, trying to avoid slip injuries to our volunteers. Hopefully, this situation will improve soon, since the Commission staff is recommending immediate hookup of a meter for the Fire Department, and 4-8 new meters for lot owners that can’t get a building permit from Gila County without a source of water.**
- Considerable effort has been required to monitor the progress (or normally lack thereof) of the PSWID. They have been in existence for 10 years, have taxes this year of \$222K, a budget of \$336K, and they have found no new water to sell to supplement wells owned by Brooke Utilities. Numerous residents and lot owners continue to ask for help from the Mogollon Study group and directly from the County because of denial of personal property rights caused by water use restrictions, water outages, and building moratoriums imposed by the ACC and the Pine Water Company division of Brooke Utilities. The average use per meter in Pine is only 79.9 gallons per day (gpd) compared to about 180 gpd for Payson, thus conservation is not the answer. The Water District does not intend to serve water to consumers, but only to the other water purveyors.**
- I work closely with the other domestic water improvement districts in the area. The other Board of Supervisors who approved domestic water improvement districts in the Pine community have been able**

to provide adequate water for their areas, while PWCo has not. In fact, Solitude Trails Domestic Water District currently provides 14%-22% of the total annual supply used by PWCo. Another 23% increase in the annual supply is currently being offered to PWCo by the Strawberry Hollow Domestic Water Improvement District, with this water coming from a deep well developed over the last five years, and which was just awarded only the 2nd 100 year adequacy designation ever issued in northern Gila County.

- I have worked diligently to encourage private owners of water resources (water districts like Strawberry Hollow, Camp Geronimo Boy Scout Camp, Bray Creek Ranch, etc.) and other government entities like ADOT (Arizona Department of Transportation) that potentially have excess water to share resources with those communities short of water.**
- Because of new found relationships between the ACC and Gila County, the County and the BOR (Bureau of Reclamation) Study group have been asked by the Commission to help keep them up to date with new information, research reports, etc. related to water issues in northern Gila County. In addition the Commission has asked that I interface with residents in communities like Geronimo Estates and Beaver Valley where major regulatory questions occur. Because of these new relationships and those with local residents that were calling the Supervisors office pleading for help, we were able, within three days, to bring enough Commission and ADEQ (Arizona Department of Environmental Quality) staff together with residents and the regulated operator to avoid a complete shutdown of the Beaver Valley system that serves about 240 full-time residents. Additionally, I assisted with the dire situation between Solitude Trails Water Improvement District and Pine Water Company by making the ACC staff fully aware of the two-three day threats of Pine Water Company to stop water deliveries to Solitude Trails, by shutting valves on wells that PWCo operates, but are owned by Solitude. All of this was over billing disputes and well-site access keys, with both parties coming to me as the County's representative for help or awareness of the problem. Within a day or two, the ACC told the Company not to take such action.**
- Another part of my current activities (and more so in the future) is to look for grant opportunities to help fund studies and infrastructure that is needed. Currently, the County has a \$35,000 WIFA technical assistance grant application in process related to the Blue Ridge pipeline project. We hope to be able to dip into the pocket of the BOR more in the next few months to find funds to drill deep exploratory holes in the region to help verify all the geology and water chemistry work being done by the Study group. Thus, I am trying, along with Buzz and Mike to be real nice to**

Leslie, knowing she very much wants to have our support to help her organization meet its goals of solving water problems in northern Gila County.

- **Another important area I participate in is to attend periodic meetings of the Verde Watershed Association, a planning group for the upper- and middle-Verde areas. In addition, I am the designated representative to the Verde River Basin Partnership (representing the East Verde portion of the watershed which includes over ½ of Payson and everything to the north and west of Payson in Gila County). This entity is being formed as a requirement of the Congressional Act that allowed the land exchange between the large ranch west of Flagstaff for Forest Service land at the corner of H-260 and Interstate 17. Any plans that come out from this group are to apply to the whole Verde watershed, thus we, as a County, need to be there to protect our interests.**
- **The last area of my involvement is to help get a Northern Gila County Water Authority formed so it can take title to Blue Ridge water and help with other water issues in the area.**

In summary, I feel we need to keep your Board more aware of these activities. I would like to work out whatever update and communications procedure you would like so our interface is more frequent. The frequent support of John Nelson, Jo Johnson, and Steve Besich is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Jones ended his presentation and offered to answer questions. At this time a discussion ensued between Supervisor Dawson and Mr. Jones.

