

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

MARCH 30, 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: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Deputy Clerk Leanna Roberts, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Maintenance Superintendent Steve Mork, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, Veterans' Service Office James Kennedy, Major Bobby Plair, and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

Chairman Peters called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., E.S.T.

RIVER FLOODING

Upon request by Chairman Peters, Emergency Management Director Nelson appeared before the Board to discuss the water levels at the Apalachicola and Chipola Rivers. He reported that the Apalachicola River is currently at 20 feet and will crest at 22.2 feet on Wednesday (April 1, 2009) and the Chipola River is currently at 20 feet and will crest at 24-25 feet by Thursday (April 2, 2009). He discussed his concerns regarding rainfall over the next few days, stating that the grounds are already wet from previous rains. After further discussion, Commissioner McLemore motioned to declare a Local State of Emergency due to the March, 2009 Flood. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Emergency Management Director Nelson discussed the Emergency Protective Actions that are being implemented, and stated that he is waiting on the Governor to sign the Executive Order before ordering supplies. Commissioner McLemore reported that Raffield's Fisheries has offered to provide ice, if needed. Emergency Management Director reported that Red Cross is on stand-by, should the Board decide to open the shelter (Honeyville Community Center). Upon inquiry by Chairman Peters, City of Port St. Joe Chief of Police David Barnes discussed assisting the County. City of Wewahitchka Manager Don Minchew discussed working with Emergency Management Director Nelson regarding this issue. Upon inquiry by Public Works Director Shearer, Emergency Management Director Nelson stated that the sand bags that the County has on hand need to be filled. He discussed rains coming in tomorrow afternoon and meeting again with the Board with more updates. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that the County will be responsible to pay County employees' overtime, unless FEMA takes over. Commissioner McLemore discussed assistance from volunteers. Chief Administrator Butler reported that Mosquito Control will spray the north end of the County tonight. Commissioner Traylor discussed using the flashing signs to inform the public regarding the flooding issues.

The meeting did then recess at 5:25 p.m., E.S.T.

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

MARCH 31, 2009

EMERGENCY MEETING

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

Others present were: Deputy Clerk Leanna Roberts, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, Maintenance Superintendent Steve Mork, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

The meeting reconvened at 2:30 p.m., E.S.T.

Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that the Board will be on a Conference Call with Kelly Godsey, from the National Weather Service, and requested that questions be held until the end of the phone call. Kelly Godsey, of the National Weather Service, stated that the entire forecast area is under a severe Thunder-storm Watch until 8:00 p.m., E.S.T. He discussed various storms that are developing in the forecast areas. He discussed a storm that is coming in over the Florida Panhandle, bringing 3-4 inches of rain. He discussed his concerns regarding the rainfall totals. Mr. Godsey reported that there is a Flash-flood Watch until tomorrow, stating that the potential for the worst flooding will be in the Florida Panhandle, South Central Georgia, and the Florida Big-Ben River. He stated that out of the three storms, the second storm that is projected for Thursday will be the worst of the three. Upon inquiry by Emergency Management Director Nelson, Mr. Godsey discussed the current forecast on the water level readings for the Apalachicola River and the Chipola River, and stated that they are expecting major flood or recorded staging. The Conference Call then ended.

Upon inquiry by Chairman Peters, Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that they are expecting the Apalachicola River to crest at 24.2 feet on Thursday and the Chipola River to crest on 28.8 feet. He discussed his concerns regarding rainfall and flash-flooding (which will cause these rivers to rise). After discussion, Chairman Peters reported that Commissioner Traylor is not present at this emergency meeting because he is in Wewahitchka speaking to the press regarding this issue, and requested that Emergency

