

FCBCC SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING AUGUST 11, 2004

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2004

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE: Cheryl Sanders, Chairman, Jimmy Mosconis, Clarence Williams, Bevin Putnal, Commissioners, Eddie Creamer, Commissioner, absent, Kendall Wade, Clerk, Michael Shuler, County Attorney.

11:00 A.M. Chairman Sanders called the meeting to order.

Chairman Sanders told those present that this emergency meeting has been called to discuss tropical storms Bonnie and Charley.

Melanie Hutchins, interim Emergency Management Director told the Board that the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) has been activate, and she asked that the Board declare a State of Emergency and declare a voluntary evacuation of barrier islands and low lying areas. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion declaring a State of Emergency and voluntary evacuation of barrier islands and low lying areas.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Ms.Hutchins explained to the Board that currently tropical storm Bonnie is expected to make landfall early Thursday morning somewhere between Franklin and Bay County. We are expecting high tide tomorrow morning which could cause flooding. We are expecting a significant amount of rainfall. Tropical storm Charlie is not presently predicted to impact the county, but this could change. It is expected to make landfall sometime Saturday night or Sunday morning.

Chairman Sanders is concerned with the Alligator Point Road. Because of erosion damage to this road, it may be required to call for a mandatory evacuation for Alligator Point on the western end of the Point.

Commissioner Mosconis asked that the Board consider, in the interim period, to contract with Preble-Risch to have Alan Pierce come back to emergency management during this crisis. Melanie Hutchins told the Board that the Area 2 Coordinator, Bryan Lowe, is currently out at the EOC. She was unsure as to whether he would be here for the duration of these storms. Chuck Tier, with General Physics Corporation, is present and plans to remain for the duration. Mr. Tier spoke to the Board and said that his company assists counties in their operations during an emergency. At this time, he said they are volunteering their services.

Ms. Hutchins said that the generator at the EOC needs repair and they are currently working on this problem.

There was some discussion concerning shelters. Ms. Hutchins said that Franklin County does not have any evacuation shelters. Mr. Wade said that the courthouse could be used if necessary.

The Board discussed getting rock from Ben Withers to place along side the Alligator Point Road. Mr. Chipman told the Board that Bill Folks with DEP authorized placement in certain areas.

The Board declared the evacuation routes of Highway 98, 65, 67 and 319 as evacuation routes.


Commissioner Putnal suggested that the Board give the authority to Chairman Sanders and Melanie Hutchins to declare a mandatory evacuation of Alligator Point, if necessary. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion to authorize the Chairman and Melanie Hutchins to declare a mandatory evacuation of Alligator Point and low lying areas if the conditions warrant such an evacuation.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

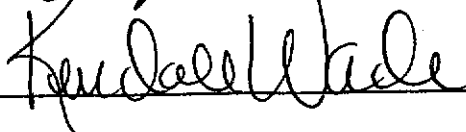
The Board discussed plans for the courthouse closure. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion to authorize the Chairman and Melanie Hutchins, after the 2:30 p.m. conference call, to take necessary actions concerning the Courthouse closure.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Michael Shuler, county attorney, asked if the Board will call a special meeting to declare a state of emergency no longer exists. It was agreed that this could be addressed at the regular board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 17.

Sheriff Varnes told the Board that he would be in touch with the Department of Corrections to decide whether the state inmates would be evacuated

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IT WAS AGREED TO ADJOURN.


_____ **CHERYL SANDERS, CHAIRMAN**


_____ **KENDALL WADE, CLERK**