

# ***Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority***

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### MINUTES OF JUNE 13, 2023:

A meeting of the Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority was convened at 7:00 a.m. both remotely through technological means and in the Pinal County Offices in Casa Grande, Arizona.

### Directors Present:

- Bill Collings, Papago Butte DWID
- Stephen Q. Miller, Pinal County
- Jake Lenderking, Water utilities without a CAP water subcontract
- Dick Powell, City of Casa Grande
- Matt Rencher, City of Eloy
- Bryan Hartman, Maricopa-Stanfield Irrigation and Drainage District
- Derek McEachern, Central Arizona Irrigation and Drainage District (at 7:03)
- Fred Schneider, Water utilities with a CAP water subcontract

### Also Present:

- Joe Singleton, PCWAA Executive Director
- Jonathan Jennings, Advanced Weather Modification Solutions
- George Bomar, Advanced Weather Modification Solutions
- Lonnie Frost, Pinal County
- Brandon Gaylord, Pinal County
- Cheyenne Walsh, Compass Strategies
- Hunter Moore, Cazador Consulting
- Nathan Miller, MATRIX New World Engineering
- Mitch Basefsky, Central Arizona Project
- Pat Holbrook

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#### CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Bill Collings called the meeting to order at 7:00.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Dick Powell moved to approve the minutes as drafted from the meeting of May 9, 2023. Stephen Miller seconded the motion, which carried 7-0. **COLLINGS, HARTMAN, LENDERKING, MILLER, POWELL, RENCHER, SCHNEIDER.**

After receiving a point-of-privilege to do so, Stephen Miller introduced Brandon Gaylord, who was recently hired to work on Pinal County Supervisory District 3 issues. Miller said that Gaylord was from Arizona and had returned to the area after moving back from New York.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Stephen Miller noted the total of the monthly bills, which included payments to MATRIX New World and Advanced Weather Modification Solutions, and bank statement. He said that everything was within the approved budget parameters. Dick Powell moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills as presented. Bryan Hartman seconded the motion, which carried 8-0. **COLLINGS, HARTMAN, LENDERKING, McEACHERN, MILLER, POWELL, RENCHER, SCHNEIDER.**

#### CONTRACT WITH IMIQ LLC (JOE SINGLETON) FOR FY 2023-24:

Bill Collings told the group that IMIQ LLC was Joe Singleton's business construct. He said that the terms of the proposed contract included a cost-of-living adjustment that had been previously approved by the Board in the FY24 budget, but were otherwise the same as they had been for several years. Dick Powell moved to approve extending the contract between PCWAA and IMIQ LLC as presented for FY 24. Jake Lenderking seconded the motion, which carried 8-0.

#### CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER FOR MATRIX NEW WORLD ENGINEERING (20-392-02):

Bill Collings asked Joe Singleton to explain the change order that was being proposed to the PCWAA contract with MATRIX New World Engineering. Singleton told the group that the impetus behind the proposed change was to ensure enough funding for MATRIX to run the Pinal AMA groundwater modelling and Assured Water Supply projections in order to forward to the work of the Pinal Stakeholders group. Singleton said that the change order being contemplated would also allow for MATRIX to put together some information that it had already developed as part of the Stakeholder work for the Authority to use to support their request within the Bartlett Dam Modification process. Stephen Miller moved to approve the

contract change order between PCWAA and MATRIX New World Engineering as presented. Fred Schneider seconded the motion, which carried 8-0.

#### SUMMER CLOUD SEEDING STUDY:

Bill Collings noted that the draft cloud seeding study from Advanced Weather Modification Solutions had been sent out to the Board. Collings said that the study was well-written and presented a good case for pursuing cloud seeding, specifically noting that the study concluded that it could produce 481,000 acre-feet of additional rainfall for a project cost of \$225,000 or about \$0.47/acre-foot. Collings said that the figure represented one of the most economical ways to augment water in the Pinal AMA.

Jonathan Jennings of Advanced Weather Modification Solutions thanked the Board for the opportunity to do the study. He said that he looked forward to any feedback from the group. He noted that he and George Bomar would be attending the Water Resources Research center's annual conference in Tucson and hoped to be at the PCWAA July Board meeting in-person to submit the final draft of the study report.

Joe Singleton asked about the federal filings through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that were cited in the report. George Bomar said that there were typically two interactions with the NOAA office, one at the onset of a project that an entity would receive a project number, and a final report for projects lasting less than six months. Bomar said that for projects lasting the whole year that an interim report would be filed before the final report was filed at the end of the year. Bill Collings asked Jennings if they would put together an executive summary for the report so that PCWAA could utilize it with the various governmental entities and Board that it deals with. Jennings agreed to draft an executive summary.

#### BARTLETT DAM MODIFICATION:

Bill Collings said that the Bartlett Dam Modification Group's steering committee had met last week. He said that the steering committee had approved the supply and demand criteria that the group would utilize for their process. He said that members should have received the criteria prior to the meeting. Collings said that the technical group had spent a lot of time discussing committed and projected demands while developing the criteria. He said that the criteria concerning committed demands was changed to those commitments that would be realized by 2028 (instead of 2032) by vote at the steering committee meeting, and differed from the handout that members received. He said that the Needs subcommittee would use the approved criteria in order to inform the allocation process for the project. Joe Singleton noted that while he was generally pleased with the results, that the development of the criteria was a group effort and did not in every detail reflect PCWAA's input into the development process. He said that the process of developing the criteria had at times been almost contentious. Singleton specifically noted the criteria approved by the group showed

extinguishment credits as a water supply, which he said they were not. He added that the criteria were just part of a process to eventually decide on allocation amounts for the partners, reminding the group that the total of the original requests exceeded the projected new supplies by 300 percent. Singleton said that using the original request as a maximum was changed at the last steering committee meeting, noting that the figure for each partner will now be the larger of the original request or the number that results from the needs process. Bill Collings noted that the newest cost projections for construction of the new Bartlett Dam had gone down a little due, due to a projected need for concrete that was lower than originally estimated.