Management Director Nelson keep Commissioner Traylor updated. Upon inquiry by Chairman Peters, Commissioner McLemore discussed opening the Honeyville Community Center Shelter. After discussion, Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that the shelter will open on Thursday afternoon. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that Red Cross will be operating the shelter, but the County will be responsible for providing security. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Williams, Emergency Management Director Nelson stated that the Governor has not signed the Executive Order (is on his desk). Upon recommendation by Emergency Management Director Nelson, Commissioner Williams motioned to call the Governor's Office and to submit a letter requesting that Governor Crist sign the Executive Order post this Emergency Meeting. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0. Commissioner McLemore stated that there will be a Town Hall Meeting at Howard Creek on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., C.S.T. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Williams, Emergency Management Director Nelson stated that no one is registered as "special needs" in these areas, but he is working with other resources to locate residents with special needs and assist them accordingly. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Yeager, Emergency Management Director Nelson discussed his concerns regarding the Executive Order, and reported that Holmes County has already lost 12 bridges and 51 roads have been washed out. Chairman Peters discussed using volunteers during this emergency situation, stating that the County has no funds for overtime pay. Upon discussion by Commissioner Williams, Chairman Peters agreed to contact our State Representatives requesting their support regarding the Governor signing the Executive Order. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Sheriff Nugent reported that the Command Centers will be operational on Thursday (April 2, 2009) at Lake Grove Road and Howard Creek Road on Friday (April 3, 2009). Upon inquiry by Commissioner Williams, Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that the Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative will pull power on a case by case basis (water meets the meter). Emergency Management Director Nelson discussed the need for Emergency Management Staff and the overtime issue, stating that overtime will not be abused. The Board agreed to allow overtime for the Emergency Management staff at Emergency Management Director Nelson's discretion. Commissioner McLemore reported that G.C.I. Warden Tift is willing to help the County, as needed. Upon discussion by Commissioner McLemore, Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that the County is in need of high-water vehicle, water, tents, sandbags, food, and etc. After discussion, the Board agreed to reconvene tomorrow at 2:30 p.m., E.S.T. Upon inquiry by T.D.C. Coordinator Pickett, Commissioner McLemore reported that the Town Hall meeting will be held tomorrow at the Howard Creek Fire Department at 6:00 p.m., C.S.T. Chairman Peters requested that the County employees pass out the instruction sheet regarding proper procedure for using sandbags to residents that are using the sandbags. Chief Administrator Butler discussed County employees being off on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, but working on Friday because of the flooding, and also discussed his concerns regarding the need for workers next week (employees taking off on Monday to make up for Friday). Commissioner McLemore directed Chief Administrator Butler to handle the employee issue. Chairman Peters reported that the Road Department employees were working Friday and Saturday, but would be off at the end of next week. Chief Administrator Butler discussed overtime issues and union policy.

The meeting did then recess at 3:20 p.m., E.S.T.

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

APRIL 1, 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. and Commissioners Bill Williams and Warren Yeager. <Vice Chairman Carmen L. McLemore and Commissioner Billy E. Traylor were absent.>

Others present were: Clerk Becky Norris, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Building Inspector George Knight, Emergency Management Director Nelson, Emergency Management Secretary Stephanie Richardson, E.M.S. Personnel John Ford, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Human Resource Director Denise Manuel, Maintenance Superintendent Steve Mork, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, T.D.C. Director Paula Pickett, Veterans' Service Office James Kennedy, Major Bobby Plair, and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

The meeting reconvened at 2:30 p.m., E.S.T.

Upon request by Chairman Peters, Chief Administrator Butler discussed contacts made to State Representatives regarding the need for the execution of the Executive Order from the Governor's Office.

The Board then began the Conference Call with Kelly Godsey from the National Weather Service. Mr. Godsey reported that the Flash-flood Watch will be in effect through Thursday evening (April 2, 2009). He discussed possible storms along the Coast on Wednesday and possible tornadoes in the Florida Panhandle, South of Interstate 10. Mr. Godsey discussed his concerns regarding severe weather that is expected Wednesday night (65 mph wind gust, large hail) and Thursday. He reported that there will be improved conditions over the weekend, but will see another system moving in Sunday evening. He also reported that most of the rivers are already at flood or moderate stage, stating that the Chipola River crest is at 23.7 feet as of yesterday afternoon. Mr. Godsey reported that the Chipola Cut-off is expected to flood on Friday, and discussed the possibility of flash flooding in the Wewahitchka area. The Board had no questions for Mr. Godsey and then

the Conference Call ended.

