

# *Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority*

## MEETING MINUTES

### MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2019:

A meeting of the Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority was convened at 7:05 a.m. in the Pinal County Offices in Casa Grande, Arizona.

### Directors Present:

- David Snider, Pinal County, Chair
- Kevin Pakka, Water utilities with a CAP Water Subcontract
- John Anderson, Town of Florence
- Dick Powell, City of Casa Grande
- Melissa Campbell, City of Coolidge
- Keith Brown, City of Eloy

### Also Present:

- Joe Singleton, PCWAA Executive Director
- Mitch Basefsky, Central Arizona Project

Chairman David Snider called the meeting to order at 7:05.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Kevin Pakka moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 12, 2019. Dick Powell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Joe Singleton reviewed the list of bills prepared for payment as well as bank statement balances dated the end of February. John Anderson moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills as presented. Dick Powell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

INFORMATION REQUESTS:

Chairman Snider directed Board members to the draft "Requests for Information" policy that was included in the meeting materials. Snider said that the document was intended to provide direction guidance for staff and members to use in responding to requests to the Authority for information. Marvin Brown pointed out that the Freedom of Information Act had some guidelines for copying charges. Dick Powell suggested that a bullet be added to the policy to charge for information gathering or copying as appropriate. The Board discussed the scope of possible requests, noting that most requests should go through the Executive Director. Keith Brown said that Authority members should be notified about higher priority requests so that they could be knowledgeable of the issue.

John Anderson asked for a summary of the issues concerning the information request from Pinal County. Snider recapped the February 20, 2019 presentation to the Pinal County Board of Supervisors, where he said that Joe Singleton was asked several questions by Supervisor Miller. Snider said that some questions were answered during the meeting, and that Supervisor Miller had followed up with his questions by email on February 23, 2019. Snider said that Singleton, after consulting with the Authority's executive committee, had responded to the questions the following week. Powell said that the newspaper article about the Board of Supervisor's meeting had referred to bank balances. Snider said that the Authority was allowed to ask ADWR for \$200,000 per year from the Pinal AMA Conservation and Augmentation Assistance Fund, and had accumulated a bank balance from those funds. He indicated that those monies would only go so far with respect to paying for infrastructure and water acquisition. Singleton reminded members that the funds provided by member entities were only used to pay for Authority staff. John Anderson motioned to hold over the information request policy item until next month's meeting. Kevin Pakka seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Joe Singleton said that Arizona Water Banking Authority (AWBA) had held a special meeting on March 3, 2019 primarily to introduce and discuss policy for distributing long-term storage credits for municipal and industrial firming. AWBA staff presented a draft policy to fully firm CAP M&I water supplies through 2026. Singleton added that the next regular meeting of the AWBA would be on March 20, 2019 at ADWR at 10:00 A.M.

Singleton said that the legislative process continued to move forward. He said that the last day to hear bills from the other chamber in committee would be March 29, 2019. He noted that the 100<sup>th</sup> day of the legislative session, typically used as a target date for adjournment, would be April 23, 2019.

Singleton informed the Board that Jeff Tannler, former Statewide AMA Director at ADWR, had retired the previous week. He added that Einav Henenson, who had been the Assistant Statewide AMA Director would be assuming his former duties. He added that the partnership funding letter had been done and that he was working on the first draft of an FY 19-20 PCWAA budget.

#### CHAIR'S REPORT:

Chairman Snider said that House Bill 2586 sought to address many items with the Pinal AMA assured water supply program. He noted that issued analyses of assured water supply have been tying up a lot of the AMA's groundwater physical availability for years. He said that stakeholders had discussed the issue during the last 2-3 years, including proposing a list of criteria to show as making progress on a development as a criteria to obtaining an extension on an analysis of assured supply.

Snider said that he had received positive feedback from the March 4, 2019 water forum, particularly from the elected officials that attended. He added that Tiffany Shedd would be hosting an event on Thursday evening to rally support for state legislation that would appropriate \$20 million for agricultural mitigation efforts. Snider told the Board that Pinal County would be advertising for applications for the three seats on the PCWAA Board whose appointments go through the Board of Supervisors.

#### CALL TO THE AUTHORITY:

There was a call to the Authority. There was no response.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There was a call to the public. Mitch Basefsky said that the CAP Board would hold their April Board meeting in Pinal, as was their custom. He said that the April meeting would be at the Francisco Grande on April 4, 2019. He added that CAP would be holding a property tax roundtable at 10:00 A.M. on April 19, 2019, and was asking for R.S.V.Ps from those who want to attend. He said that the Tucson City Council would vote on April 19, 2019 on a measure to approve the City's backstopping of 35,000 AF/yr. to Pinal Groundwater Savings Facilities, as part of the Drought Contingency Plan agreement.

Basefsky said that the watershed was doing well in terms of snowfall, which was at 110-120% of normal. However he added that expectations of higher temperatures lead to a predicted runoff of just 78% of normal. He said that current January 1, 2020 projections for water levels at Lake Mead were 1070 – 1073 feet.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting will be held on April 9, 2019 at 7:00 a.m., 820 E. Cottonwood Lane, Suite A-1, Casa Grande.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

ATTEST:



David Snider, Chairman



Kevin Pakka, Secretary-Treasurer