

Cochise County Legacy Community Development



Highway & Floodplain Department Staff

The many services of the Highway and Floodplain Department would cease to exist if it was not for the dedication and experience of its employees as you will see in the tenure of most of the department. Working for many years also brings many memories...



STAFF MEMORIES:

“When I was located on the top floor of the Old Bisbee High School in 1986, a thunderstorm rolled in and it started to rain very heavily. I was thinking I should probably head home, then I looked out the window and saw cars floating down the Gulch. Needless to say, I waited there before going home. It became known as ‘The Flood of ‘86’”.

~Karen Riggs

STAFF MEMORIES:

“Our department once had over 100 employees and now being down to 68, we still manage to keep smiling.”

~Frances
Marinez

STAFF MEMORIES:

“When I was a Right-of-way Agent, I had to go out and get signatures on a petition. Out of 12 people, only 2 met me unarmed.”

~Terry
Couchenour

Bisbee Main Office Staff

The main office in Bisbee located in Building F in the Melody Lane Complex consists of Management, Engineers, Floodplain, Right-of-Way Agents, Right-of-Way Inspectors and their respective Administrative staff.

	Years of Service
Karen Riggs, P.E., L.S., Director	22
Joaquin Solis, P.E., Assistant Director	1.5
Karen Lamberton, Transportation Planner, AICP	7
Bradley Simmons, P.E., Civil Engineer I	5
Rorri Perez, Admin. Assistant	15
Anissa Acedo, Business Manager	19
Lynn Garcia, Records Manager	12
Pamela Hudgins, Right-of-Way Agent	15
Frances Marinez, Admin. Aide	24
Diane Cratsenburg, Eng. Tech. III-R/W Inspector	15
Dale Wisheart, Eng. Tech. II-R/W Inspector	2.5
Terry Couchenour, GIS Analyst	15
Teresa Garcia, CFM, Engineering Tech. II Floodplain	15
Alan Patterson, CFM, Engineering Tech. II Floodplain	7
Dennis Donovan, Temp Civil Engineer II	2
Allon Owen, Temp (Retired) Project Coordinator	29
Don “Wheatbread” McMurtrie, Temp (Retired) Inspections & Contracts Superintendent	25

Operations Management

Operations Management oversees four County roadyards & staff as well as road cost management systems countywide.

Years of Service

- Ron Ellis, Operations Manager 12
- Jimmy Dotson, Deputy Highway Field Operations Manager 25
- Barry Jacoby, Field Technical Services Superintendent 31
- Jennifer Ratkovich, Admin. Aide 7
- Beverly Bullington, Admin. Aide 10

STAFF MEMORIES:

“I was officed on the top floor of the Old Bisbee High School. A heavy rain occurred on a weekend soon after I came to work for the County. When Karen Riggs and I came to work on Monday, the roof of the Old High School had collapsed ruining everything in its wake. There was nothing but partially cloudy skies overhead.”

