

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.