

WEWAHITCHKA, FLORIDA

APRIL 2, 2009

EMERGENCY MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in emergency session with the following members present: Chairman Nathan Peters, Jr., Vice Chairman Carmen L. McLemore, and Commissioners Billy E. Traylor, Bill Williams, and Warren Yeager.

Others present were: Clerk Becky Norris, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Inspector George Knight, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, Wewahitchka E.M.S. Director Houston Whitfield, County Extension Agent Roy Lee Carter, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Human Resource Denise Manual, Maintenance Superintendent Steve Mork, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, Major Bobby Plair, and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

The meeting reconvened at 5:00 p.m., C.S.T.

County Extension Agent Carter appeared before the Board to discuss flood preparedness and presented the Board with a handbook regarding flood preparedness and recovery. He stated that these handbooks are available to the public. Chairman Peters thanked G.C.I. Warden Randy Tift for assisting the County during the Local State of Emergency. G.C.I. Warden Tift appeared before the Board to report that the inmates have filled approximately 8,000 sandbags, and stated that by tomorrow they should have another 8,000 bags filled for distribution. Roy Barnes, of Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, appeared before the Board to discuss power issues. Emergency Management Director Nelson discussed flood waters, and stated that the Apalachicola River has begun to rise again, due to the local rains. He discussed his concerns regarding the Chipola River water levels. Upon inquiry by Chairman Peters, Emergency Management Director Nelson recommended that the Board issue a mandatory evacuation in low lying areas. Commissioner Williams motioned to issue a mandatory evacuation for the low lying areas in the river system. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion for discussion. Following discussion, Commissioner Traylor withdrew his second and Commissioner Williams withdrew his motion. After discussion, the Board agreed to submit a press release "strongly urging" that residents in the low lying areas evacuate. Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that the Honeyville Community Center Shelter is open to the public. The Board discussed their concerns regarding "special needs" residents. Chairman Peters reported that water is available to residents in Howard Creek, Red Bull Island, and Dead Lakes. Upon inquiry by Chairman Peters, Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that the State has denied the County's request for ice. Commissioner McLemore reported that Raffield's Fishery has agreed to furnish ice. Commissioner Traylor discussed his concerns

regarding the Executive Order and the assistance from the State. Sheriff Nugent reported that the road block station is at Cox Landing, and stated that water is over the Dalkeith Road. Wewahitchka City Manager Don Minchew discussed his concerns regarding the flood waters exceeding over wells and septic tanks, and reported that the Health Department has issued a boil water notice for these residents. He discussed assisting the County at the Check Points. After discussion, Chairman Peters requested an update from Emergency Management Director Nelson regarding the delivery of bottled water to the Howard Creek residents at the next meeting. Commissioner McLemore discussed his concerns regarding the river flooding. Upon inquiry by Chairman Peters, Chief Administrator Butler reported that the Local State of Emergency is only valid for seven days and recommended that the Board extend the Proclamation by Monday.

The meeting did then recess at 5:50 p.m., C.S.T.