



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

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GLEN VORTHERMS – PRESIDENT  
ROBERT VANHOFWEGEN – VICE-PRESIDENT  
NOEL CARTER – SECRETARY  
DONOVAN NEESE – TREASURER  
ELSTON GRUBAUGH - AT-LARGE  
VACANT – AT-LARGE

### IEIDA BOARD WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES - Draft

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 12:30 PM

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Irrigation & Electrical Districts Association of Arizona, Inc. (“IEIDA”) was held on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The following IEDA Members attended the meeting:

Phil Bashaw – Arizona Farm Bureau  
Noel Carter – BWCDD  
Heather Cole – APA (Virtual)  
Michael Curtis – B3 Strategies  
Sheri Farag – SRP  
David Fitzgerald – AEPCO (Virtual)  
Josh Grier – Salt River Project  
Ed Gerak - IEDA Executive Director  
Elston Grubaugh – Wellton-Mohawk (Virtual)  
Daniel Herder – Clark-Hill  
Taylor Howerter – RID  
Stephanie Knight-Dubien – Agri-Business & Water Council  
Adam McAnally – SRP  
Donovan Neese – RID  
Daniel Pritchard – KR Saline & Associates (Virtual)  
Jeff Ritter - CAP  
Ken Saline – KR Saline & Associates (Virtual)  
Scott Saline - TID, HVPD, Aguilla  
Shane Sanders – AEPCO  
Meghan Scott – Scott & Rogers (Virtual)  
Russell Smoldon – B3 Strategies  
Bill Van Allen – ED6 (Virtual)  
Shelton Van Allen – ED6 (Virtual)  
Robert VanHofwegen – ED8  
Glen Vortherms – MWD, IEDA Board President  
Jeff Woner – Ocotillo

President Vortherms called the meeting to order at 12:25 PM

Based on a roll call, a quorum was established.

Due to Congressman Stanton joining us before the Arizona Power Authority meeting, we did not have a guest speaker during the IEDA meeting, so President Vortherms moved into the business items.

A motion was requested for approval of the minutes for March 25th, 2025. Noel Carter made a motion to approve the minutes. Robert VanHofwegen seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

Mr. Gerak requested authorization to submit a letter of support from IEDA to the Arizona Power Authority's appropriation request. Robert VanHofwegen made a motion to approve the submittal. Noel Carter seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed. (Due to the Arizona's Senators excluding non-profits from applying, IEDA coordinated with APA for the submittal.)

Mr. Gerak requested authorization to submit the appropriations request to Congressman Ciscomani's office and others regarding the Hoover Post-Retirement Benefits issue. Robert VanHofwegen made a motion to approve the submittal(s). Scott Saline seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

Mr. Gerak requested authorization to submit the letter to the National Energy Dominance Council. This letter has been reviewed and updated pursuant to the Power Committee's requests. Adam McAnally made a motion to approve the submittal. Elston Grubaugh seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

President Vortherms addressed the vacancy on the IEDA Executive Committee. The board was informed that Brian Fickett had resigned from TOUA and that his last day was last week. Therefore, an At-Large position was open. During the past cycle, Sheri Farag had expressed an interest in one of the positions. Noel Carter made a motion to appoint Sheri to the open spot. Robert VanHofwegen seconded the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

Russell Smoldon updated the board on the state legislature. Mr. Smoldon updated the board on the legislature, specifically regarding HB2826 (RWCD – killed), HB2125 (pending), HB2679 (securitization), HB2927 (records posting), Wildfire Mitigation, Ag to Urban and Rural Groundwater.

Moving to Federal Issues, Mr. Gerak asked Russell if he had heard back from Kate (Congressman Bigg's Chief of Staff). Communications with Zach Barnes had gone dark, IEDA was working with Zach regarding the Hoover Dam Foundation Bill. Mr. Smoldon updated the group that Zach has moved over to the Freedom Caucus and that Kate would be picking up the bill.

Mr. Gerak discussed recent special elections in Wisconsin and Florida, and how they may represent a bellwether for next year's midterm elections. The end of Elon Musk's special duty assignment timeframe is rapidly approaching, but it is likely that DOGE will continue. Mr. Gerak also touched on the status of the reconciliation and candidates for the CD-7 special election.

Regarding legislative initiatives, a thorough update was provided regarding the strategies IEDA is undertaking in conjunction with CRCNV & MWD. Besides IEDA & APA, those groups are submitting the same appropriations requests to their members. CRCNV has two congressional people on appropriations (Amodei & Lee), and MWD has Calvert from California on appropriations.

Besides the Ag to Urban and Rural Groundwater discussion, Mr. Gerak provided an update on the situation at the BOR regarding Commissioner. He also touched on the situation between Mexico and the United States, and how that might impact the Post-2026 discussions (in Water Committee memo).

Regarding power issues, AEPCO received notice that the New ERA funds were obligated, and that they have 30 days to modify their grant application to align with the new administration's requirements. The recent Supreme Court ruling approved Presidential powers over independent agencies, which could impact the make-up of FERC. Also, it is likely that the PMA divestiture will be in the President's budget again this year.

Treasure Neese provided an overview of the financial situation. Second quarter dues were all received, minus one, by the end of March. That check was mailed on the 31<sup>st</sup> but not received until April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The SCIP contract seems to be gaining some traction. Expenses are tracking in line with budget, except for miscellaneous, due to the Annual Meeting expenses and acquiring Skywolf, which wasn't included in the 2025 budget.

IEDA placed \$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 step up to the Money Market rate, made it the best option for IEDA.

Mr. Gerak updated the board regarding his upcoming trip to DC.

An update was provided by the Public Power PAC of Arizona.

President Vortherms opened the floor to member comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 P.M.