

Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority

MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF JULY 22, 2019:

A work session meeting of the Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority was convened at 10:15 a.m. in Conference Room A of the Pinal County Offices in Casa Grande, Arizona.

Directors Present:

- Bill Collings, Papago Butte DWID
- Stephen Miller, Pinal County Supervisor
- Jake Lenderking, Water utilities with a CAP Water Subcontract
- Dick Powell, City of Casa Grande
- Melissa Campbell, City of Coolidge
- Brian Hartman, Maricopa-Stanfield IDD
- Chris Michie, Central Arizona IDD
- Keith Brown, City of Eloy

Also Present:

- Congressman Tom O'Halleran, 1st District, Arizona
- Blanca Varela, Southern District Director
- Terri Sue Rossi, Arizona Water Company
- David Snider, Pinal AMA GUAC Chairman

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman William Collings called the meeting to order at 10:15 A.M.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made by the Authority Board Members.

WORK SESSION

Congressman O'Halleran made opening remarks and a presentation as to his ongoing interest in Arizona water issues from his time in the Arizona Legislature and the lack of coordinated Congressional interest in water issues on a national level, western regional level as

well as at the State level. He noted that the entire Seven States Western region of the Country is faced with insufficient long term water resources and has no cohesive water planning. Congressman O'Halleran pointed out that the competition for funding across all federal programs is intense and that a funding request for even a \$1,000,000 dollars raises questions and requires a demonstration of need. He indicated that he was interested in hearing about what water issues were of concern to members of the Water Augmentation Authority.

Chris Michie of CAIDD and Brian Hartman of MSIDD presented challenges of working with the Department of the Interior regarding the procurement of Federal funding for rehabilitation of existing wells and drilling of new wells that was promised Arizona farmers as part of the Long Term Drought Contingency Plan negotiations. The lack of rules, policies and procedures together with conflicting statements by federal officials is impeding the funding application and procurement process.

Dick Powell representing the City of Casa Grande indicated that he had presented the proposal for harvesting Mississippi flood stage water in the Davenport Iowa area and diverting it via interstate 80 to Rock Springs, Wyoming where it would be conveyed by a natural river system to the Colorado River for use by the Seven Basin States at the NRCD Conference and that it had been unanimously supported.

Several Members raised a concern that the Arizona Department of Water Resources has been non-responsive in releasing the current groundwater model and the impact that has had on long term water planning. Keith Brown, Eloy City Engineer, noted that the City has been trying to get the Department to significantly reduce its designation of assured water supply to match its current growth projection verses the unrealistic growth projections made during the prior hypergrowth period. The lack of action by the ADWR is an economic burden on Eloy that is costing the City roughly \$170,000 per year. The reduction in designation would also free up groundwater for other uses within the AMA. Congressman O'Halleran indicated that he would follow up with ADWR on this issue.

After additional general discussion the work session adjourned at 11:25 A.M.

ATTEST:


William Collings, Chairman


Marvin L. Brown, Secretary-Treasurer