



IRRIGATION & ELECTRICAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA, INC.

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SHANE LEONARD – PREDSIDENT ELSTON GRUBAUGH – VICE-PRESIDENT NOEL CARTER – SECRETARY DONOVAN NEESE– TREASURER

IEDA BOARD MEETING MINUTES - **Draft**

March 21st, 2023 – 12:00 PM

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Irrigation & Electrical Districts Association of Arizona, Inc. (“IEDA”) was held on March 21, 2023.

The following IEDA Members were present:

Andrew Campbell- Roosevelt Water Conservation District (Virtual)
Mitch Basefsky – CAP (Virtual)
Phil Basha – AZFB & APA
Brian Buzard - CAP
Noel Carter – BWCDD, Secretary (Virtual)
Dennis Delaney – KR Saline (Virtual)
Ed Gerak - IEDA Executive Director
Sheri Farag – SRP
Darrin Francom - CAP
Jordy Fuentes - APA
Elston Grubaugh – Wellton-Mohawk, Vice-President (Virtual)
Daniel Herder – Clark-Hill
Taylor Howerter– RID
Leslie James – CREDA
Diego Leal – B3 Strategies
Shane Leonard – Roosevelt Water Conservation District, President
Derek McEachern – ED4 (Virtual)
Ron McEachern – ED4 (Virtual)
Doug Milligan – SRP
Jason Moyes – Moyes, Sellers, Hendricks (Virtual)
Natalie Mast – ADWR
Donovan Neese – RID, Treasurer
Paul Orme - Salmon Lewis & Weldon (Virtual)
Jeff Ritter – CAP
Ken Saline - KR Saline (Virtual)
Scott Saline - KR Saline (Virtual)
Meghan Scott - Nobel Law Firm (Virtual)
John Scremin - Roosevelt Water Conservation District (Virtual)
Ryan Serote – Meguire Whitney (Virtual)
Ken Simer – KR Saline (Virtual)
Russell Smoldon - B3 Strategies
Sheryl Sweeney – Clark-Hill
Chris Udall – ABWC (Virtual)

Bill Van Allen – ED6 (Virtual)
Shelton Van Allen – ED6 (Virtual)
Robert VanHofwegen – ED8
Glen Vortherms – MWD
Jeff Woner – KR Saline (Virtual)

President Leonard called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M.

Natalie Mast, Active Management Director for the Arizona Department of Water Resources, made a presentation to the group regarding new AMA/INA development and management plans for the AMAs. The presentation created multiple questions from the group. President Leonard suggested a possible follow-up presentation to have a more focused discussion on specific questions raised during the presentation. IEDA thanked Natalie for her time and attendance.

Ryan Serote provided an overview of the recent APPA Legislative Rally. Ryan discussed the President's Budget and the commitment from the House to pass all 12 appropriation budgets individually and on time. Budget hearings are scheduled and starting to be held. Ryan highlighted the Kelly/Stewart Bill and let IEDA know of the departure of Nick Matiella from Senator Kelly's office. This might delay reintroduction of that bill. Ryan also mentioned the proposed DOE Transformer standard. The Colorado River Caucus was also been stood up and Representative Ciscomani is participating. Ryan was asked about HR1 and Farm Bills. HR1 is a placeholder reserved for energy as an indication that it was the House Republicans top priority. IEDA was back for APPA and was able to meet with the entire delegation (minus Gosar & Schweikert). IEDA was able to get facetime with multiple members (Biggs, Ciscomani, Crane and Lesko). The visit focused on planned appropriation asks for PRBs, the Hoover Dump Site and introduction of Jordy Fuentes (APA) to the offices. Discussing the Kelly/Stewart Bill, the cost of replacement Power and impacts of the possible Smallmouth Bass EA were also discussed with the offices.

Russel Smoldon provided an update on all the bills of relevance or concern for IEDA at the Capital. It is the 72nd day of the legislation. The ability of bills to be heard is nearing an end, but crossover week was given a one week extension. There have been 1,528 bills introduced this session (809 in the House & 719 in the Senate). Russell gave an overview of the election bills that his firm has been monitoring and amending to exclude our political subdivisions out of the process. He also provided an update on specific bills of concern, including S1390, which is a technical correction bill for Water Infrastructure Finance Authority. He also discussed a critical infrastructure damage bill and two transmission line bills. Finally, Russell highlighted S1501, which prevents utilities from participate an electric vehicle charging station. HB2448 was discussed which would provide an appropriation to provide \$25M for a pipeline to settle the Santa Rosa Canal lawsuit. Finally, Russell discussed the evolving issues at the ACC, including the need to replace 6 members on the Line Siting Committee.

Due to a scheduling conflict, President Leonard moved the Save the Colorado River Lawsuit Appeal issue up in the agenda. Mr. Dan Jones discussed the latest update on the case, including the Notice of Appeal filing from the plaintiffs. Dan highlighted the options for IEDA to continue to participate in the appeal. Ed provided a bit of the history of the case from an IEDA perspective. Donovan Neese made a motion to continue for IEDA participate at a minimal participation level. Glen Vortherms seconded the motion. President Leonard called for the vote and the motion passed.

Moving into water issues, Ed highlighted that the letters Senator Kelly sent regarding infrastructure funding and irrigation efficiency. Opposition to WOTUS continues with TX and

others filing suit. Darrin Francom shared that the most 24 month study has increased the runoff to 10.9 MAF.

Regarding power issues, Ed highlighted the REC issues discussed at the APA meeting. Ed updated the group on recent APPA conferences including APPA Resolutions approved at the Leg Rally. PG&E has filed an extension for the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Powerplant. Dawn Roth-Lindell let me know that the CCAs in Southern California are trying to obtain power from the IPP project. They don't understand the transmission component, so Burbank and the other energy providers plan to obtain the power from the CCAs at a discount due to inability to get it into the BA.

Leslie James provided an update on the runoff and the limitations at GCD due to only 6 generators being available. She touched on the Smallmouth Bass issue and the push to by-pass flows for temperature. Leslie also discussed the Kelly/Stewart Appropriation ask for \$255M for replacement power on the Colorado River. Mitch Basefsky inquired about the GCD modifications study recently done.

Mr. Gerak covered the other issues regarding power, including the DOE National Transmission Needs Study, LNG permitting reform and the latest on the market issues. This includes a letter from WAPA Administrator that assures the agencies willingness to help the DSW customers if RA issues become a problem with the generator being in a different market than the market.

Moving into the Board Meeting, a motion was requested for approval of the minutes for the February 21st, 2023 board meeting. Glen Vortherms made a motion to approve the minutes from February 21st, 2023 board meeting. Donovan Neese seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

Ed Gerak discussed the pending legal memo from Clark-Hill regarding PACs. Ed also updated the board on the submission of two appropriations to AZ offices regarding the PRBs and the Hoover Dump Site.

Ed requested direction from the board regarding the April meeting, as he will be in DC for the NWRA Legislative Conference at that time. After some discussion, President Leonard cancelled the meeting in April unless necessary.

The next meeting will be on May 16th, 2023.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:09 PM.