Upon inquiry by Chairman Peters, Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that Governor Crist has not signed the Executive Order. He also reported that State FEMA is at level 2 which was activated this morning. Emergency Management Director Nelson stated that there is flooding within the Wewahitchka area and two roads are closed (Byrd-Parker Drive and east end of Lake Grove Road). He also stated that some residents are moving out, and recommended evacuation for Red Bull Island, Dead Lakes, and the Chipola Cut-off areas. Upon motion by Commissioner Yeager, second by Commissioner Williams, and a 3-0 vote, the Board implemented a recommended evacuation for the areas of Red Bull Island, Dead Lakes, and Chipola Cut-off, effective 7:00 a.m., E.S.T. tomorrow (April 2, 2009). Emergency Management Director Nelson discussed comparison from the 2005 flood. Upon inquiry by Chairman Peters, Emergency Management Director Nelson discussed continuing the meeting tomorrow at 2:30 p.m., E.S.T. for a Webinar update. The Board agreed to continue the meeting for more updates. After discussion, Chairman Peters reported that the sandbags at the Howard Creek Fire Station are almost gone. Public Works Director stated that he would have more sandbags sent to Howard Creek. Chief Administrator Butler discussed the Town Hall meeting at Howard Creek to be held today at 6:00 p.m., C.S.T., and inquired if any Commissioner, other than Commissioner McLemore, would be attending this meeting. After discussion, the Board requested that Chief Administrator Butler contact County Attorney McFarland regarding this issue. City of Wewahitchka City Manager Don Minchew discussed pictures that were taken and road closures in the Wewahitchka area. Chief Administrator Butler discussed continuing this meeting, tonight at the Howard Creek Fire Department. The Board agreed.

The meeting recessed at 3:05 p.m., E.S.T. until 7:00 p.m., E.S.T. at Howard Creek Fire Department.

HOWARD CREEK

APRIL 1, 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 and Warren Yeager. <Commissioner Bill Williams was absent.>

Others present were: Clerk Becky Norris, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Emergency Management Director Nelson, County Extension Agent Roy Lee Carter, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, Assistant Road Department Superintendent Chris Wood, Major Bobby Plair,

and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m., E.S.T.

Emergency Management Director Nelson discussed the river flow and discussed his concerns regarding the rainfall, gate openings, and water collection. He stated that the forecast is constantly changing and recommended that the public stay informed. Upon inquiry by Chairman Peters, Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that the Governor had not previously signed the Executive Order and the Board had made calls to the Governor's Office and our State Representatives requesting a declaration. He then reported that the Governor just signed the Executive Order and he would be submitting a request for assets. Emergency Management Director Nelson stated that the Board has recommended a volunteer evacuation for Dead Lakes, Chipola Cut-off, and Red Bull Island areas, effective Thursday morning (April 1, 2009). He also reported that effective Friday morning (April 2, 2009), Bryant's Landing, Douglas Landing, Lister Landing and Howard Creek will be under a recommended evacuation. Emergency Management Director Nelson stated that a shelter will open tomorrow (April 2, 2009) at Honeyville and Red Cross will be managing this shelter. Waylon Graham, of the Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, appeared before the Board to report that the power will not be cut off to residents of Howard Creek, unless the water meets the meter and this will be on a case by case basis. Commissioner McLemore discussed the storm shelter being available for the residents of Gulf County, stating that if anyone needs assistance to contact him. He also discussed his concerns regarding the proper procedure of installing sandbags. After discussion, Commissioner McLemore discussed inmates helping to fill sandbags, but they are not installing them at this time. Upon inquiry by Elmer Lee, Commissioner McLemore stated that now that the Governor has signed the Executive Order the Board can request assistance from Warden Tift to help install the sandbags. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Emergency Management Director Nelson discussed the Blountstown gauge at the Apalachicola River and the Altha gauge for the Chipola River, and stated that the weather service is projecting a crest for both rivers on Thursday (April 2, 2009). After discussion, Commissioner McLemore discussed his concerns regarding the closing of the damn which stabilized the Apalachicola River, and stated that at noon it had to be re-opened. The following members of the public discussed their concerns regarding the flood issues.