Supervisor Dawson advised that legislation may be passed in the future which would allow the creation of the Northern Gila County Water Development Authority. She said that many people are concerned how the Blue Ridge water will be used. She stated, "I have a concern that we are concerned about getting water to Payson." Mr. Jones replied that the preliminary draft of the Study addresses the Blue Ridge water and how far that water can be spread economically. He advised that the cost would be too high for the County to install its own pipeline to serve the residents. The County could "tap" into the Town of Payson's existing pipeline. He stated, "Payson has been cooperative to say that this is a reasonable plan." Supervisor Dawson suggested that the Board of Supervisors create an agenda for the approach to be taken regarding this issue. She then asked Mr. Jones to provide a breakdown of the money

that is being billed by Mr. Jones and Mr. Herb Schumann. (Mr. Schumann has also been contracted by the County to provide services related to water issues.) Mr. Jones provided a summary of some of the expenditures and in-kind services that have been provided. Supervisor Dawson expressed concerns about not being able to obtain reports from the County Finance Department for County expenditures related to water issues. She also was deeply concerned that the newly created town of Star Valley is being left out of meetings and conversations when it comes to the issue of water. Mr. Jones replied that in January 2005 meetings were held with the people of Star Valley. There were numerous interfaces with Chris Benjamin and Gary Hatch of Star Valley and Mr. Jones, and at that meeting he introduced Mr. Schumann. In ending this part of the conversation, Mr. Jones stated that “Star Valley has always been part of our Study. If we can get more Blue Ridge water, we may want to pump to Star Valley in time.” Vice-Chairman Martin emphasized that the Study is not just about the towns of Payson and Star Valley; there are many other little communities involved. She stated that Mr. Jones has provided a written handout of the history of Payson, Pine-Strawberry, Star Valley and Diamond Point. **(A copy of Mr. Jones’ handout, which is entitled History of Water Issues in Northern Gila County for Board of Supervisors Work/Study Session, is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisor’s Office.)** She stated, “I am glad that we are at this stage of the game. This issue will be come more contentious unless we stop and say where do we want to go with this?”

At 10:02 a.m. Chairman Sanchez announced that the Board would address agenda item number 4 at this time, which was a public hearing to adopt Resolution No. 06-03-05. The Resolution authorizes the submission of the Gila County Housing Authority’s Annual Plan for fiscal year 2006 to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He advised that the hearing was publicly noticed to take place in the Supervisors’ Hearing Room at the Globe Courthouse building; therefore, this agenda item was addressed via telephone conference call to the Supervisors’ Hearing Room. Malissa Buzan,

Housing Services Program Manager, presented this agenda item to the Board. She explained that the Gila County Housing Authority provides housing rehabilitation services to qualified clients and that submission of the Annual Plan along with public comment is a requirement of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. Judy Smith, Community Services Division Program Manager; Bree'na York, Health and Community Services Division Fiscal Manager; Patricia Campos, Section 8 Housing Program Manager; and, Marilyn Brewer, Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, were present in the Globe Hearing Room to facilitate the public hearing. Chairman Sanchez opened the public hearing at this time; no response was given. Ms. Brewer advised that no other individuals attended the hearing. Chairman Sanchez closed the public hearing and asked for a Board motion. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Martin, seconded by Supervisor Dawson, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution No. 06-03-05. **(A copy of the Resolution is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors' Office.)**

