



IRRIGATION & ELECTRICAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA, INC.

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IEDA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES - **Draft**

January 5, 2024 – 9:00 AM

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Irrigation & Electrical Districts Association of Arizona, Inc. (“IEDA”) was held January 5, 2024.

The following IEDA Members were present:

- Jason Baran -SRP
- Mitch Basefsky – CAP
- Brian Buzard – CAP
- Buchanan Davis - SRP
- Ben Engelby – AEPCO
- Sheri Farag -SRP
- Brian Fickett – TOUA
- Ed Gerak – IEDA
- Daniel Herder – Clark-Hill
- Taylor Howerter – RID
- Vineetha Kartha – CAP
- Stephanie Knight – ABWC
- Patrick Ledger – AEPCO
- Jeff Lindbom - RWCD
- Craig McGinnis - SRP
- Donovan Neese – RID
- Paul Orme – SLW
- Delia Patterson – SRP
- Ron Rayner – BWCDD/ED8
- Emily Rice – B3
- Jeff Ritter – CAP
- Gwen Salt – SRP
- Meghan Scott – Noble Law
- Patrick Sigl - SRP
- Russell Smoldon – B3
- Christina Soriano – B3
- Sheryl Sweeney – Clark-Hill
- Lori Taitano – SRP

- Rob Taylor – SRP
- Chris Udall – ABWC
- Robert VanHofwagen -ED8
- Glen Vortherms _ MWD
- Jeff Woner – KR Saline

The following IEDA Guests were present:

- Rodney Bailey – WAPA CRSP
- Matt Beyer – AgWest
- Jason Bowling – Sulphur Springs
- Alan Boyce – Materra Farming
- Anthony Cadorin – City of Mesa
- Jorge Canaca – Grand Canyon Trust
- Tyler Carlson – Mohave Electric
- Heather Cole – Arizona Power Authority
- Charles Cowan – Yuma County Water Users Association
- Michael Curtis – B3 Strategies
- Tom Davis – YCWUA
- Marc Ehlers – AgWest
- Michielle Fink - Western Area Power Administration
- Jordy Fuentes – Arizona Power Authority
- Katrina Grantz – Bureau of Reclamation
- Burt Hatch – Queen Creek Irrigation District
- Brian Heithoff – Trico
- Jimmy Kendrick – Western Area Power Administration
- Nicholas Kenny – Arizona Farm Bureau
- Sine Kerr – Arizona Senate
- Erin Kuiper – Arizona Farm Bureau
- Congresswoman Debbie Lesko – District #8
- Dave Lock – GCSECA
- Scott Lund – WAPA
- Frank McRae – SPPA
- Jack Murray – WAPA
- Mike Noble – Noble Predictive Insights
- Doug Norton – AgWest
- Victoria Okula – Senator Sinema’s Office
- Penny Pew – Congressman Gosar’s Office
- Linda Prado – Senator Sinema’s Office
- Congressman Greg Stanton – District #4
- Glenn Steiger – NTUA
- John Sullivan - Arizona Power Authority
- Jim Sweeney – Arizona Power Authority
- Bill Taebel – City of Mesa
- Tom Van Hofwegen -AgWest
- Desmarie Waterhouse – American Public Power Association
- Brian Yerges – ED3

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 A.M.

Ed Gerak, IEDA

Mr. Gerak opened the meeting, acknowledging the elected officials, their representatives and a thank you to the sponsors. He also provided a brief list of accomplishments for IEDA in 2023.

Rob Taylor, Salt River Project

Mr. Taylor welcomed everyone to the PERA Club, on behalf of SRP. He provided an update on what SRP has been working on over the last year. Mr. Taylor introduced special guest, Congressman Stanton, and thanked him for the support for the pump hydro bill he introduced with Congressman Schweikert.

Congressman Greg Stanton – House District #4

Congressman Stanton shared about his work on the Colorado River, progress on the WRDA bill & Pump Storage immediately after. IEDA asked for his consideration of a bill that Rep. Susie Lee looks to introduce titled, Help Hoover Dam Act.

Katrina Grantz, Bureau of Reclamation

Mrs. Grantz provided an update on the Colorado River. This included hydrology, impacts to hydropower, the 3 ongoing NEPA processes (Near-Term SEIS, LTEMP SEIS & Post 2026 process), and BIL/IRA funding progress.

Vineetha Kartha – Central Arizona Project

Ms. Kartha discussed the elevation changes to Lake Mead and Powell, the DCP Tier we are in and the impacts to the CAP system. She highlighted the volume of water the Arizona has conserved YTD, and provided an overview of the Lower Basin's concept for Post-2026 that would provide more long-term stability to the water releases in the basin. She also discussed the Water Education Center that CAP is developing.

Buchanan Davis – Water Infrastructure Finance Authority

Mr. Davis discussed the status of WIFA, the funding opportunities, the conservation seen (or in process), future augmentation and appropriation/funding requests.