~Allon Owen

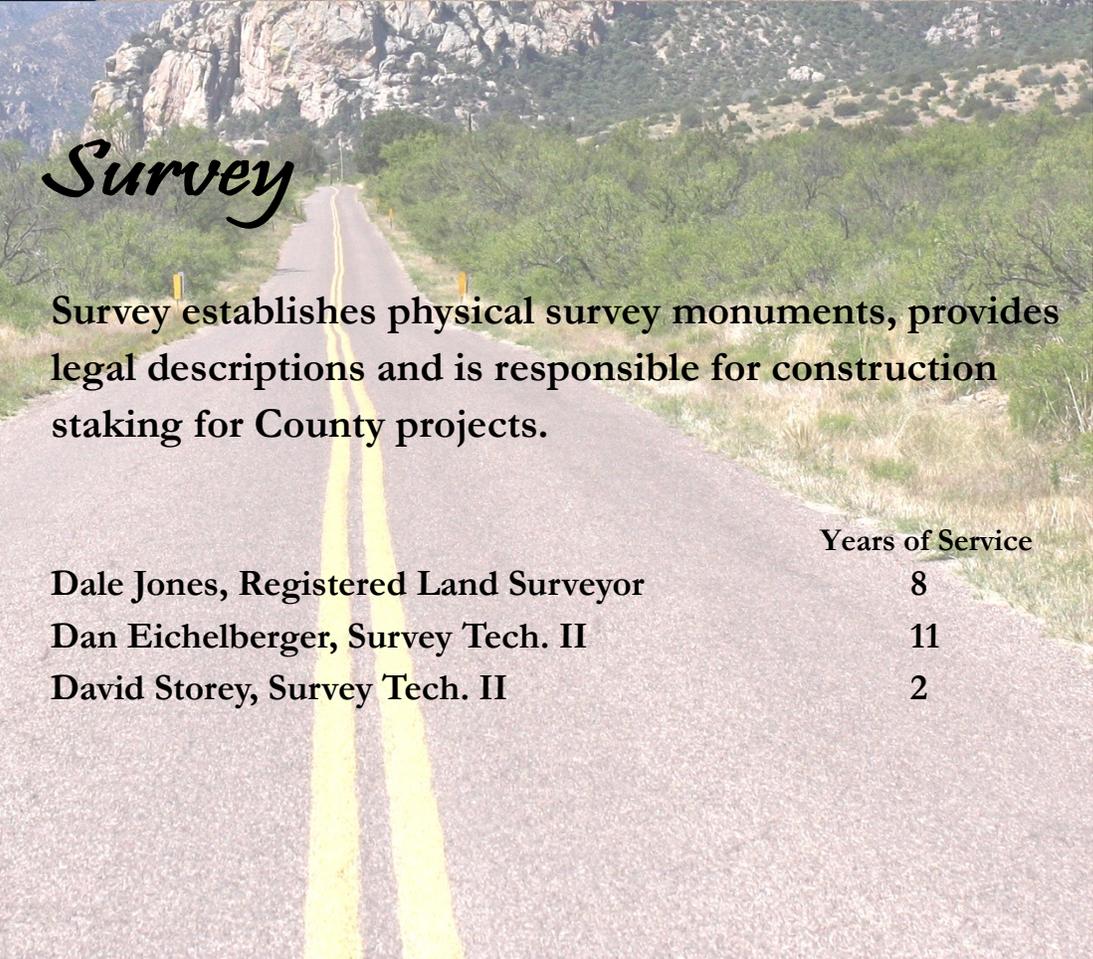




STAFF MEMORIES:

“I remember when we went out to locate a section corner and got yelled at by a naked man who was out on his property digging a ditch to divert water from his driveway. He was wearing sandals...”

~Dale Jones



Survey

Survey establishes physical survey monuments, provides legal descriptions and is responsible for construction staking for County projects.

	Years of Service
Dale Jones, Registered Land Surveyor	8
Dan Eichelberger, Survey Tech. II	11
David Storey, Survey Tech. II	2



Bisbee Roadyard

The Bisbee Roadyard serves the areas of: Bisbee, Hereford, Sierra Vista, Tombstone, and Whetstone.

	Years of Service
Rob Enriquez, Foreman	25
Dominic Moots, Equipment Operator III	17
Steve Schasteen, Equipment Operator III	9
Nicodimus Valdez, Equipment Operator III	3
Dan Dory, Equipment Operator II	4
Brad Colvin, Equipment Operator II	2
Stephen Bowie, Equipment Operator II	9 mos.
Michael Wilson, Equipment Operator II	6 mos.
James Shaffer, Equipment Operator II	1 mo.
James Hopfinger, Equipment Operator II	1 mo.

STAFF MEMORIES:

“I used a 6 wheel dump truck in which you had to reach out the window, pull a cord to release the material and hang on, because the front tires would come off the ground about a foot or more and you had to ride it out, not panic, then it would go down nice & easy.

Otherwise, if you weren't prepared & careful, the truck would end up vertical.

~Rob Enriquez

Douglas Roadyard

The Douglas Roadyard serves the areas of: Douglas, Double Adobe, McNeal, and Paul Spur.

