

## **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.)