

## Work Session Request Form

**Specific Topic / Wording of Agenda Item:** Board discussion and direction on proposed amendments to the Cochise County Comprehensive Plan to include certain policies codifying the need for federal government agencies to coordinate with the County. This is to ensure local government consideration into federal agency land-use planning and actions, specifically as they relate to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

**Justification / Executive Summary:**

The Board of Supervisors would like to discuss proposed amendments to the County Comprehensive Plan to include certain policies codifying the need for federal government agencies to coordinate with Cochise County to ensure consideration into federal agency land-use planning and actions. Since a large percentage of land in Cochise County is administered by federal agencies, this effort is to formally articulate the importance of including the County in various federal land-use planning and policy-making processes. The draft NEPA-related policies that will be discussed were approved by the Public Lands Use Advisory Committee (PLAC) in December 2010 with the anticipation that the policies would be formally adopted by the Board as part of our Comprehensive Plan.

Another point of discussion during our Work Session would include identifying the current role and relationship between Planning staff and the PLAC, and the possibility of expanding staff's role and function in advancing the overall purpose and mission of the PLAC.

Finally, direction will be sought on the county's overall involvement on coordination efforts with federal agency land-use planning and actions

**Proposed Outcome:** Board guidance and direction on the specific PLAC/NEPA policies the Board would like codified in the County Comprehensive Plan, this in preparation for a public hearing with the Planning Commission on June 8, 2011. That body will make a formal recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, which will consider the policies and recommendation during a public hearing scheduled shortly thereafter.

Further, guidance and direction on the Planning Department's involvement with the PLAC and the county's involvement with federal coordination efforts.

**Presenter:** Michael Turisk, Interim Planning Director

**Required Attendees:** Mike Ortega, CA, Jim Vlahovich, DCA, Carlos de la Torre, CDD Director

**Others to Notify:** Planning Commissioners; PLAC Members

[http://agenda.cochise.az.gov/docs/2011/WKS/20110526\\_157/236\\_Work\\_Session\\_Request\\_Form\\_\(NEPA\)\\_FINAL.doc](http://agenda.cochise.az.gov/docs/2011/WKS/20110526_157/236_Work_Session_Request_Form_(NEPA)_FINAL.doc)

**Date Needed:** May 26, 2011

**Estimated Time:** 1.5 hours

**Supporting Material to Be Included:** PowerPoint; handouts

**Requested by:** James E. Vlahovich, DCA