STAFF MEMORIES:

“The old dump trucks would throw you around the cab and now they ride like Cadillacs. One old patch truck had a huge hole in the floorboard, we’ve come a long way with equipment.”

~Alfred Grijalva

	Years of Service
Alfred Grijalva, Equipment Operator III	25
Victor Almada, Equipment Operator III	21
Raul Perez, Equipment Operator III	17
Victor Gulliver, Equipment Operator II	13
Rufino Salinas, Equipment Operator II	19





Benson Roadyard

The Benson Roadyard serves the areas of: Benson, Pomerene, St. David, and Sunsites.

	Years of Service
Kevin Roberts, Foreman	17
Robert Lopshire, Equipment Operator III	15
Tim Meracle, Equipment Operator III	8
Cody Williams, Equipment Operator III	6
Jorge Grijalva, Equipment Operator I	1
Mica Goeglin, Equipment Operator I	1
Jose Torres, Equipment Operator I	7 mos.

STAFF MEMORIES:

“I remember when a former employee got in to a dump truck and the seat went down and punctured the fire extinguisher. It set off the fire extinguisher inside the cab covering the cab and him. He came out looking like the Pillsbury Dough Boy.”

~Kevin Roberts

STAFF MEMORIES:

“Years back a former employee told me about a call she received. It had been raining for 3 days straight and someone called in to ask us when it was going to stop raining.”

~Rorri Perez

Willcox/Elfrida Roadyard

The Willcox/Elfrida Roadyard serves the areas of: Willcox, Elfrida, San Simon, Bowie and Portal.

	Years of Service
Jamie Mahaney, Foreman	19
Barth Morin, Equipment Operator III	22
Robert Guzman, Equipment Operator III	17
Gerald Arvizu, Equipment Operator III	10
Roy Waters, Equipment III	12
Travis Morin, Equipment Operator III	9
Francisco Cordova, Equipment Operator II	17
James Hancock, Equipment Operator II	10
Herlinda Mendez, Equipment Operator II	9
Bruce Thompson, Equipment Operator II	8
William Riggs, Equipment Operator II	6 mos.
Laura Shuck, Equipment Operator II	6 mos.
Art Cardona, Temp (Retired) Equipment Operator	27



Structures

The Structures Crew oversees Flood Control projects to include bridge maintenance, repair, erosion control, stability and protection at dip crossings, washes, roadside ditches and concrete work.

Jose Gonzales, Engineering Tech. I
Carlos Borquez, Engineering Tech. I

Years of Service

6

4

STAFF MEMORIES:

“I remember an articulating rubber tire roller. It had dirt in the back to weigh it down and weeds grew out of it.”

~Don
McMurtrie
“Wheatbread”



STAFF MEMORIES:

“I remember spending days manually drafting and surveying using special tools and special erasers to erase pen and if it smudged you almost always had to start over. Computers now make drafting a piece of cake.”

~Steve Parra

STAFF MEMORIES:

“I remember drafting on linen with crow quill and speedball pens. AutoCAD now takes care of that.”

