

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES
GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA**

Date: January 28, 2008

JOSÉ M. SANCHEZ
Chairman

STEVEN L. BESICH
Clerk of the Board

TOMMIE C. MARTIN
Vice-Chairman

By: Marilyn Brewer
Deputy Clerk

SHIRLEY L. DAWSON
Member

Emergency Management
Conference Room
Globe, Arizona

PRESENT: Jose M. Sanchez, Chairman; Tommie C. Martin, Vice-Chairman (via telephone conference call); Shirley L. Dawson, Member (via telephone conference call); Steve Besich, County Manager/Clerk; and, Marilyn Brewer, Deputy Clerk (via telephone conference call).

Item 1 – Call to Order

The Gila County Board of Supervisors met in Emergency Session at 10:20 a.m. this date. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sanchez, but the telephone connections were not clear so the meeting was again called to order at 10:25 a.m.

Item 2 - Information/Discussion/Action to adopt Resolution No. 08-01-02 declaring a state of emergency in Gila County as a result of excessive rain storms which began on January 26, 2008, and have reached a point of saturation causing flooding to occur within Gila County.

Chairman Sanchez stated that this meeting was called and Resolution No. 08-01-02 was prepared to declare a state of emergency in Gila County as a result of excessive rainfall, which began on Saturday, January 26, 2008, and has caused flooding to occur in Gila County. Supervisor Dawson read aloud the Resolution. Upon motion by Supervisor Dawson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Martin, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution No. 08-01-02 declaring a state of emergency in Gila County. **(A copy of the Resolution is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors' Office.)**

Steve Besich, County Manager/Clerk, called on Matthew Bolinger, Director of Emergency Management and Health Preparedness, to give the Board an update on the flooding situation. Mr. Bolinger stated that there is dislocation on both sides of the Tonto Creek and the Sheriff's Office, Public Works personnel, and

the Arizona Department of Public Safety have been patrolling the area as of 10:00 p.m. Sunday, January 27, 2008. At 4:00 a.m. today, the Tonto Creek rose to 53,000 cubic feet per second, which is quite a lot of water, but prior to that the residents in the area were evacuated. Within the last hour, an Arizona Public Service power line went down, which has caused electrical service to be down from Tonto Basin to Jake's Corner and is anticipated to be down for at least 16 hours and possibly up to a week. This will affect approximately 2,300 residents. There is also a propane tank in the Creek that is leaking and work is commencing on retrieving the tank. Mr. Besich stated that there were also problems up in the Canyon and Jack Rabbit Lane. Supervisor Dawson noted that a resident residing on Jack Rabbit Lane, Mr. Phillips, is putting down some tires to secure the road from further erosion as 2 residents in that area have serious medical problems. Supervisor Dawson stated that she was notified by Claude Detherage that a large 20-foot cottonwood tree is down at Hicks Crossing in Pinal Creek and the normal 20-foot wide area has now been reduced to a 4-foot channel, which is now cutting toward the Holiday Hills Trailer Park. She has also received 2 calls from the San Carlos/Cutter area. Mr. Besich stated that Guayo Esparza, a resident at Quail Run, reported that the road in that area is also in bad shape and there are also problems at the Spencer property in Roosevelt Resort. Vice-Chairman Martin reported that in the northern part of the County there is a problem on Houston Mesa Road and other areas are flooding, but there are no emergencies at this time. Another storm is due in the area on Wednesday. Chairman Sanchez advised that at 2:00 p.m. the Board will reconvene for another update on the flooding situation within the County.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Sanchez recessed the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Item 3 - Update to the Board on Gila County flooding situation.

At 2:14 p.m., Chairman Sanchez reconvened the meeting. The attendees at the meeting were the same as this morning's meeting, with the addition of Bryan Chambers, Chief Deputy County Attorney, and Jacque Griffin, Assistant County Manager/County Librarian. Mr. Bolinger provided the Board with an update on the flooding in Gila County. He stated that after the meeting this morning, the emergency shelter was moved to the Tonto Basin School gymnasium and as of 1:30 p.m. there were no residents requesting shelter. There is a generator located at the site with heat, lights and a 5,000-gallon tank of potable water with a 4,000-gallon tank of potable water for backup. Some of the residents remaining on the east side of the creek can't get water because their wells operate on electricity. If electricity is still unavailable this evening, bottled water will be transported to those residents. Arizona Public Service is laying 1.5 miles of shielded ground line and is anticipating that electricity will be restored by 11:30 p.m. tonight. The Sheriff's Office will be guarding this line. On the weather update, there is a 20 percent chance of rain

again on Wednesday. Mr. Besich stated that heavy equipment is going to the Spencer's residence at the Roosevelt Resort and rock will be dumped in that area so the water doesn't erode the bank and get into the public water system. The flooding problems at Jack Rabbit Trail and Hicks Crossing are currently being addressed by the County. Upon inquiry by Vice-Chairman Martin, Mr. Besich stated that the electricity will be restored to the residents on both sides of Tonto Creek. Vice-Chairman Martin updated the Board on the northern part of the County and stated that the residents using Houston Mesa Road will have to use the control road at the second crossing for the present time. Mr. Besich advised that Shannon Coons of the Public Works Division will be updating the Board via e-mail. Supervisor Dawson advised that a train that was pulling cars of concentrate derailed at Gilson Wash in San Carlos. The bridge is out and one the train's engines is in the water and leaking fuel. This is the water supply for the San Carlos area. At Carrizo Creek, Supervisor Dawson has heard that there's a possibility that a bridge is out and there are still 5 families and the church located in the lower area of Carrizo. Mr. Besich advised that Corduroy Creek and a couple of dams above Carrizo are close to breaching. Supervisor Dawson stated that 5:00 p.m. this evening is the time anticipated for the Elgo Dam to peak at Talkalai Lake although it has dropped 8 feet today and seems to be holding. Chairman Sanchez emphasized that the County now has made an emergency declaration so this opens up County resources for use wherever they are needed. Supervisor Dawson stated that an emergency shelter has been set up in San Carlos at the San Carlos Apache Telecommunications Utilities, Inc. and the coordinator is Norbert Pachuli. Mr. Bolinger stated that the Emergency Management operation located at the Central Heights building will be manned 24 hours a day.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

APPROVED:

Jose M. Sanchez, Chairman

ATTEST:

Steven L. Besich, County Manager/Clerk