Jake Lenderking asked if there was still a process available to change the criteria. Bill Collings said that the criteria had been approved by the steering committee and were done being developed. Fred Schneider agreed with Collings, noting that several members had changed their position at the steering committee meeting from that of the staff work at the Needs subcommittee level. Schneider said that he felt that what was passed were overall good criteria to evaluate the demands between the partners. Collings noted that several bad provisions were considered and dismissed in development of the accounting for the needs criteria. Schneider recalled that at some early meetings that some wanted the new Bartlett water to firm Central Arizona project contract water. Lenderking said that wanted to talk about this further outside of the meeting. Collings said that the Bartlett needs subcommittee would meet again on June 20, 2023. Collings said that PCWAA needed to begin to focus on financing the PCWAA share of the construction costs.

#### RESPONSES TO ADWR COMMENTS:

Nathan Miller of MATRIX New World Engineering said that they were preparing to redistribute some pumping in order to optimize the results of the AMA groundwater modelling. Miller reminded the group that after the new modelling efforts, they would need to obtain written letters from the water providers that were affected by the redistributed pumping. Miller said that he would be doing a presentation to the Phoenix chapter of the Arizona Hydrological Society next week concerning the Pinal work.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Joe Singleton told members that the advertisement for the PCWAA audit work had gone out to notice and the response had been light. He said that he was contacted by several entities that had asked for the larger Request for Proposals packet but that not all returned them. He said that Baker Tilly had responded before the deadline, but had some concerns over some of the language. He said that he was still trying to establish what the specific concerns were so he could assess if the changes should concern the Authority.

Singleton said that the Governor's Water Policy Council had met since the last Board meeting and had begun to form subgroups on Assured Water Supplies and Rural Water issues.

He said that members were invited to apply for inclusion in a subgroup, which were to begin meeting in late June. He said that he had asked to be part of the Assured Water Supply group, but had yet to hear back from ADWR concerning the group's formation or a firm meeting date. He said that Governor Hobbs had asked the group for solutions by the end of the year.

Singleton told members that ADWR had done a presentation on the updated Phoenix AMA groundwater model. He said that the Phoenix AMA work showed a deficit of more than 4 million-acre-foot over the 100-year assured water supply projection period. Singleton said that the presentation was like the Pinal AMA presentation on the Pinal deficit. He noted that some of the Pinal work seemed to inform the Department's Phoenix presentation. He said that ADWR had stated during the presentation that the projections did not include cuts to CAP use and only included urbanization assumptions that staff had confirmed with land owners.

#### LOBBYIST REPORT:

Cheyenne Walsh of Compass Strategies said that state legislature was now planning to not adjourn sine die until August 1, 2023. Walsh said that after taking almost a month-long break that the legislature convened yesterday and would adjourn again after today. She said that the build-to-rent legislation had been discussed a lot in both chambers, with the Rio Verde solution language eventually grafted onto one of the pieces of legislation. She said that the WIFA cleanup bill (S.B. 1390) was still in process and that although she had not seen an agenda, the Rules committee was scheduled to meet this morning.

#### PINAL STAKEHOLDER PROCESS REPORT:

Stephen Miller reiterated that the groundwater modelling work would proceed with the figure from the City of Eloy's current designation order. Miller said that he had been contacted by the Pinal Partnership for his input on questions for their Friday legislative breakfast concerning water issues.

#### CHAIR'S REPORT:

There was no report from the Chair.

#### CALL TO THE AUTHORITY:

There was a call to the Authority. Bryan Hartman said that Governor Hobbs had signed the legislation that facilitates the settlement between the Ak-Chin Indian Community and the Maricopa-Stanfield and Central Arizona Irrigation and Drainage Districts. Hartman thanked PCWAA and Pinal County for their support of the legislation.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Chairman Collings made a call to the public. Mitch Basefsky of Central Arizona Project said that current projections indicate a 148% runoff flow into Lake Powell. He said that it would lead to a Tier 1 shortage declaration for the next two water years, which was far better than what was previously feared. He said that the Bureau of Reclamation had set aside their alternatives in the supplemental environmental impact statement in favor of the submittal from the lower basin states. Basefsky reminded members that the lower basin states plan calls for 3 million acre-feet (MAF) of mostly-voluntary conservation over the next several years, with half taking place by next year. He said that over the four years of the proposal that Arizona would be responsible for 1.15 MAF of reductions, 1.6 MAF for California and 285,000 AF for Nevada.

Hunter Moore of Cazador Consulting, representing Ivanhoe Electric, thanked Chairman Collings for allowing virtual and telephonic public participation in the meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

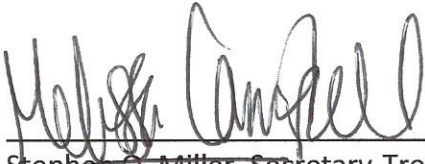
The next meeting will be held on July 11, 2023 at 7:00 a.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 a.m.

ATTEST:

  
William Collings, Chairman

  
Stephen Q. Miller, Secretary-Treasurer  