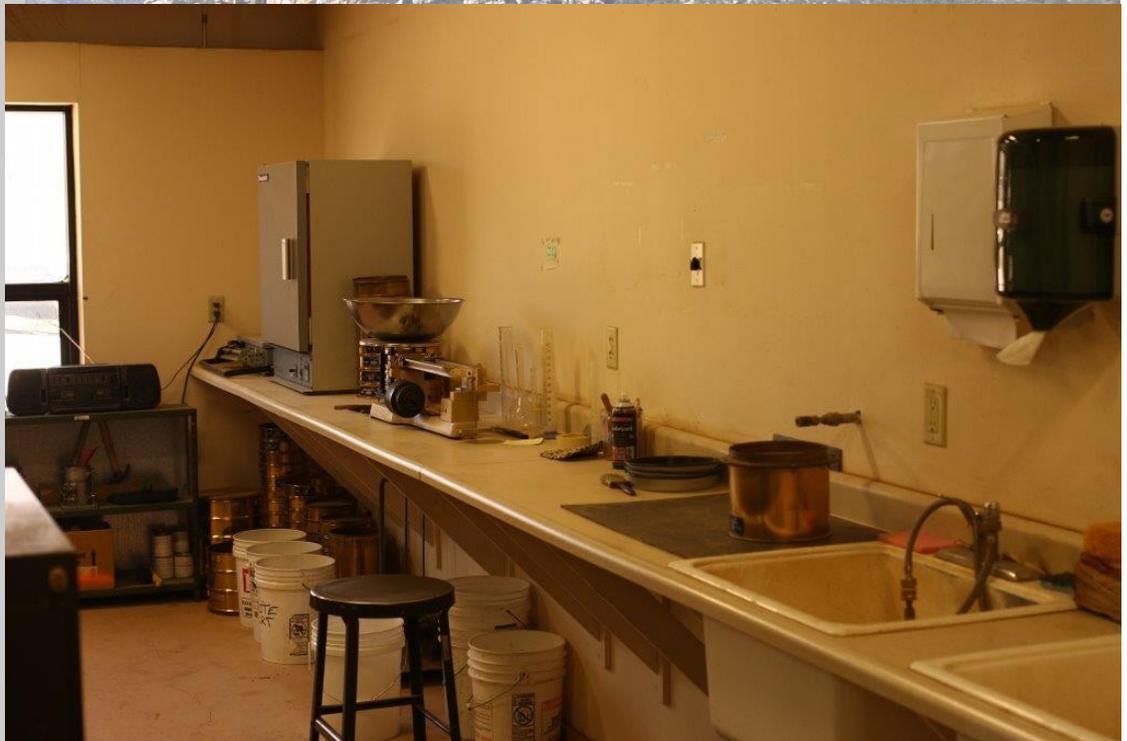
~Barry Jacoby

Field Technical Services

The FTS staff is comprised of: the Signing Crew, Striping Crew, and Reconnaissance and Survey Crew and serves all of Cochise County.

Recon

	Years of Service
Steve Parra, Superintendent I	30
Oscar Herrera, Engineering Tech. II	9
Bret Shuck, Engineering Tech. I	7





STAFF MEMORIES:

“I drove an orange water truck that broke down in Palominas before it was developed. The mechanic showed up and before leaving he handed me a large rock telling me to keep it handy in case I needed to hit the fuel tank to start it back up again.”

~Tommy O'Malley

Striping

Tommy O'Malley, Equipment Operator III
John Benedict, Equipment Operator II

Years of Service
27
10 mos.





