



IRRIGATION & ELECTRICAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA, INC.

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IEDA BOARD WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES - Draft

November 21, 2023 – 12:00 PM

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

The following IEDA Members attended the meeting:

Mitch Basefsky – Central Arizona Project (Virtual)
Andrew Campbell- RWCD (Virtual)
Noel Carter – BWCDD (Virtual)
Heather Cole – Arizona Power Authority
Sheri Farag – Salt River Project (Virtual)
Darrin Francom – Central Arizona Project (Virtual)
Jordy Fuentes – Arizona Power Authority
Ed Gerak - IEDA Executive Director
Daniel Herder – Clark-Hill
Daniel Jones – Salmon, Lewis & Weldon
Jason Moyes - TID, HVPD, Aguilla (Virtual)
Donovan Neese, RID, Treasurer
Ken Saline – KR Saline & Associates (Virtual)
Scott Saline – TID, HVPD, Aguilla (Virtual)
Ryan Serote – Meguire Whitney (Virtual)
John Scremin – RWCD (Virtual)
Sheryl Sweeney, Clark-Hill (Virtual)
Meghan Scott – Noble Law Firm (Virtual)
Chris Udall – Agri-Business & Water Council
Bill Van Allen – ED6 (Virtual)
Robert VanHofwegen – ED8
Glen Vortherms – MWD

Glen Vortherms called the meeting to order at 12:04 P.M.

A motion was requested for approval of the minutes for the October 23rd, 2023, board work session. Donovan Neese made a motion to approve the minutes. Bill Van Allen seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

The next item on the agenda was the 2024 Budget. A draft budget was presented reflecting proposed changes to next year's budget after the loss of membership. The biggest change was the elimination of our DC lobbyist. Mr. Gerak informed the group that he is a registered lobbyist, and that IEDA will utilize B3 Strategies more in 2024 to help coordinate efforts. Noel Carter made a

motion to approve the budget as presented. Donovan Neese seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

Based on the approved budget, the proposed dues were presented for review. The dues reflected a combination of inflationary adjustments, as well as revenue from annual meeting sponsorships and carryover from 2023. Donovan Neese made a motion to approve the dues. Sheri Farag seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

The proposed by-laws and articles of incorporation revisions were presented. Salt River Project submitted recommendations for the revisions before the meeting and legal has not had a chance to incorporate. Therefore, the revisions were tabled.

Based on the discussion last month, 3 quotes were presented to the board regarding Director's and Officer's Insurance. The insurance agent recommended the Chubb policy, given our potential exposure and revenue stream. Donovan Neese made a motion to approve obtain the Chubb Insurance D&O Policy. Darrin Francom seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

Mr. Gerak presented a list of committee members so far. These groups will begin meeting in the new year. There is still time to get on a committee if desired. It was requested that Ken Saline be listed as a consultant on the power committee.

Dan Jones updated the board on the status of the Save the Colorado lawsuit. The plaintiff has appealed and is seeking a trial hearing. The plaintiff's filing spent an inordinate amount of time focusing on CREDA's response. Their legal work is being supported by college students.

Ryan Serote updated the board on happenings back in DC. A ladder CR was approved under the new House Speaker – Mike Johnson. There was significant support in the proposal, but also significant opposition from a fairly substantial portion of the Republican House members. HR 4045, the hydropower bill is not gaining much traction. This bill would make all hydropower renewable. Two Cantwell bills are moving forward, one supporting the Uncommon Dialogue initiative and the other would provide tax credits to hydropower. Finally, Mr. Gerak asked Ryan to provide a status update on a possible stand-alone PRB bill. We were successful in getting an amendment introduced into the House Energy & Water Appropriations Bill, but it was flagged because it was attempting to legislate through appropriations. Senator Sinema's staff has been working on developing a stand-alone bill with support from some of the Nevada and California delegation.

Emily Rice provided an update on state issues. She updated the group on the latest discussions regarding updating the Title 48, Chapter 19 statutes. Some districts are seeking inclusion of more flexible financing options, including a line of credit. It was decided that a few of the proposed updates might be problematic (assessments), so these were removed from the draft bill. There will be a working session on December 1st, contact Mr. Gerak if you are interested in attending virtually.

The Governor's office has taken up the San Carlos Irrigation Project issue, looking at divestiture options. The Truck Stops Charging Station proposed bill will probably be back. Community Solar also will be back, looking to continue their deregulation push. B3 is watching the Arizona Reconsultation Committee. The State of the State is on January 8th, and it is looking like the state will face a \$400M shortfall this year. Over a dozen bills have already been dropped.

Chris Udall gave an update on the Governor's Water Council and the recent Annual Meeting of the National Water Resources Association.

Sheri Farag updated the board on recent the Cooperating Agencies meeting regarding the LTEMP SEIS. Although this SEIS includes a non-bypass alternative that WAPA requested in the Smallmouth Bass draft EA and was excluded, the scope of this SEIS doesn't include options like netting, thermal curtains, etc. IEDA submitted comments regarding the need for a more holistic approach that includes barriers that are not tied to flow patterns.

A draft letter that IEDA put together with the help of AMPUA, APA and GCSECA was presented for review. It was requested for more time to review. A deadline for comments was set at December 1st. As comments are due December 11th, this will provide time for the other signatories to review and modifications to the letter prior to the deadline.

Mr. Gerak highlighted the Box Canyon groundbreaking last week and Southline celebration down in Benson, that Secretary Granholm and Administrator LeBeau attended.

Glen Vortherms provided a review of the CREDA meeting he attended earlier this month. Two notes to highlight, it was CREDA's 45th Anniversary and Leslie signed a contract extension at the meeting.

Finally, Ken Saline provided an update on the market issues regarding CRSP. We continue to look for more dialogue with WAPA CRSP. This decision has major implications to Arizona and impacts to the WAPA Zonal Rate. It is likely that the current rate is not feasible. There is a webinar on December 5th.

Mr. Gerak highlighted the IEDA Year in Review in the PPT and is available for any questions anyone might have.

Noel Carter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sheri Farag seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 P.M.