Chairman Sanchez advised that the Board would return to agenda item 3 for the remaining presentations related to water issues. Leslie Meyers of the Bureau of Reclamation addressed the Board. She stated, "I am a civil engineer. I am the study manager with the Bureau in our planning program and I am acting as the facilitator for the Mogollon Rim Water Resources Management Study. We have a program with the Bureau of Reclamation that allows us to work regionally with communities to assess water resources. There is whole process that all Reclamation projects go through; some are on a small scale and some are on a larger scale. We start with an appraisal level study where we look at what has been done in the past, an assessment of the area, what kind of water resources, population and so forth. Once we do that we then develop a list of water supplies, a list of alternatives for water supplies and decide at that point whether we want to take the next step what we call feasibility. At this point we're at the appraisal level...Our Study began in 2003...The concept of the Study started many, many years ago with many

other entities.” Ms. Meyers advised that the Bureau of Reclamation agreed to contribute \$300K to the Study. Gila County, representing all of the unincorporated areas of the County, and the Town of Payson each agreed to contribute \$150K for a period of three years. No money changed hands and it was agreed that each entity would decide how to spend its own money on the Study. She explained that a plan of study was developed by assessing communities’ populations, current water resources, along with the amount of potential growth in order to determine the amount of water that would be needed by 2040. Anyone was invited to be a part of the technical committee. The meetings were held on a monthly basis, but are being held less often at present. Participants include the Arizona Department of Water Resources, U.S. Forest Service, Salt River Project, Town of Payson, Gila County, Bureau of Reclamation, Pine-Strawberry Water Improvement District, Tonto Apache Tribe, Brooke Utilities, and others. The meetings began with 7-8 people and at present about 25-30 people attend the meetings. As of April 2006, the Study is half completed. The needs assessment, which is a written documentation of everything that has been accomplished so far, is complete except for a few sections because there is not enough information. As a group it was decided that more information needed to be obtained regarding the geology and the hydrology in the area; there is more to be learned about the groundwater. In that effort, consultants were hired to do the geologic mapping, acquire water samples, and to conduct an isotope analysis which has resulted in developing a conceptual groundwater model. The groundwater model is still in the draft stage at this point. This part of the Study is being completed and the information will be added into the final Study. The last part of the Study is to define the alternatives. It was agreed that only a listing of the alternatives for water would be made. Ms. Meyers briefly spoke about the Blue Ridge Water. Legislation was passed that gave title of the Blue Ridge water to the Bureau of Reclamation; however, Salt River Project will manage the Blue Ridge water. It was decided that 3,500 acre feet per year will be provided to northern Gila

County; of that amount 3,000 acre feet per year will go to the Town of Payson and 500 acre feet per year would go to Gila County for the northern area. She stated that part of the Study addresses the Blue Ridge water; however, there are many other issues with the Blue Ridge water that are being addressed aside from the Study. Ms. Meyers advised that the Study involves a public process because it is being conducted with public funds so every effort is being made to provide the public with information. A public meeting was held on February 21, 2006, which was very well attended. Ms. Meyers stated that the geologist hasn't yet submitted his documentation, which will be sent out for peer review by geologic experts. That process will take approximately three months. She advised that a date has not been set for the completion of the Study. **(Copies of Ms. Meyer's handouts are permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors' Office.)** On behalf of the Board, Chairman Sanchez thanked Ms. Meyers for the presentation. Vice-Chairman Martin called on Buzz Walker, Town of Payson Public Works Director/Water Superintendent, and Mike Plugh, Town of Payson Hydrologist, to address the Board. Mr. Walker provided information on when the Town of Payson first became interested in attaining Blue Ridge water, which was in 1994. About three years ago the Town of Payson began focusing on Salt River Project (SRP) toward that effort. At present the Town of Payson is in preliminary discussions with SRP to decide how the 3,500 acre feet per year will be distributed to northern Gila County. He advised that there is a legal process that will be extremely complicated. Based on studies conducted by the Town of Payson and Brooke Utilities, Mr. Walker stated that the Blue Ridge water will have to be adjacent to a pipeline that will be constructed, owned and operated by the Town of Payson. He stated that it may take another 5 or 10 years for the water to come to Payson and it may never get there. He talked about the anticipated future growth of the Town of Payson's population being 36K to 44K people and the amount of water that will be needed, which will be about 6K acre feet of water. He said, "We can't grow into 6K acre feet of water by ourselves; we need