Signing

Years of Service

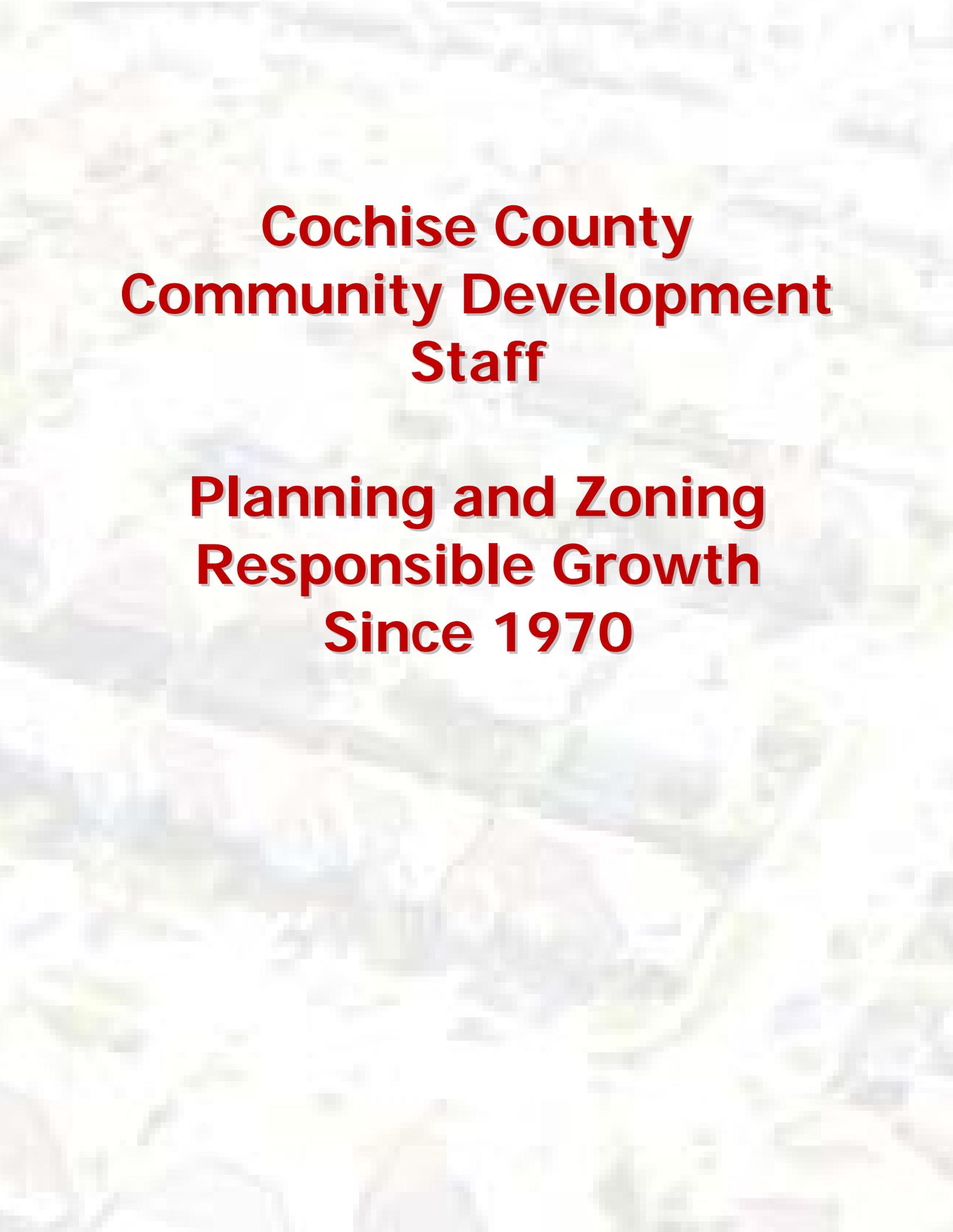
Jose Encinas, Interim Foreman	7
Lyle Clemson, Sign Maintenance Worker	13
Todd Pomroy, Sign Maintenance Worker	3

STAFF MEMORIES:

“While cutting brush on Rucker Road with a co-worker, a bear showed up. My co-worker ran and got in to the truck. The bear huffed at me, turned, and walked away.”

~Lyle Clemson



An aerial photograph of a town, likely in Cochise County, Arizona. The foreground features a large, prominent building with a red roof, possibly a government or institutional building. The surrounding area is a mix of residential and commercial buildings, with streets and parking lots visible. The background shows more of the town and some greenery.

**Cochise County
Community Development
Staff**

**Planning and Zoning
Responsible Growth
Since 1970**

Cochise County Community Development Planning and Zoning Staff

Current Staff

Community Development is a composite department encompassing the Planning, Zoning, and Building Safety Divisions. These divisions work as a team to ensure growth and development in Cochise County is managed responsibly.

The Planning Division sets goals and priorities for development by establishing and maintaining the Comprehensive Plan.

The Zoning Division enforces the County Zoning Regulations and issues residential and commercial permits for development in support of the Planning Division's Comprehensive Plan.

The Building Safety Division assures compliance with codes applicable to construction and safety through plans examination and onsite inspection.

**Planning Director & Deputy
Director of Community
Development:
Beverly Wilson**

**Planning Division Manager:
Beverly Wilson**

**Zoning Administrator:
Dora Flores**

**Building Official:
Michael Izzo**

Planning Directors

Sep 1971- Aug 1981

Jim Altenstadter

In 1970 Cochise County was fortunate to recruit Mr. James (Jim) Altenstadter as the Planning Director. With A Bachelor of Architecture from Arizona State University as well as a Master of City Planning degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and experience in a his position with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning commission in Philadelphia, PA, Mr. Altenstadter brought education, experience, and motivation to the newly forming Planning Department. His first assignment was to prepare subdivision regulations to combat the on-going land sales issues where special interest groups seemed to be using blind trust laws to peddle unsecured notes for quick profit. Mr. Altenstadter teamed with the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission to push through opposition and establish standards and reviews before recording plats. The next project was drafting Development Policies and the General Plan. He set about this task in the basement of the County Courthouse with Mrs. Dorothy Meagher as his secretary and Mr. Frank Ambriz as his draftsman.