Brad Williams
Billy Carl Lyles

Elmer Lee
Chris Hall

Dempsy Rogers
Mike McNeill

Joe Harper
Nancy Rogers

Commissioner McLemore thanked all the Fire Departments, Search and Rescue, and Volunteers for their assistance. After further discussion by members of the Board and the public, Commissioner Traylor discussed the Board assisting residents during this time of need.

The meeting recessed at 7:45 p.m., E.S.T., to reconvene at 2:30 p.m., E.S.T. on April 2, 2009 at their meeting room in the Robert M. Moore Administration Building at the Gulf

County Courthouse Complex in Port St. Joe.

(Chairman Peters changed the reconvene time from 2:30 p.m., E.S.T. in Port St. Joe to 6:00 p.m., E.S.T. to be held at the Old Gulf County Courthouse in Wewahitchka.)

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.

WEWAHITCHKA, FLORIDA

APRIL 3, 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, Building Inspector George Knight, Emergency Management Marshall Nelson, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Maintenance Superintendent Steve Mork, Planner David Richardson, T.D.C. Coordinator Paula Pickett, Major Bobby Plair, and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

The meeting reconvened at 10:05 a.m., C.S.T.

Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that last night's rainfall was less than expected, and stated that more rain is in the forecast. He discussed the water levels at the Chipola River and the Apalachicola River at the Jim Woodruff Dam. Emergency Management Director Nelson discussed the bottled water and transportation issues. He reported that the Fish and Wildlife Commission is supplying support for security on the river. Upon inquiry by Assistant School Superintendent Bill Carr, Emergency Management Director Nelson discussed road closers in the lower Red Bull Island, Lake Grove Road, and Howard Creek area. After discussion, Emergency Management Director Nelson stated that once the volunteers see homes that have been flooded, to write down their addresses and submit them to the E.O.C. Upon inquiry by Dalkeith Fire Department Chief Bill Davis, Emergency Management Director Nelson discussed handing out two cases of bottled water per household to the residents of Howard Creek. Sheriff Nugent discussed road blocks due to river flooding. Wewahitchka City Manager Minchew recommended closing the river from Virginia Cut to River Sticks North to residents, due to boat wake problems. The Board discussed their concerns regarding enforcing this recommendation. Commissioner Traylor recommended that Wewahitchka City Manager Minchew work with the Fish and Wildlife Commission regarding this issue. Chairman Peters stated that this meeting will reconvene on Monday (April 6, 2009) at 5:00 p.m., C.S.T. at the Old Gulf County Courthouse in Wewahitchka. Upon discussion by the Board, Commissioner Yeager motioned to extend the Local State of Emergency for seven more days. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 10:25 a.m., C.S.T.

WEWAHITCHKA, FLORIDA

APRIL 6, 2009

EMERGENCY MEETING

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

Others present were: Deputy Clerk Leanna Roberts, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

The meeting reconvened at 4:59 p.m., C.S.T.

Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that the Apalachicola River at Blountstown has crested at 23.22 feet and will remain at this level until Wednesday. He reported that the Chipola River has crested at 30.66 feet, and stated that by Wednesday it should fall to 28 ½ feet. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that at Chattahoochee it is holding at 30.66 feet, and stated that at the Jim Woodruff Dam, it should be down to 66 feet by Thursday. Upon inquiry by Acting Chairman McLemore, Wewahitchka City Manager Minchew discussed the water issues at Red Bull Island and Byrd Parker Drive area. He reported that approximately 21 houses have water damage. City Manager Minchew discussed data collection and staffing issues. After discussion, the Board thanked City Manager Minchew for his support. Sheriff Nugent discussed water issues at Dalkeith and Howard Creek. Chief Administrator Butler recommended that the Board allow the County to collect preliminary numbers/assignment (Step 1) to rebuild the roads to pre-storm conditions. After discussion, Commissioner Traylor motioned to proceed with Step 1. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion for discussion. Following discussion, the motion passed 3-0, with Commissioner Yeager abstaining due to a business relationship with Preble-Rish, Inc. Upon discussion, Commissioner Williams motioned to extend (#2) the Local State of Emergency for seven more days. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously (4-0).

There being no further discussion, the meeting did then adjourn at 5:24 p.m., C.S.T.

**CARMEN L. MCLEMORE
ACTING CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**

