



## 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**

March 25<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:

Jason Brimhall – Safford (Virtual)  
Noel Carter – BWCDD  
Heather Cole – APA (Virtual)  
Sheri Farag – SRP (Virtual)  
Brian Fickett – TOUA (Virtual)  
David Fitzgerald – AEPCO (Virtual)  
Ed Gerak - IEDA Executive Director  
Elston Grubaugh – Wellton-Mohawk (Virtual)  
Daniel Herder – Clark-Hill  
Bryan Hill – Page  
Taylor Howerter – RID  
DeWayne Justice – ED7 (Virtual)  
Adam McAnally – SRP  
Jason Moyes – (Virtual)  
Donovan Neese – RID  
Ken Saline – KR Saline & Associates (Virtual)  
Scott Saline - TID, HVPD, Aguilla  
Meghan Scott – Noble Law Firm (Virtual)  
Russell Smoldon – B3 Strategies  
Sheryl Sweeney – Clark-Hill  
Bill Van Allen – ED6 (Virtual)  
Shelton Van Allen – ED6 (Virtual)  
Glen Vortherms – MWD, IEDA Board President  
Jeff Woner – Ocotillo (Virtual)  
Genises Yin Vargas – Senator Gallego’s Office

President Vortherms called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM

Based on a roll call, a quorum was established.

IEDA welcomed Genises Yin Vargas, with Senator Gallego's office. She is responsible for water and power issues for the state office. Introductions were made and an overview was provided for Genises of who IEDA is and what the association does. Provided an update to the board regarding his meeting with Genises in early March.

A motion was requested for approval of the minutes for February 18, 2025. Noel Carter made a motion to approve the minutes. Adam McAnally seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

Mr. Gerak updated the board on Senator Kerr's pursuit of a position as the State Executive Director for Farm Service Agency (USDA). She requested a copy of our letter of support, as she had an interview this week.

The final business item was a request from Mr. Gerak for direction regarding the National Energy Dominance Council. Mr. Gerak would like to submit a letter on behalf of IEDA, or in conjunction with the Arizona Public Power Group, for items that would benefit Arizona. The board gave Mr. Gerak direction to move forward on developing a letter.

Russell Smoldon updated the board on the state legislature. We are on day 72, 1677 bills have been introduced, three have made their way to the Governor's desk. The body saw its first resignation of the session on March 14<sup>th</sup>, when Sen. Eva Burch stepping down.

Mr. Smoldon discussed issues relevant to IEDA. He provided an update on how the Medicaid discussion back in DC might impact Arizona. He provided an update on the current session, with a focus on the RWCD issues; HB2826 – Killed, and HB2125 Striker that passed the Senate Finance Committee. Mr. Gerak shared the email he sent to Senator Dunn and asked IEDA members to contact their Senators to inform them of the negative impact of this bill on their Districts. He also discussed the work to help the wildfire legislation, which may be onerous to smaller Districts. Mr. Smoldon also discussed the securitization and Ag to Urban legislation.

Moving to Federal Issues, Mr. Gerak asked Russell to provide the details of the special election that will occur to replace Congressman Grijalva's seat. There has been some debate as to who will pursue this seat, but 14 people have already filed papers. Adrian Fontes has expressed interest. He would have to resign to run for the assessor's office.

Mr. Gerak discussed funding, firings, FERC and fish (ESA). Some funding has been released, but we are still waiting on Colorado River funding and New ERA funding for AEPSCO. He also told the board to watch EPA, they have been super active in this administration, including the 31 deregulation orders recently released.

Regarding power issues, Mr. Gerak provided an update on Arizona's Big 3 pursuit of a nuclear grant from DOE. They are exploring locating more nuclear MWs in Arizona, via SMR or a larger project like Palo Verde.

Treasure Neese provided an overview of the financial situation. All 2025 Annual Dues have been received, except SCIP, which is at the procurement office for processing. IEDA has received all Q2 Dues checks (minus one). Expenses are tracking according to budget, except for miscellaneous, due to the Annual Meeting expenses.

The IEDA Executive/Finance Committee met in early March to discuss the maturity of the existing CD. The committee directed IEDA to place \$160K back into another CD at 3.5% maturity.

There may be higher CD's, but BMO counts all the funds towards the Money Market account, which provides a 1.6% (at time of discussion) to the Money Market rate, making it the best option for IEDA.

Mr. Gerak requested the ability to help sponsor a Hoover Tour, which the idea generated from the meetings with State Directors. Mr. Gerak estimated that it would be \$1,500 or less. Donovan Neese made a motion to approve. Adam McNally seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

President Vortherms opened the floor to member comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:24 P.M.