Mr. Altenstadter and the County Engineer, Mr. Clarence Lintz, split their time with newly available mapping technology from NASA and in the field reviewing subdivision plats. They also used the information provided by NASA to help redesign a subdivision plat taking into account watershed boundaries, storm flow, and elevation criteria. NASA often cited this instance as an example of how local governments could help modify development with a positive effect through satellite imagery.

Under Mr. Altenstadter's leadership the department developed Zoning Regulations, Federal Community Development Block Grants, entered the County in the Federal Flood Insurance Program, administered Federal Housing assistance for low and moderate income renters, initiated an Economic Development Program, and laid the ground work for a County Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Altenstadter eventually transitioned from the Planning Director role to become the County Administrator in 1981. He moved on to head US Representative Jim McNulty's Congressional Staff in 1983. He returned from Washington to assume the role of Assistant County Administrator in Pinal County. Mr. Altenstadter then performed duties as the Development Services Director for Pima County. He concluded his distinguished career as the Executive Director of the Pima Association of Governments when he retired in 2004.

Jul 1981 – Jun 1992

Jody Klein

Mr. Jody Klein lived a life of service before retiring. He served in the US Army from 1970 to 1973. After the Army he attended the University of Arizona, and then law school, culminating in attaining a Juris Doctorate degree in 1976. He began County service in 1977 in the County Attorney's Office. In 1981 he took the reins of the Planning and Zoning Department as the Planning Director. He held this position through 1993 when he was selected by the Cochise County Board of Supervisors to become the County Administrator for the remainder of his career from January 1993 through July 2007.



Jul 1993 – Dec 2005

James Vlahovich



Mr. Vlahovich continues to provide his vast experience in management and government service to Cochise County as the County Administrator. His organizational and operational leadership was forged as a Midshipman in the prestigious US Naval Academy, where he graduated with a Bachelor degree in American Political Systems in 1977. He honed his leadership skills in various positions within the Marine Corp and within the management team of the Ford Motor Company in Waltham, Massachusetts. In 1987 Mr. Vlahovich extended his extensive experience and education by earning a Master's degree in Forestry from Northern Arizona University. Mr. Vlahovich began his service to Cochise County in 1988 as a Planner in the Cochise County Planning Department. From 1990 to 1993 he served as the Cochise County Building and Zoning

Administrator. He assumed duties as the Planning Director in July of 1993 and held that position until he attained the Deputy County Administrator position from January 2006 thru April 2015. He was then selected by the Board of Supervisors to become the County Administrator in May 2015.

Mr. Vlahovich is a member of Arizona Town Hall and the Arizona City / County Management Association.

Jan 2006 – Jun 2008

Judy Anderson

Judy Anderson's 24 year public service career included more than 18 years with Cochise County before her retirement in 2008. During her career she continually sought educational self-improvement and completed a Masters of Urban Planning from the University of Arizona in 1985. She began serving the public in the Tucson Planning Department where she accumulated 3 ½ year's experience. Mrs. Anderson transitioned from the Tucson Planning Department to the South Eastern Arizona Governments Organization for nearly two years before beginning her 18-½ year career with the Cochise County Planning and Zoning Department. Mrs. Anderson served in various positions including Planning Manager for a number of years. In 2006 Mrs. Anderson accepted the position of Planning Director where she stayed until her retirement in 2008. During her tenure as Planning Director she oversaw the beginnings of the visioning process that brought the public and the government together to seek community input and two way communication with the public. This process formed updates to the Comprehensive Plan and eventually became known as Envisioning 2020. Since retirement Mrs. Anderson has served as the chair of the non-profit organization, the Friends of Warren Ballpark. This group raises funds to help maintain and preserve the historic 105-year-old Warren Ballpark. To date, two projects have been completed at the park and a third project, construction of ADA compliant restrooms, is due to be completed this summer. She also spends as much time as possible with her two delightful grandchildren.



