



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

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GLEN VORTHERMS – PRESIDENT ROBERT VANHOFWEGEN – VICE-PRESIDENT NOEL CARTER – SECRETARY DONOVAN NEESE – TREASURER BRIAN FICKETT – AT-LARGE ELSTON GRUBAUGH – AT-LARGE
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### **IEDA BOARD WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES - Draft**

February 8, 2024 – 12:00 PM

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Irrigation & Electrical Districts Association of Arizona, Inc. (“IEDA”) was held on February 8, 2024.

The following IEDA Members attended the meeting:

Mitch Basefsky – Central Arizona Project (Virtual)  
Heather Cole – Arizona Power Authority (Virtual)  
Ben Engelby – AEPCO (Virtual)  
Brian Fickett – TOUA  
David Fitzgerald – AEPCO (Virtual)  
Ed Gerak - IEDA Executive Director  
Elston Grubaugh – Wellton-Mohawk (Virtual)  
Daniel Herder – Clark-Hill  
Taylor Howerter – RID (Virtual)  
Kristen Johnson – ADWR Colorado River Programs Manager  
DeWayne Justice – ED7  
Patrick Ledger – AEPCO (Virtual)  
Jason Moyes - TID, HVPD, Aguila, ED8, Safford, McMullen, Yuma-Mesa IDD  
Daniel Pritchard – KR Saline & Associates (Virtual)  
Ken Saline – KR Saline & Associates (Virtual)  
Scott Saline – TID, HVPD, Aguilla  
Russell Smoldon – B3 Strategies  
Sheryl Sweeney, Clark-Hill  
Meghan Scott – Noble Law Firm (Virtual)  
Chris Udall – Agri-Business & Water Council (Virtual)  
Shelton Van Allen – ED6 (Virtual)  
Glen Vortherms – MWD, IEDA Board President  
Emily Young – ADWR, Fish Biologist

A quorum was determined, President Vortherms called the meeting to order at 12:05 P.M.

Due to a scheduling issue, President Vortherms moved the state report up to the top of the agenda. Russell Smoldon provided a report to the members of all the activity going on at the state legislature. Four legislators have already resigned, some taking new jobs while others are focusing on higher offices for the upcoming election cycle.

Speaking of elections, multiple election issues are happening at the legislature. One that affects the state is something that could prevent Arizona from certifying its elections and therefore not be eligible for the presidential election. Two options are to move up the primary elections one week or repeal the bill that created the timing issue (automatic recall) from a previous session.

Another election bill introduced by Kavanaugh would require elections to reoccur if less than 25% of the electorate don't vote. This could be problematic in certain areas, but especially for irrigation and electrical districts, as the historical turnout is low, even in urbanizing areas. B3 is looking to exempt us out of this bill, and other election bills that appear to have traction.

Russell discussed the power and water bills that he has been tracking, including the Basin Management Areas vs. Rugam Management Areas bills. There have been over 60 water bills this session, but due to differences of opinions, it is unlikely that any significant water legislation will pass this session.

Mr. Gerak then introduced Kristen Johnson, from ADWR. She is the Colorado River Program Manager for the department. She brought along Emily Young, who participates on the Adaptive Management Work Group for ADWR. Introductions were made around the room to familiarize Kristen who all were members of IEDA.

Kristen provided an overview of recent hydrology, with an emphasis on what the recent atmospheric river has done for precipitation in the basin. Given the modeling, it is currently looking like we will be in a Tier 2b in WY 2025. She covered the Near-term and Post-2026 NEPA processes, as well as discussing the web tool that BOR has developed for the Post-2026 activities. She provided an overview of some of the alternatives inputted into the tool, with some models taking an extreme look at conservation options. Kristen answered questions regarding the presentation and on-going discussions. Mr. Gerak thanked her for the presentation and invited them to stick around for the rest of the meeting.

Moving into the board actions, a motion was requested for approval of the minutes for the November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, board work session. DeWayne Justice made a motion to approve the minutes. Jason Moyes seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

The proposed Revised Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were presented to the board for consideration. It was established that the required 2/3's membership was represented for the vote. Daniel Herder reviewed the major changes to the documents.