partners. We are looking out for our neighbors because they need to be served somehow.” He stated that the Town of Payson is anticipating that Star Valley and the Tonto Apache Tribe will use some of the water if an agreement can be reached between the entities. He acknowledged the efforts made by Gila County in working with the Town of Payson over the last 3 years. He said, “We know where the water isn’t, and Leslie (Meyers) said we will know with this Study where the water is.” Vice-Chairman Martin thanked Mr. Walker for his presentation and then asked Mr. Plugh to address the Board. Mr. Plugh stated that that the Town of Payson and Gila County are trying to put together a “tool box” of solutions with the information being gathered from the Study and that it has become apparent that not everyone can have access to the Blue Ridge water. He advised that the Town of Payson hired a consultant to map geologically throughout the Study area, with an additional layer of information being added which pertains to groundwater, chemistry and isotopes. The mapping took several years which resulted in a compilation of existing information with the majority of the information containing new and much better data. He showed the map and affirmed that groundwater does exist in that area which is recharged from the Mogollon Rim System. Vice-Chairman Martin thanked Mr. Plugh for his presentation and called on Steve Stratton, Gila County Public Works Division Director, to talk about the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) wells located along Highway 260. A conversation ensued between Mr. Stratton; Mark and Dawn Brunson, husband and wife; and, Supervisor Dawson regarding the Brunson’s water supply and the affect the Highway 260 wells have on the Brunson’s water when the Highway 260 wells are pumped. Mr. Stratton assured the Brunsons that should the County purchase the ADOT wells, the County would make a concerted effort to not affect any other wells in the area. Supervisor Dawson suggested that the wells be used for emergency purposes only, if purchased by the County. Herb Schumann, consulting hydrologist, addressed the Board. Mr. Schumann provided a brief overview of his professional experience and the

types of services he provides to Gila County. Mr. Schumann stated that he advises the Board and Mr. David Kennedy, consulting attorney, on water issues in Gila County. He acknowledged the support given by Harry Jones in getting acquainted with the local infrastructure. Mr. Schumann advised that he doesn't have all of the data; however, the information he has reviewed thus far looks encouraging. He briefly touched on some other activities. Mr. Schumann expressed his appreciation in working with ADOT and the Town of Payson on water issues. From the audience, Chuck Heron expressed a concern about allowing additional wells to be pumped out of the Star Valley area.

At 11:04 a.m. Chairman Sanchez briefly recessed the meeting for a short break and at 11:19 a.m. he reconvened the meeting.

At this time Chairman Sanchez called on Dean Margo Bracamonte for an update on Gila County Community College programs and activities. Dean Bracamonte handed out the 2006 summer class schedules for the Payson, Globe and San Carlos College campuses. She then introduced Dr. Larry Stephenson, Board member of the Gila County Provisional Community College District; Dr. Dean Swanson, Dean of the Payson College campus; and, Dr. Stephen Cullen, Dean of the Globe and San Carlos College campuses. Dean Bracamonte advised that her presentation would be the same as provided to the Board of Supervisors at last week's Board meeting which was held in Globe. The March 21, 2006, minutes provide a detailed overview of her presentation. **(A copy of Dean Bracamonte's handout entitled "Gila County College Highlights" is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors' Office.)** Dean Swanson thanked the Board for the opportunity to share "some of the personalities" from the Payson College campus. He introduced Todd Longfellow, who teaches English, math and computer systems at Payson. Dean Swanson then told a story about Heidi Best, a student who has excelled at the Payson College in spite of the many challenges she has faced as a young mother of 4 children and as a survivor of a near fatal auto accident. He advised that Ms. Best recently completed the nursing assistant program and

continues taking classes at the college. He then introduced Ms. Best to the Board and the audience. On behalf of the Board, Chairman Sanchez thanked Mr. Longfellow for his dedication to the college and its students and then he congratulated Ms. Best on her accomplishments. Chairman Sanchez thanked Dean Bracamonte for her presentation and also thanked Dr. Stephenson, Dr. Swanson and Dr. Cullen for attending today's meeting. Supervisor Dawson commented on the progress being made throughout the three college campuses and she thanked Dean Bracamonte for the presentation, as did Vice-Chairman Martin.