Jun 2008 – Jan 2010

Susan Buchan



Susan Buchan served as the Cochise County Planning Director from June 2007 to January 2010. Mrs. Buchan attended Virginia Tech, where she earned a Masters of Architecture in 1999. She brought extensive experience in building design and vast knowledge of green building practices with her from her previous position in the Pima County Development Services Department as the Green Building Program Manager. After her tenure as Planning Director she transitioned to the Conservation Services Group as a Program Manager in Tucson. Mrs. Buchan is currently the Executive Director for the Energy and Environmental Building Alliance in Brattleboro, Vermont providing educational services to architects, builders, contractors, and tradesmen.

Aug 2012 – Present

Beverly Wilson

Planning Director- Deputy Director of Community Development



Early in her career, Beverly Wilson accumulated experience with the regulations, laws, and processes that influence planning. Her tenure as a real estate agent formed a basis of knowledge in zoning and land uses. She then transitioned to a career in public service, gaining an understanding of rules and procedures during her time as Clerk of Justice Court in Richland County, Montana.

After moving to Arizona she completed her plan to expand her experience and her education. She graduated from the University of Arizona in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts in English, and again in 2006, with a Master of Landscape Architecture degree. She amassed experience that would later directly benefit County residents and contractors through her time spent in asphalt and paving contracting and in commercial and residential landscape contracting, and has continued to gain experience as a Registered

Landscape Architect (RLA, ASLA).

Her public service credentials were bolstered by serving as a DISA Security Officer on Fort Huachuca, and serving as a Planning and Zoning Commissioner for the City of Sierra Vista. Continuing her history of public service, Beverly is currently the Cochise County Planning Director.

Special Projects:

County Lighting Code / Dark Skies Protection

Co-Designer of the Sierra Vista 911 Memorial

Commission & Board Members

Citizen Volunteers

Twenty-five volunteer positions are filled by citizens performing exemplary service to Cochise County and its residents. These volunteers make critical decisions effecting the development of Cochise County as well as providing the check and balance function for the Planning and Zoning Department.

The Planning and Zoning Commission is a nine member commission that holds public hearings to authorize Special Use requests and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on Master Development Plans, Subdivision Plats, Rezoning applications and changes to the Zoning Regulations and Comprehensive Plan. Appeals of Planning and Zoning Commission decisions go to the Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Adjustment has the power to consider any variance or appeal for citizens who request variances or exceptions to the Zoning Regulations. Appeals of Board of Adjustment decisions are heard by the Arizona Superior Court.

The Building Code Advisory and Appeals Board reviews and makes recommendations concerning Building Code to the Board of Supervisors. The Appeals Board also determines appeals to decisions made by the Building Official. Appeals of the decisions made by the Building Code Advisory and Appeals Board are decided by the Board of Supervisors.

Planning and Zoning Commission	Board of Adjustment	Building Code Advisory and Appeals Board
Liza Weissler Jim Martzke Wayne Gregan Tim Cervantes Nathan Watkins Patrick Greene Pat Edie Gary Brauchla Carmen Miller	Tom Borer Ed Cottingham Ron Wilson Anastacio Salaiz Albert Young Shawn Wales Helen Barnard Paul Brick	Michael Rutherford, Chair, General Contractor Ray Klumb, Architect Michael Hemesath, Engineer Kim Mulhern, Member at Large Jim Olander, Electrical Contractor William Henry, Green Building Contractor Chief William Miller, Fire Safety



Zoning Division Staff

The Zoning Division is responsible for the issuance of building and use permits (both residential and commercial), and the issuance of land clearing and demolition permits. The Division enforces the Zoning Regulations, Land Clearing Ordinance, Light Pollution Ordinance, Hazard Abatement Ordinance, Graffiti Abatement in the enclaves of Sierra Vista, and the Solid Waste (Wildcat Dumping) Ordinance. The Division serves as the one-stop shop for issuing County permits and, as such, is responsible for receiving applications and issuing permits for septic systems, residential work in the right-of-way, and floodplain use permits once those departments have provided their reviews.

