

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

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 2023:**

A special meeting of the Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority was convened at 9:02 a.m. both remotely through technological means and in the Pinal County Offices in Casa Grande, Arizona.

### **Directors Present:**

- Bill Collings, Papago Butte DWID
- Melissa Campbell, City of Coolidge
- Bob Marsh, City of Maricopa (at 9:15)
- Stephen Q. Miller, Pinal County
- Jake Lenderking, Water utilities without a CAP water subcontract
- Derek McEachern, Central Arizona Irrigation and Drainage District
- Bryan Hartman, Maricopa-Stanfield Irrigation and Drainage District
- Fred Schneider, Water utilities with a CAP water subcontract (at 9:06)

### **Also Present:**

- Joe Singleton, PCWAA Executive Director
- Nathan Miller, MATRIX New World Engineering

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CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Bill Collings called the meeting to order at 9:02.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Stephen Miller moved to approve the minutes as drafted from the meeting of September 12, 2023. Jake Lenderking seconded the motion, which carried 6-0. **CAMPBELL, COLLINGS, HARTMAN, LENDERKING, McEACHERN, MILLER.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Chairman Bill Collings noted the monthly bills presented were for regularly occurring expenses, including Compass Strategies and reimbursement to Joe Singleton for the latest phone bill, as well as payment to Baker Tilly for the last audit and MATRIX for expenses associated with their work on the stakeholder Assured Water Supply (AWS) submittal to ADWR. Collings noted that members were informed before the meeting that the billing for the audit from Baker Tilly would be more than the budgetary line item, and that part of the audit expense would be accounted for under the "Consulting Services" line item highlighted in the financial reporting materials that had been distributed to members. Collings told members that because the special Board meeting was taking place so early in the month that they had yet to receive the monthly invoice from Compass Strategies but were presenting the expense for payment anyway, as it was a regular monthly billing. Joe Singleton told members that Fred Schneider had been unable to connect to the meeting through video, but had just joined the meeting by phone. Jake Lenderking moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills as presented. Bryan Hartman seconded the motion, which carried 7-0. **CAMPBELL, COLLINGS, HARTMAN, LENDERKING, McEACHERN, MILLER, SCHNEIDER.**

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

Bill Collings said that members should have already received a copy of the request for implementing a change order of up to \$10,000 to the PCWAA contract with MATRIX NEW World. Collings invited Nathan Miller of MATRIX New World to summarize the change order request. Miller said that MATRIX had had recent discussion with ADWR regarding last years' submittal on behalf of Pinal AMA AWS stakeholders. He said that ADWR had previously indicated that the stakeholder modelling work should reflect protection of long-term storage credits, but during recent talks said that it did not apply to future long-term storage credits except those involving the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District. Miller said that ADWR had requested a meeting, at the conclusion of which it was agreed that they were not a protected pumping category, but that it would be better to remove the assumption that those future long-term storage credits occur. Miller said that this would require changing some of the model inputs, requiring more modelling work. He said that this extra modelling work



was the impetus for the change order request, as the current contracted amount was largely used up and would not allow enough to change the modelling work.

Stephen Miller asked what Nathan Miller's opinion was on ADWR accepting the work following the changes. Nathan Miller said that ADWR was communicating with them on the stakeholder submittal and was not changing their position from previous statements. He said that he was hopeful that elements of the submittal would become the new standard for Pinal assured water supply work. He noted that he did not know how ADWR would react to the area of the model where simulated pumping exceeded the 1,100 below land surface depth. Stephen Miller asked what mechanics would be involved if ADWR adopted the stakeholder work as the new baseline for Pinal AMA AWS work. Nathan Miller said that he did not think that there was a formal process, but in similar circumstances the Department usually made clear which modelling that they were accepting and utilizing. Stephen Miller asked if it might be possible to get written confirmation from ADWR that they were accepting the stakeholder modelling work. Joe Singleton said that at the appropriate time following the completion of the last of the tasks still outstanding that he would contact ADWR to see if they would be willing to put something to that effect in writing. Singleton also acknowledged that Board member Bob Marsh had joined the meeting.

Stephen Miller moved to approve a contract change order of up to \$10,000 to the contract between MATRIX New World Engineering and PCWAA. Fred Schnieder seconded the motion which carried 8-0. **CAMPBELL, COLLINGS, HARTMAN, LENDERKING, MARSH, McEACHERN, MILLER, SCHNEIDER.**

#### RESPONSES TO ADWR COMMENTS:

Nathan Miller of MATRIX New World Engineering did not have anything to add to the previous discussion.

#### BARTLETT DAM MODIFICATION:

Joe Singleton told members that this item was included to update members following the quarterly steering committee meeting of the Bartlett Dam Modification Group that was held on October 31, 2023. Singleton said that annual assessment made to most voting members like PCWAA) appeared that it would again be \$100,000. He said that the process appeared to be mostly on the projected schedule. He said that the Steering Committee would meet again in December. Bill Collings added that allocation scenarios currently being developed consisted of low and high availability of Colorado river options in conjunction with demonstrated current and projected needs. He said that the Authority's allocation under these current options would result in a 10,000 – 15,000-acre-foot allocation. He added that the Needs subcommittee would meet again on November 15, 2023. Collings added that the Bureau of Reclamation would be hosting a virtual presentation on the Bartlett Dam work on November 16, 2023. He asked Joe Singleton to forward the meeting invitation to membership.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Joe Singleton reminded members that he had sent them a press release from the ADWR response to the Department of Interior's new Supplemental Draft EIS. Singleton said that recent changes were probably beneficial to Arizona, and recognized the improved hydrology of the most recent water year. He said that the Governor's Water Policy Council had voted to move a proposal on an alternative pathway to a designation of assured water supply in the Phoenix and Pinal AMAs onto a public stakeholder process. Singleton said that in his opinion that this would allow for greater public input on the proposal, and more direct participation in discussion by the affected providers.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Chairman Collings had nothing further to report.

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. There was no response.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting will be held on December 12, 2023 at 7:00 a.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

ATTEST:

  
William Collings, Chairman

  
Stephen Q. Miller, Secretary-Treasurer