



## IRRIGATION & ELECTRICAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA, INC.

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R.D. JUSTICE – PREDSIDENT ELSTON GRUBAUGH – VICE-PRESIDENT NOEL CARTER – SECRETARY VACANT – TREASURER
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### IEDA BOARD MEETING MINUTES - **Draft**

Jul7 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 –  
2:00 PM

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Irrigation & Electrical Districts Association of Arizona, Inc. (“IEDA”) was held on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The following IEDA Members were present:

Phil Basha- Arizona Power Authority  
Heather Cole – Arizona Power Authority  
Jordy Fuentes – Arizona Power Authority  
Ed Gerak - IEDA Executive Director  
Elston Grubaugh – Wellton-Mohawk, Vice-President (Virtual)  
Leslie James – CREDA (Virtual)  
DeWayne Justice – ED7 (Phone)  
Nicole Klinker – KR Saline (Virtual)  
Doug Milligan – SRP (Virtual)  
Donovan Neese – RID (Virtual)  
Paul Orme – Salmon, Lewis & Weldon (Virtual)  
Bill Plummer – Guest (Virtual)  
Ken Saline - KR Saline (Virtual)  
Scott Saline- KR Saline (Virtual)  
Meghan Scott - Nobel Law Firm  
John Scremin – RWCD (Virtual)  
Ryan Serote – Meguire Whitney (Virtual)  
Dave Slick – KR Saline (Virtual)  
Russell Smoldon - B3 Strategies  
John Sullivan – Arizona Power Authority  
Jerri Tso – KR Saline (Virtual)  
Shelton Van Allen – ED6 (Virtual)  
Jeff Woner—KR Saline (Virtual)  
Brian Yerges – ED3 (Virtual)  
Brian Young - CAP (Virtual)

President Justice called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M.

Jordy Fuentes, newly appointed Executive Director of the Arizona Power Authority, introduced himself to IEDA regarding his background, his first 45 days and his near term plans.

Ryan Serote provided the latest issues within the Beltway. Given there is roughly only 25 legislative days left this session, time is shrinking for getting much more done. Clean energy-direct pay subsidies for public power fell through with Manchin pulling his support due to inflation concerns. Some democrats have felt strung along all year. The House is considering several appropriations bills. A six bill package (including energy & water) has been put together and considered this week. Multiple floor amendments are expected for messaging.

Ryan also touched on the impacts of the Supreme Court decision regarding *WV v. EPA*. The impacts are larger than the Clean Air Act decision, opening up the “Major Questions” ruling which could have impacts on a wider variety of cases than just this EPA issue. The Endangered Species Act has proposed a rule to expand available habitat for species. During the Q&A, IEDA has drafted a letter regarding this issue. Western Caucus is holding a hearing on this issue next week.

Finally, Ryan spent a significant time on the SB 4232, Senator Kelly’s bill on hydropower support on the Colorado River. There seems to be some political gamesmanship, but we continue to encourage support on the bill based on the dire situation on the river.

Russel Smoldon provided a update on the legislative wrap-up report that they are working on. This session included 136 election bills, and the consensus is that we dodged a lot of bullets this year. Russell provided an overview of the current political races. Some candidates have raised significant money, but roughly 70% of the population is still undecided. Polling is showing an advantage for republicans for the state house. Some expectations for the legislative session was also discussed. He also provided an overview of the Arizona Corporation Commission, as well as providing a review of the meeting the Chairwoman Leah Marquez Peterson. Finally, Russell mentioned that Donovan Neese was on the ballot for the CAP board.

Ed discussed the recent conservation request by the Commissioner’s call to conserve 2 to 4 MAF above the current DCP and 500+ plans. Elston Grubaugh provided information about some of the discussions that are occurring in Yuma. There is a possibility that the Commissioner may go straight to Tier 3 DCP shortage status, as well as seeking an additional 2 MAF in shortage. The Upper Basin seems willing to assist, but is looking to the Lower Basin to provide much of the reductions. The Bureau doesn’t consider the asking price to be realistic for fallowing. The Yuma Ag Coalition has submitted a request to the Commissioner, but yet to get a response. The only other issue is that NWRA is looking for a new Executive Director.

Ed provided an update on the hydropower money in the BIL and the fact that it did not include federal hydropower. IEDA was joined on a letter by AMPUA and GCSECA to PG&E to encourage the licensing extension for Diablo Canyon.

Leslie James provided an update on the CRSP Annual Meeting. The meeting had a more extensive agenda than usual, including a hydrology presentation by Nick Williams (BOR). It also included a presentation on fish experiments. Environmentalists continue to push for by-passes. There was a discussion regarding the rationale behind the requests. WAPA biologists have pushed back against the “science”, but it is becoming contentious.

Leslie discussed the SPP overview. The Lower CRSP division has some concerns with SPP integration and a small working group will be meeting on July 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss these concerns. We also discussed the formal ask to CRSP to produce a replacement power impact study.

Moving into the Board Meeting, President Justice asked for a motion for approval of the minutes for the June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 board meeting. Elston Grubaugh made a motion to approve the minutes from June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 board meeting. Donovan Neese seconded the motion. President Justice called for a vote and the motion passed.

Ed Gerak requested permission to change the statutory agent and address for IEDA, Inc. Donovan made a motion to approve the changes. Elston Grubaugh seconded the motion. President Justice called for a vote and the motion passed.

Ed Gerak highlighted a proposed natural gas storage area by Kinder Morgan in Eloy. Ed encouraged the board to send out letters of support.

Similarly, the 2026 Operating Guidelines letter will be drafted in the future. Most of the issues were highlighted in the Board Report, being drafted by the Family Farm Alliance. IEDA will base the letter around these points, but also discuss how Arizona can't completely bear the responsibility of the conservation and the hydropower impacts of these curtailments.

A letter for the proposed ESA rule was circulated and reviewed by legal. It will be finalized and circulated to the board.

A side-by-side comparison of IEDA & AMPUA was provided based on the discussion from last meeting. Given our similarities and alignment, working towards a unification appears to continue to make sense.

Ed asked to hold a strategic planning session in August in-lieu of a normal meeting.

Ed also sought direction to engage the APA regarding the Leadership Development Program that was worked on to restart in 2023.

Finally, Ed introduced the idea of possibly forming a political action committee. No decision was made, and a more in-depth overview will be provided at a later meeting.

The Board exited executive session and the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 P.M.