



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

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

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 12:00 PM

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Irrigation & Electrical Districts Association of Arizona, Inc. (“IEDA”) was held on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The following IEDA Members attended the meeting:

Mitch Basefsky – CAP (Virtual)  
Jason Brimhall – Safford (Virtual)  
Heather Cole – APA (Virtual)  
Dennis Delaney – KRS (Virtual)  
Brian Fickett – TOUA  
Darrin Francom - CAP (Virtual)  
Ed Gerak - IEDA Executive Director  
Elston Grubaugh – Wellton-Mohawk (Virtual)  
Daniel Herder – Clark-Hill  
Taylor Howerter – RID  
Leslie James – CREDA (Virtual)  
Stephanie Knight – ABWC  
Adam McAnally – SRP  
Jason Moyes – (Virtual)  
Donovan Neese – RID  
Daniel Pritchard - KR Saline & Associates (Virtual)  
Ken Saline – KR Saline & Associates (Virtual)  
Scott Saline - TID, HVPD, Aguilla  
Shane Sanders – AEPCO (Virtual)  
Meghan Scott – Noble Law Firm (Virtual)  
John Scremin – RWCD  
Kent Simer – KR Saline  
Russell Smoldon – B3 Strategies  
Sheryl Sweeney – Clark-Hill  
Bill Van Allen – ED6 (Virtual)  
Shelton Van Allen – ED6 (Virtual)  
Robert VanHofwegen – ED8  
Glen Vortherms – MWD, IEDA Board President  
Jeff Woner – Ocotillo (Virtual)

President Vortherms called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM

Based on a roll call, a quorum was established.

IEDA welcomed Bart Barnhart, Rocky Mountain Region SVP. He discussed with IEDA the ongoing WAPA Infrastructure and restructuring initiatives. Ken Saline shared with Mr. Barnhart how this type of restructuring has occurred at least twice in the past and both times has failed. Given the current state of reducing the federal workforce, Mr. Saline suggested that the customer group couldn't really support WAPA in adding layers to its hierarchy.

A motion was requested for approval of the minutes for November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Robert VanHofwegen made a motion to approve the minutes. Brian Fickett seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

Mr. Gerak discussed the WAPA-220 Letter. The letter was discussed at the Power Committee meeting and SRP had some comments. Adam McAnally discussed the mostly clarifying comments. Donovan Neese made a motion to approve to form the letter. Robert VanHofwegen seconded the motion. President Vortherms asked if the letter would come back before the board prior to submittal. Mr. Gerak explained the timeline for submittal and said that it could. That was not the intent of the motion, but Mr. Gerak said that he would work through the Power Committee for final review before submittal. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

Mr. Gerak informed the board of an email that was sent to RID regarding former Senator Kerr's pursuit of a position as the State Executive Director for Farm Service Agency (USDA). He recommended that IEDA send in a letter of support. Robert VanHofwegen made a motion that IEDA should send in a support letter. Donovan Neese seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

The final business item was a request from Mr. Gerak to visit with members' boards to discuss IEDA and the Public Power PAC of AZ. No action was necessary, Mr. Gerak will work with members to schedule visits.

Russell Smoldon discussed state bills relevant to IEDA. Two slides were presented, one titled "Consent" which IEDA has weighed in supporting. Mr. Gerak highlighted this slide, stating that these bills were requested for support by members or were obvious that IEDA should support. If anyone has opposition to any of these bills, please let Mr. Gerak know. The second slide was a list of potential problem bills for IEDA members. Mr. Smoldon gave a status update on where these were, most of them getting killed before or in committee.

Mr. Smoldon also provide an update on the number of bills introduced this session, and discussed some of the problem bills that we are seeing that wasn't on the aforementioned slides.

Scott Saline reported out the highlights of the Water Committee. He touched on Post-2026 updates. A letter was sent by Director Buschatzke and the Lower Basin states to BOR, specifically highlighting Compact compliance and infrastructure concerns. We heard that after CRWUA, that the Upper Basin has altered their stance some and that negotiations have resumed. It seems that they believe that a 7 Basin States agreement is necessary. He discussed the Agriculture Nuisance lawsuit and the Ag to Urban legislation. Water committee members were asked if they had anything to add. Mr. Gerak updated the group of potential movement with Sandy Fabritz as Commissioner.

Adam McAnally updated the board on the Power Committee. Given the earlier discussion regarding the WAPA-220 letter, Mr. McAnally discussed the issues regarding the turbines recently revealed at Hoover. If the elevation gets below 1035', it is believed that cavitation will make 12 of the 17 turbines non-operational. This would significantly reduce the capacity and value of Hoover. Discussions have occurred and requests have been made regarding obtaining funding more wide-head turbines, which could operate at the lower elevations. Mr. Gerak also highlighted some power issues to keep an eye on in the coming months.

Mr. Gerak discussed Federal issues, including; Trumps three primary initiatives, early retirements, reduction in force, tariffs, and how all of these things primarily support his goal of extending tax cuts. There is some pushback to the RIFs, given the critical nature of some positions that have been eliminated. Mr. Barnhart had shared that they lost 80 people on Thursday but were able to get most of them back over the weekend.

The Arizona Public Power Group will be back in DC next week for the APPA Leg Rally. Meetings have already been scheduled for Ciscomani, Ansari, Gallego, Gosar and Stanton. We will be discussing our plans for Help Hoover Dam 2.0, the possibility of gaining permissive language to charge entry fees at Hoover and the development of a foundation to receive donations at Hoover. Given the possibility of workforce reductions at WAPA and BOR, we will likely discuss the need to protect critical functions at federal facilities.

Treasure Neese provided an overview of the financial situation. Despite a revenue shortfall, IEDA finished 2024 with a \$29K profit. The revenue shortfall was primarily due to SCIP not getting their 2024 dues in, despite having a verbal commitment to continue with IEDA in February 2024. We have increased/adjusted the 2025-2030 dues to include 2024 over the 5-year period.

The annual sponsorships appear to be under budget, but it doesn't include the roughly \$6K in-kind donations from SRP for sponsoring the Annual Meeting. Interest was not programmed into the 2024 budget originally, but we saw \$10K in revenue from the high interest rates. Salary (0.6%) and travel (0.47%) were slightly above budget, consulting was significantly below budget. With a positive variance, IEDA YE account was \$223K.

With the upfront 2025 annual dues, IEDA finished the year with \$343K in the bank. Due to some invoicing issues, some of the dues were not received as expected. Outstanding dues have been contacted and expect to receive this funding shortly.

To maximize interest, \$95K has been transferred into the money market, which currently sits at 2.4% interest rate. The CD is at 4.9% interest, sitting at \$155K and will come due at the beginning of April 1.

President Vortherms opened the floor to member comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 P.M.