A motion was made for (1) the Board to approve the Amended and Restated Bylaws, and (2) the Board to recommend to the Members to approve the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, and then (3) for the attendees as Members to approve the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation by Jason Moyes. Brian Fickett seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed (none opposed).

Mr. Gerak brought before the board for consideration the B3 contract for 2024. Due to not having a meeting in December, this wasn't able to be completed in a timely manner and IEDA has been working with B3 based on the terms of this agreement. A motion was made to authorize the contract with B3 for 2024 by Brian Fickett. Jason Moyes seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

Mr. Gerak discussed the proposed initiative of IEDA helping members with interns. Mr. Gerak described the possible need and how the program would work. IEDA would coordinate with interested members in connecting college students with members who are interested in the program. The general sense is there is interest and members are supportive. DeWayne Justice made a motion to authorize Mr. Gerak to work on this initiative on behalf of IEDA. Jason Moyes seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

Mr. Gerak discussed the request for membership by Queen Creek Irrigation District and Ocotillo Water Conservation District. Mr. Gerak discussed the utilization of the annual meeting as a recruitment tool and the membership dues each new member would contribute under IEDA's dues formula. Per the bylaws, new members must be voted on for entrance into IEDA. Jason Moyes made a motion to grant membership to QCID & OCWD. Brian Fickett seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

The finance committee presented a report to the board. 2023 YE funds were \$207. Due to the frontloaded dues structure, IEDA currently has \$426K in the bank. Draft 990 has been reviewed by the finance committee and will be sent to the accountant for review and finalization prior to being approved by the board. Membership recruitment was discussed, and the investment strategy discussed during the financial committee was reviewed. The bylaws authorize the Treasurer and Executive Director to develop an investment strategy. A CD ladder investment plan for \$150K was recommended by the Treasurer. Based on the bylaws, it was asked if the board was comfortable moving forward with the Treasurer and Executive Director investing according to the recommendation. It was recommended that the ladder be such that the first 6-month CD for \$75K be followed up 3 months later with another 6-month CD.

Moving into federal issues, Mr. Gerak discussed three relevant bills to IEDA. The HYDRO Act has been introduced which would authorize the WAPA Administrator to reduce rates at their discretion. The second is what is currently being called the "Help Hoover Dam Act", which is yet to be introduced. The legislation was shared with the group and feedback was requested. The third issue is a transformer bill that have been cosponsored by our senators. Because of feedback of concern with legislation, Mr. Gerak requested from the board on direction on how to proceed with legislation that IEDA should consider in backing. The board directed Mr. Gerak to review with the Executive Committee, who will then bring the issue before the board. For the sake of time, Mr. Gerak directed the board to the federal legislative memo that he included in the board packet. It covered recent Hill (DC) and election issues.

The Water Committee report was provided by Mr. Gerak. A significant portion of the report was covered during the state legislative report. A focus was on the Gila Bend AMA meeting and the competitive bills between the Governor's office and Senator Kerr. Jason Moyes provided an overview of the ADWR meeting.

The Power Committee updated the board on recent issues of concern. These included WAPA rate cases. Mr. Gerak highlighted one of the biggest issues of concern being the LTEMP SEIS which could result in the possibility of 5-months of bypass if the alternatives are similar to the last Smallmouth Bass draft EA. Mr. Gerak also reported on the Pseudo-Tie meeting that WAPA-CRSP conveyed that their signature isn't necessary in the short-term, giving time to evaluate the inclusion of CRSP in SPP. David Fitzgerald and Ken Saline provide comments on the meeting as well. Brent Osiek suggested offhandedly that the Federal Service Exemption might not be eligible for the Lower Division Customers with the Pseudo-Tie. Elston Grubaugh asked that IEDA send a follow-up letter to Rodney Bailey expressing the importance of the FSE for IEDA members.

Finally, the Parker-Davis Remarketing process is being considered. IEDA has drafted comments for BCP and PDP, and hope that members can get comments back by February 16<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to the aforementioned power issues, Mr. Gerak highlighted the recent approval of FERC of two new natural gas pipelines and an upcoming Grid Reliability hearing in Energy and Commerce. Finally, the impact of the LNG export on future was mentioned as something to consider for the future of market impacts.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 P.M.