Desmarie Waterhouse – American Public Power Association

Mrs. Waterhouse provided an overview of what has been occurring on the hill. She discussed the possible government shutdown due to the "ladder CR", the Congressional Review Act timetable, the FAA and Farm Bill carryover, and the upcoming elections. Given the audience, she focused on the hydropower bills that have been introduced in the last session and the Columbia River settlement issue that recently was released. She discussed updates on elective pay and

pending priorities for 2024. Finally, she provided a review of the status of the ongoing court cases regarding Chevron Deference and how it could impact environmental regulations moving forward.

Mike Noble – Noble Predictive Insights

Given that it is an election year, Mr. Noble provided a fascinating presentation on the transition of Arizona politics over the last 5 year. Despite the Republicans maintaining a sizeable voter registration advantage in the state, the top of the ticket voted in has been mostly Democrats. Recent polling seems to show an advantage for R's, but candidates' matter. Mr. Noble discussed "preferred characteristics" that have polled well in the state. Arizona is slated to be one of the highest spending states, only second to California. The difference is that airtime costs three times the amount in California compared to Arizona. Current polling shows favorably for Trump vs. Biden. Gallego is polling well for the senate, especially in a 3-way race with Lake and Sinema. Mr. Noble also covered competitive districts on the state-wide basis.

Congresswoman Debbie Lesko – House District #8

Mrs. Lesko discussed her time in the House, having announced her plan to not run for Congress again. She provided some inside baseball regarding the House Speaker debacle and reminisced on her favorite and least favorite parts of the job. We thanked Congresswoman Lesko for her continued support and asked her to consider co-sponsoring the "Help Hoover Dam Act" legislation this year.

Senator Sine Kerr – Chairwoman Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee

Mrs. Kerr discussed the Governor's Water Policy Committee issues as well as proposed legislation for the upcoming session.

Phil Basha – Arizona Farm Bureau Executive Director

Mr. Basha provided an update on the 2023 Farm Bureau, that has been extended to the end of 2024. He discussed what the Farm Bill does, the impacts to Arizona, how the ongoing political problems in DC might impact its passage and the priorities that Farm Bureau is looking to preserve.

Rodney Bailey – WAPA CRSP Region Manager

Mr. Bailey discussed the WAPA-206 Rate, how hydrology is impacting generation, the health of the Basin Fund, recent NEPA issues, and the SPP Markets decision.

Jack Murray – WAPA Desert Southwest Region Manager

Mr. Murray discussed the integration of DSW into CAISO EIM, the One Transmission Rate and Parker-Davis Remarketing effort.

Patrick Ledger & Chris Jimenez – AEPCO

Mr. Ledger and Mr. Jimenez provided an update on how they are adapting to the changes in the industry, including; reliability concerns, market adoption, resource adequacy pricing, and new project developments to prepare for these changes. AEPCO is working on BESS, quick start gas

plants, two solar projects, and economies of scale to reduce costs while providing resources to more than their traditional Class A members.

Jordy Fuentes – Arizona Power Authority,

Mr. Fuentes discussed how much drought and system conservation has impacted the capacity at Hoover Dam. He also shared with the group how power customers have been subsidizing tourists at Hoover Dam after the reduction in visitor since Covid. This translates to roughly \$10M/year. Mr. Fuentes provided a chart outlining the rate impacts over the last few years and discussed some of the ongoing activities to offset these increases. The biggest impact has been the marketing and sale of Renewable Energy Credits, which has resulted in a 4% rate reduction. Ongoing legislative efforts to allow BOR to access the stranded PRB funds (\$45M) and also provide a mechanism for BOR to charge entry fees at Hoover are ongoing.

Frank McRae – Southwest Public Power Agency

Mr. McRae provided an update of ongoing activities at SPPA. Given the percentage of portfolio that natural gas plays for its members, a significant amount of time was spent on gas hedging, exploring alternative delivery mechanisms and a new solar plant PPA. SPPA is participating in the Apache 2 project with AEPCO, hopeful that some of the federal funding that AEPCO applied for would provide another low-cost alternative to its mix. SPPA is also hiring more staff as it looks to become a standalone agency.

The presentations concluded at 3:43 P.M.

A board meeting was convened to approve the minutes and seat the slate of officers for 2024.

Noel Carter made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 6th, 2023 annual meeting. Robert VanHofwegen second the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

Nominating Chairman, Donovan Neese presented the slate of officers for 2024. He reported that no nominations electronically were received, nor were any nominations voiced from the floor. Noel Carter made a motion to ratify the slate of officers presented. Brian Fickett seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

Slate of Candidates

Position	Nominee	Organization
President	Glen Vortherms	Maricopa Water District
VP	Robert VanHofwegen	ED8
Treasurer	Donovan Neese	Roosevelt ID
Secretary	Noel Carter	Buckeye WCDD
At-Large	Elston Grubaugh	Wellton-Mohawk
At-Large	Brian Fickett	Tohono O'odham Utility

The meeting adjourned at 3:54 P.M.