Chairman Sanchez addressed agenda item number 6 regarding a proposal by Wright Consulting Services to conduct a scientific assessment of public attitudes regarding the commitment of local public funds to major regional issues such as forests, water, community college and economic development. Vice-Chairman Martin introduced Joel Wright, Principal of Wright Consulting Services. Mr. Wright began his presentation by stating that in 2002 Athia Hardt hired him to conduct a survey for the Gila County Industrial Development Authority in order to obtain an understanding of the issues that were most important to the citizens of Gila County; most importantly the referendum that was being placed on the ballot in the fall of that year to create a provisional community college district. He then provided a PowerPoint presentation for the 2002 survey which encompassed data collection methodology, extensive interview content, and demographics. Mr. Wright explained in detail each component of the survey. At the conclusion of the presentation Chairman Sanchez agreed that conducting a similar survey would be beneficial to the Board of Supervisors in determining the priority for addressing issues which are most important to the citizens of Gila County. Supervisor Dawson expressed her concern that this Board does not allow an open call to the public to obtain public opinion, yet it would entertain a proposal from Wright Consulting Services to conduct a survey to obtain the public's opinion on issues. She feels that any survey can be construed to

reflect the desired outcome. Mr. Wright addressed Supervisor Dawson's concern and emphasized the importance of working closely with the Board in order to gain a thorough understanding of the information that is being sought out by the Board. At this time Mildred Wills objected to not having the opportunity to address this issue before the Board. Chairman Sanchez advised Ms. Wills of the County's process to allow public comment and asked her to fill out a public participation form in order to address the Board. Dr. Stephenson, a resident of Star Valley, agreed with Mr. Wright's proposal to conduct a public survey and stated that as a member of the Gila County Provisional Community College District (GCPCCD) Board of Directors, it would be helpful to obtain public input on issues such as the Gila County Community College. In this way, the GCPCCD could tailor future programs to meet the needs of its citizens. Dr. Stephenson suggested that it would be beneficial for the GCPCCD Board to find a way to participate in the survey with the Board of Supervisors. Donald Crowley, a resident of Payson, stated that he is Co-Chairman for the Citizens for a Better Payson Government group and Wake-up Call group. He advised that the Wake-up Call group is most concerned with issues relating to the College and that some of the members of these groups have met previously with Mr. Wright. On behalf of both groups, Mr. Crowley fully supported Mr. Wright's proposal. Karen Benjamin, a resident of Star Valley, asked for the cost of the survey and Mr. Wright replied that it would be \$14,650. Ms. Benjamin had other questions answered; however, Chairman Sanchez advised her that the 3 minute time limit expired and he suggested to Ms. Benjamin that she meet with Mr. Wright after the meeting. Ron Christensen, a resident of Payson and former member of the Gila County Board of Supervisors, fully supported Mr. Wright's proposal. Dan Adams, a resident of Payson, agreed that the survey is needed; however, he expressed a concern that the survey is "starting out with the idea that we have 4 problems." He suggested conducting the survey in such a way that will allow the public to identify the problems, which may be one, all or none of the 4 as stated in Mr. Wright's proposal. Ms. Wills

