



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

PO Box 2583  
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340  
(623) 238-1374  
E-mail: [ed.gerak@ieda-az.org](mailto:ed.gerak@ieda-az.org)

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**

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 1:00 PM

A **Virtual** meeting of the Board of Directors of the Irrigation & Electrical Districts Association of Arizona, Inc. (“IEDA”) was held on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The following IEDA Members attended the meeting:

Mitch Basefsky – CAP  
Jason Brimhall – Safford  
Andrew Campbell - RWCD  
Noel Carter – BWCDD  
Heather Cole – Arizona Power Authority  
Ben Engleby – AEPCO  
Sheri Farag – SRP  
Brian Fickett – TOUA  
Ed Gerak - IEDA Executive Director  
Elston Grubaugh – Wellton-Mohawk  
Daniel Herder – Clark-Hill  
Taylor Howerter – RID  
DeWayne Justice – ED7  
Donovan Neese – RID  
Daniel Pritchard - KR Saline & Associates  
Ken Saline – KR Saline & Associates  
Scott Saline - TID, HVPD, Aguilla  
Meghan Scott – Noble Law Firm  
John Scremin – RWCD  
Russell Smoldon – B3 Strategies  
Jim Sweeney – Arizona Power Authority  
Robert Van Howfwegen  
Glen Vortherms – MWD, IEDA Board President  
Jeff Woner – Ocotillo (Virtual)

President Vortherms called the meeting to order at 1:03 P.M.

Based on a roll call, a quorum was established.

Moving to the board actions, a motion was requested for approval of the minutes for the August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. DeWayne Justice made a motion to approve the minutes. Donovan Neese seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

The 2025 contract renewal with B3 Strategies was presented for consideration. Mr. Gerak informed the board that B3 held rates steady from 2024 to 2025 and that he would recommend approving the contract contingent upon final approval of the 2025 IEDA budget. Brian Fickett made a motion to approve the contract. Donovan Neese seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

Mr. Gerak informed the board that the Finance Committee met last week to discuss the draft 2025 budget. The plan is to present the draft budget at the October meeting. The overall draft budget is planned to be slightly less than 2024.

Russell Smoldon provided an update on statewide election issues. He also discussed a planned initiative that would drastically change the governance structure at Salt River Project, eliminating the acreage voting system.

Mr. Gerak provided an update on federal issues. He and Russell are back in DC this week with the main focus to try to get the Help Hoover Dam Act across the finish line. They have meetings with all of the entire delegation (except Ciscomani and Schweikert). They also have meetings with House Natural Resources – Water, Wildlife and Fisheries and Senate ENR.

The Senate version was introduced on September 11. The goal will be to make sure it is included in the markup on September 26<sup>th</sup>. We were informed that there are approximately 70 bills in this markup.

The House version has had a markup and passed with unanimous consent. Therefore, it qualifies to be put on the suspension calendar. We were told it is unlikely that it will get on the September suspension calendar, possibly for political reasons.

In discussion with the offices, they floated the idea of a mechanism to receive donations for Hoover Dam. Power customers continue to subsidize tourism post-COVID and IEDA is looking for a way to bridge that shortfall. The Hoover Visitor Service Ad-Hoc group has been working on this issue, and the foundation concept was discussed at the Technical Review Committee meeting last week. This idea has received favorable feedback, especially since it won't score.

They asked about the IRA Bucket 2BE program for the Lower Basin, since the Upper Basin one was released recently. The offices hadn't heard about it, but would see what they could find out. CREDA is encouraging BOR to apply for the thermal curtain from the UB program. The Waste Site at Hoover may qualify for this program, given the need to remediate the site.

They discussed Post-2026 status. The offices have been informed that to stay out of it right now and let the states figure it out. We discussed the alternatives and the models. House NR-WWF believes there will be legislation likely for Post-2026. Annick Miller will be attending CRWUA.

American Public Power Association will be hitting the hill next week to discuss their priorities of preventing PMA divestiture and dam breaching.

Highlights of the Water Committee include projections for the WY2025 being a repeat of 2024, with releases from Powell and Tier 1 DCP Shortage in Arizona. Imperial Irrigation District

recently signed the water conservation agreement, 700K AC-FT until end of 2026, with an estimated 300K AC-FT conserved next year. These numbers were already estimated in the Arizona Power Authority composite rate.

The Power Committee memo included updates on pricing concerns due to scarcity and future power demands due to AI and data centers. The cost to extend the lifespan of Diablo Canyon has doubled, making the California state legislature to reconsider the promised \$400M loan to the project. This could be a problem for Arizona, as it supplies roughly 8% of all of CA's capacity. If Diablo Canyon isn't extended, it could put further strain on the grid.

Treasure Neese discussed actuals vs. budget. Mr. Gerak informed the board that GridLiance has agreed to be a sponsor for the 2025 Annual Meeting at \$2,500.

President Vortherms opened the floor to member comments.

Mr. Gerak requested the November meeting to be on November 18<sup>th</sup> to accommodate a conflict on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Since there was no APA meeting in November, it was thought that it wouldn't cause an issue. Hearing no concerns, the meeting was scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 P.M.