

PRESS RELEASE 9/28/11

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Press Release

For immediate release

**Bastrop County Commissioners Approve Recovery Plan—  
Town Hall Meeting Scheduled for October 10th  
To Share Details with Community**

The Bastrop County Recovery Plan is official. In a unanimous vote of support, on September 26, 2011 the Bastrop Commissioners Court approved it, County Judge Ronnie McDonald announced. “Since the beginning of the Bastrop Complex wildfires, county leaders—with our counterparts in Bastrop, Smithville, and Elgin—began discussing recovery efforts.

“This day could not get here soon enough,” McDonald said.

Judge McDonald has scheduled the first of a series of town hall meetings to be held October 10, at 6:00pm at the Jerry Fay Wilhelm Center for the Performing Arts, located at 1401 Cedar Street, Bastrop.

“The Recovery Plan is a guide. It includes immediate short-term actions as well as year-end objectives,” McDonald said. “The goal of the plan is to build a solid foundation for the long-term recovery process of rebuilding the Bastrop County community.”

Stakeholder groups represented in the plan are: Animal Support; Debris Management; Donations/Volunteer Management; Emergency Management Coordinator; Environmental/Habitat Conservation; Financial Management; and Road and Bridge. Each group will have a specific list of tasks, all of which will be coordinated through the Recovery Plan.

“The most important message, at this time of the recovery effort,” Precinct Two Commissioner Clara Beckett said, “Is for residents who have already begun the debris clearing process to separate the refuse into separate piles of recyclable materials. This will help to keep costs down.”

“Clearing debris from road right-of-ways is another top priority at this time,” Precinct One Commissioner William Piña said. “Residents can assist contractors who have already begun the process, by allowing them to pass ahead when encountering each other on some of our narrow roads.”

County Engineer Ronnie Moore, who will head the Debris Management group, asked that residents not deposit refuse on their property onto road right-of-ways. He said the County is pursuing resources to assist with debris removal.

Beckett also urged residents who have already begun the debris removal process, to obtain debris disposal receipts from contractors, before making final payment for services. She added that County environmental enforcement officers as well as those provided by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) are scheduled to patrol for illegal dumps. Violators will be prosecuted.

Information regarding household debris management resources can be found on the Bastrop County website at: <http://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/bcdisaster/>

“We need everyone’s support to bring our county back,” McDonald said. “We can do it, together, and this plan will guide us into recovery.”

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