expressed a concern that Ms. Hardt was involved in the survey and that more than four hundred people should be surveyed. Mr. Wright replied that he does not work for Ms. Hardt. Ms. Wills stated that she does not believe that the survey conducted in 2002 was fair. In addressing Mr. Adams' concern, Mr. Wright suggested having an open-ended question in addition to the 4 issues of forests, water, community college and economic development to specifically ask the citizens to identify issues that concern them most. Supervisor Dawson said that she was concerned only 4 issues would be addressed and that only 400 people would be surveyed. She believes that using the local radio stations and newspapers to obtain public input could be as effective as the survey. Vice-Chairman Martin clarified that the 4 issues identified on this agenda item are "not just the areas we've narrowed down. We (Mr. Wright and Vice-Chairman Martin) talked about stating our (the Board of Supervisors') concerns, but also asking the public for their concerns. I think we need to do this. I don't think we have a way...The ones we listen to are the squeaky wheels. I want to get past them and get the information from the 'run of the mill' public out there..." Supervisor Dawson stated, "We, as a Board, need to know what we agree are the areas we want polled, and I don't think we know what those are..." Chairman Sanchez asked for a motion at this time. Supervisor Dawson moved to table this agenda item. The motion died for lack of a second. Vice-Chairman Martin made a motion to instruct staff to pursue the proposal submitted by Mr. Wright to conduct a scientific assessment of public attitudes regarding the commitment of local public funds to major regional issues such as forests, water, community college, and economic development. Chairman Sanchez seconded the motion with the condition that the final issues to be addressed in the survey will be decided by the Board of Supervisors. The motion passed with a 2 to 1 vote; Supervisor Dawson voted against approval of this agenda item.

Steve Stratton requested the approval to purchase items related to fire prevention, as follows: 10 - 20,000 gallon bladders at an estimated cost of

\$2,500 each - total \$25,000; 4 pumpkins at an estimated cost of \$4,000 each – total \$16,000; 45 protective gear for the Emergency Response Team at an estimated cost of \$300 each – total \$13,500; and, culverts (material and labor) at an estimated cost of \$19,000. He provided a PowerPoint presentation on Gila County’s fire prevention efforts. Mr. Stratton provided additional information on the items being requested. The bladders were originally going to cost \$2,500 each; however, the actual cost is now at \$2,100 each. There are 2 old culverts at the County road yard. It is being proposed to cut these culverts in order to make a permanent site for the pumpkins. There will be 8 permanent pumpkins that will be located in the same vicinity as the bladders. It is proposed that the 4 remaining pumpkins be placed as follows: 2 at the local fire department; 1 at the Star Valley County road yard and 1 at the Globe County road yard. Vice-Chairman Martin asked for the total cost. Supervisor Dawson responded with a total cost of \$73,000. Mr. Stratton advised that the cost of the bladders was reduced, which offsets the increased price of the culverts. Chairman Sanchez advised that the total cost is stated as \$73,500 in the Board’s agenda packet. Mr. Stratton stated that figure will be close to the actual cost. Supervisor Dawson inquired if this money will come from the General Fund and Mr. Stratton replied in the affirmative stating that restricted funds cannot be used. Mr. Besich advised that the money would have to come out of contingency, unallocated funds. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Martin, seconded by Supervisor Dawson, the Board unanimously approved the requests as stated on this agenda item at the total estimated cost of \$73,500.

Mr. Stratton requested approval of a Sewerline Easement Agreement by and between Odish Investments, LLC; Phelps Dodge Miami Inc; and, Gila County. The purpose of this Agreement is to allow the County to construct and maintain an underground sewerline in order to tie into the public sewer system. The County will tie into the sewerline at Beall’s Outlet Store, which is owned by Odish Investments, LLC, for the ball park concession facility. Phelps Dodge Miami Inc. owns the property where the ball park is located, which is

leased to Gila County. This sewerline will service the ball park concession facility which will be in operation from March 1st through September 30th annually. Any required maintenance during the period March 1st through September 30th will be done by the County. A sewerline lockout valve will be installed within 20 feet of the concession facility. Between October 1st and March 1st annually, Gila County will physically lock out the sewerline so that it is inoperable. Upon motion by Supervisor Dawson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Martin, the Board unanimously approved the Sewerline Easement Agreement.

