

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JOINT WORK SESSION HELD ON
Wednesday, August 13, 2014**

A joint Work Session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors and the Planning and Zoning Commission was held on Wednesday, August 13, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, AZ 85603

Present: Patrick G. Call, Chairman; Ann English, Vice-Chairman; Richard R. Searle, Supervisor
Staff: Michael J. Ortega, County Administrator; Jim Vlahovich, Deputy County Administrator;
Present: Gussie Motter, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Beverly Wilson, Planning Director
Attendees: Liza Weissler, Tim Cervantes, Jim Martzke, Pat Edie, Carmen Miller, Nathan Watkins, Jim Lynch

Chairman Call called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

INTRODUCTIONS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Community Development - Planning and Zoning

1. Discussion amongst the Board of Supervisors and the Planning and Zoning Commission on the proposed revisions to the *Cochise County Comprehensive Plan* and subsequent Board direction.

Chairman Call introduced Ms. Beverly Wilson, Planning Director, who thanked the Board and Commission members for coming to the meeting. She then introduced Peter Gardner, Sarah Meggison, Mark Apel and Jim Vlahovich, all of whom have been instrumental in the revisions to the Comprehensive Plan. Revisions to the Plan began two years ago, using the information gleaned from Envisioning 2020 in 2007 and 2008 when 13 public meetings were held around the County. There were four questions asked at each meeting: What changes do you expect to happen?; What do you want to change?; What do you hope for?; and What do you fear? The answers to these questions have been used to update the Plan.

Ms. Wilson enumerated some of the changes in the format of the Plan. The beginning of each section now has a narrative, followed by goals and policy. Regulatory language was eliminated and three new elements (Rural Character, Economic Development, and Agriculture and Ranching) have been added as well as a section on renewable energy as required by statute for counties of our population. Tasks that have already been completed, like the adoption of a

Building Code, have been removed. The layout has been changed to make the document more appealing and photographs have been added.

Public Input has been solicited at five meetings around the County in Benson, Bisbee, Douglas, Sierra Vista and Willcox. There is also a survey online that citizens are encouraged to use to give us their input. The online survey asks where in the County the respondent lives and how long he or she has lived there. The third question asks the responder to pick the sentence that best matches his or her preference. The choices are:

- Cochise County should strive to stay rural in character and limit new growth.
- Cochise County needs to grow, but growth should be concentrated in and around our existing cities, towns and communities (e.g. Naco, Elfrida, St. David, Bowie), and not in areas not served by existing infrastructure.
- Growth is progress and Cochise County should not try to limit growth and development in any way.

Question number four asks which of the following elements are most important to you. The respondent is asked to pick only three elements from the following list:

- Land Use
- Affordable Housing, Neighborhood Rehabilitation, & Enterprise Redevelopment
- Federal Government Coordination
- Intergovernmental Coordination
- Adequate Facilities and Services
- < >Water Conservation
- Rural Character
- Economic Development
- Agriculture and Ranching
- Renewable Energy

Question five reads, Do you think the County's update of the comprehensive Plan addresses issues important to you with respect to how the County plans for growth and protects rural character? Available responses are: Somewhat, Mostly, and Very well.

The sixth question allows respondents to offer any specific suggestions, additions, or deletions that he or she would like to see in the County's Comprehensive Plan.

The majority of the respondents in question three selected the first two choices. Question four revealed that respondents were most interested in land use, water conservation, rural character and renewable energy.

Ms. Wilson summarized some of the changes that have been made to the plan and handed out some notes designed to assist when the changes are studied.

The Public Lands Advisory Committee (PLAC), at their meeting last week, considered changes recommended by County resident, Robert Weissler. The changes are being submitted to the County consultant, Mary Darling, and the County Attorney's Office.

Comments were also received from Mike Hemesath and Father Greg of St Andrews Church in Fry Townsite Area who are interested in preserving historical sites and landmarks. Ms. Wilson passed out a copy of their recommendations for additions to the Comprehensive Plan, noting that staff thought the comments worth merit.

She also distributed copies of comments her office received this morning, August 12, 2014 from the J-6/Mescal Community Development Study Group. She noted that these suggested changes would also be routed to the PLAC for their comments.

Chairman Call expressed disappointment with the number of responses, noting that 71 or 73 responses just do not seem relevant given the population of the County. Ms. Wilson agreed, despite the Comprehensive Plan being on Facebook and often in the local newspapers, that more response had been expected. It was suggested that little response meant compliance.

Chairman Call said that he would put the survey out to his email list and urged others to do the same. Ms. Weissler volunteered to forward it to the Garrison Commander.

Mr. Lynch suggested that there should be a public cut-off date to encourage people to respond now. Vice-Chairman English and Chairman Call agreed. Supervisor Searle suggested closing the public comment period in mid-September.

Mr. Vlahovich admitted that everyone was disappointed by the lack of input but asserted that the plan was a good one. He also gave thanks to Mark Apel who helped Planning & Zoning craft the new Comprehensive Plan, noting that Mr. Apel has been a great asset in the project.

Chairman Call adjourned the meeting at 4:44 p.m.

APPROVED:

Patrick G. Call, Chairman

ATTEST:

Gussie Motter, Deputy Clerk of the Board

"PUBLIC PROGRAMS, PERSONAL SERVICE"