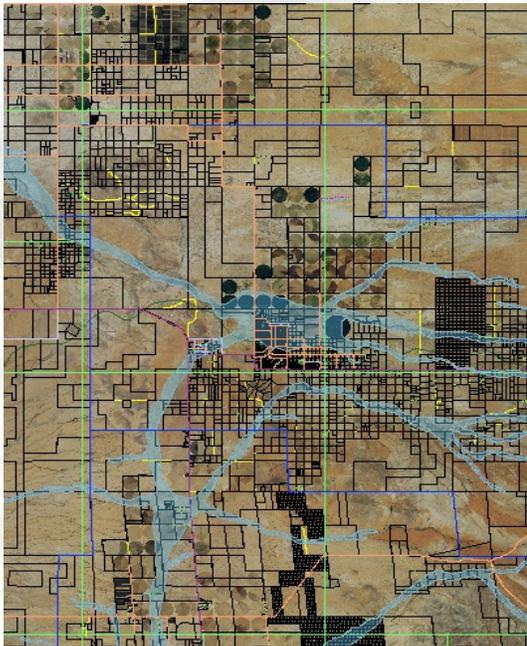
Dora Flores – Zoning Administrator

Dora has been a pioneer for the department. She began working for the Zoning Division as a Permit Clerk in 1994. Her efforts to improve customer service and permitting procedures were recognized with multiple promotions within the department including becoming the Integrated Permit Coordinator in 1998, then progressing to take over commercial permitting as the Lead Integrated Permit Coordinator in 2000. She oversaw the customer service staff when she was promoted to Permit and Customer Service Coordinator in 2007 and assumed responsibility for the entire division as the Zoning Administrator in 2014.

Special Projects:

Modernized the permitting process through implementation of computer software and databases.

Assisted community rebuilding efforts by expediting emergency permits during the Monument Fire recovery efforts.



Chris Saylor – Code Enforcement Officer

Chuck Cooper – Solid Waste Inspector

Jennifer Vincent – Senior Planning & Zoning Technician

Debbie Lee – Senior Planning & Zoning Technician

Sonia Lopez – Planning & Zoning Technician

Janet Smith – Planning & Zoning Technician

Patricia Hoefler – Planning & Zoning Technician

Dominique Lopez – Community Development Technician

Trevor Smith – Community Development Technician

Building Safety Division Staff

The Building Safety Division coordinates all facets of building plan review and the subsequent inspection process during construction (both residential and commercial) for code conformance in the interest of public safety. The Cochise County Building Safety Code incorporates various building, plumbing, electrical, fire, mechanical, and energy conservation codes for the applicable portions of the unincorporated areas of the county. To ensure quality construction for the county's residents and visitors, the Building Safety Division regulates building construction and building occupancy through the enforcement of the Building Safety Code. The Building Safety Division also performs the state required installation inspections on Mobile and Manufactured Homes in the County, under an Internal Governmental Agreement with the State of Arizona Office of Manufactured Housing.

Michael Izzo CBO, CBCO – Building Official

The Cochise County Building Official, Mike Izzo, bolsters the Building Division with over 35 years of construction and contracting experience. He began sharing his experience in 1980, teaching classes on general building for Yavapai College. Mike's professional development between 1986 and 2003 included contract oversight, management of projects, construction site and workflow management, to building inspection through positions in various contracting agencies. Mike served as Building Official, Plans Examiner, and Building Inspector spanning a period of 11 years from 2003 through 2014 with the Town of Cave Creek, Brown and Associates, and Southwest Code Consultants.

Special Projects:

Redhorse Wind Project

Torch Energy Solar Project

2012 Building and Residential Code Adoption



Mike Springer - Senior Building Inspector

Lee Sipe – Building Inspector III & Plans Examiner

Dave Estelle - Building Inspector II