Vice-Chairman Martin requested the adoption of Resolution No. 06-03-03 authorizing the submittal of an application on behalf of and in partnership with the Payson Multipurpose Senior Center for consideration of funding by the Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Revenue Program. If approved, the County would be acting as a "pass-through" entity for the funding. Vice-Chairman Martin explained how the process works and stated that the Indian Community instituted a grant program and is agreeable to partnerships of this kind. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Martin, seconded by Supervisor Dawson, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution No. 06-03-03. **(A copy of the Resolution is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors' Office.)**

Upon motion by Supervisor Dawson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Martin, the Board unanimously approved Consent Agenda items 10A through 10K, as follows:

- A. Approval of Gila County Order No. PP 01-06, an application submitted by Connie Hendrick for an Extension of Premises/Patio Permit at the Antler's Café and Bar located in Young, Arizona.
- B. Approval of a 36-month Municipal Lease Agreement with Bank of America at a cost of \$241.51 per month and a 36-month Maintenance Agreement with Digital Imaging Systems at a cost of \$.011 per copy for one Panasonic copy machine to be used by the Gila County Emergency Management Division.

C. Acknowledgement of Darlene R. Kluck's resignation from the Pleasant Valley Fire District governing Board of Directors and approval to appoint Carole Patterson to complete the term of Ms. Kluck.

D. Approval to adopt Resolution No. 06-03-06 naming a road in Pine to be called Hunt Ranch Road. **(A copy of the Resolution is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors' Office.)**

E. Approval of Amendment No. 1 to a Contract between the Pinal Gila Council for Senior Citizens Area Agency on Aging, Region V, and the Gila County Community Services Division of Housing, which increases the amount of the Contract dated July 1, 2005, from \$10,500.00 to \$30,500.00 to be used strictly for medical modifications.

F. Approval of a Low Income Evaporative Cooler Tune-Up and Repair Agreement between the Gila County Division of Health and Community Services and Gila Energy Management for the period March 28, 2006, to November 15, 2006.

G. Approval to ratify the Chairman's signature on a Request for Proposal (Solicitation No.HP653117) which was submitted to the Arizona Department of Health Services by the Gila County Health Department requesting \$94,920.65 to cover a three-year period for the Early Detection and Screening Program.

H. Approval of the March 14, 2006, BOS meeting minutes.

I. Approval of the February 2006 monthly departmental activity reports submitted by the Payson Regional Constable, Globe Regional Justice of the Peace and Recorder.

J. Approval of personnel reports/actions for the week of March 27, 2006, as follows:

Hire to County Service:

1. GEST Job Coach – Community Services – 04-03-06 – Grant Fund -
Teryl Critzer – replaces Robert Caldera

2. Caseworker – County Attorney Child Support – 03-06-06 – General Fund - Rachel Freeman – replaces Lisa McCormack
3. Road Maintenance Worker II – Consolidated Roads – 04-03-06 – Road Fund - Stephen Cline – replaces Kyle Sawyer
4. Attorney – County Attorney – 03-27-06 – General Fund - Michael Dynes – replaces Dennis Harrison

Departmental Transfer:

5. Building Maintenance Technician I – Facilities Management to Weatherization Technician – Community Services – 03-27-06 – Internal Services Fund to Grant Fund – Gabriel Eylicio – replaces Gerald Philpot

SHERIFF’S PERSONNEL ACTION ITEMS

Hire to County Service:

6. Detention Officer – Payson S.O. – 04-03-06 – General Fund - Patricia Pacheco – new position

K. Approval of finance reports/demands/transfers for the week March 27, 2006, as follows: \$414,412.72 was disbursed for County expenses by voucher numbers X150292 through X150444 and X381802 through X382043. There were no hand-issued warrants. **(An itemized list of vouchers is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors Office.)**

At this time each Board member and County Administrator presented a brief summary of current events as allowed by A.R.S. §38-431.02(K). No action was taken on any items that were presented.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

José M. Sanchez, Chairman

ATTEST:

Steven L. Besich, County Manager/Clerk