

# *Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority*

## MEETING MINUTES

### MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2024:

A meeting of the Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority was convened at 7:04 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
- Bryan Hartman, Maricopa-Stanfield Irrigation & Drainage District
- Stephen Q. Miller, Pinal County
- Jake Lenderking, Water utilities without a CAP water subcontract
- Bob Marsh, City of Maricopa
- Derek McEachern, Central Arizona Irrigation and Drainage District
- Craig McFarland, City of Casa Grande (at 7:24 a.m.)
- Matt Rencher, City of Eloy
- Fred Schneider, Water utilities with a CAP water subcontract

### Also Present:

- Joe Singleton, PCWAA Executive Director
- Cheyenne Walsh, Compass Strategies
- Jeremiah Brosowske, Pinal County
- Lisa Garcia, Town of Florence
- Mitch Basefsky, Central Arizona Project
- Ricardo Aguirre, West Consultants

---

P.O. Box 12684, Casa Grande, Arizona, 85130-2684

Office: 520-518-1726

Web: [www.pcwaa-az.org](http://www.pcwaa-az.org)

---

### CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Bill Collings called the meeting to order at 7:01.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Craig McFarland moved to approve the minutes as drafted from the meeting of August 13, 2024. Bob Marsh seconded the motion, which carried 8-0. **CAMPBELL, COLLINGS, HARTMAN, LENDERKING, MARSH, McFARLAND, MILLER, SCHNEIDER.**

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Stephen Miller said that there were routine billings to Compass Strategies and for reimbursement to Joe Singleton. Miller noted the bank balance from the August bank statement and noted that the Authority had yet to receive funding from ADWR for FY 24. Miller noted that the PCWAA may have to operate on member revenues until they generated revenue from another method, or received funding from ADWR. Fred Schneider moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills as presented. Craig McFarland seconded the motion, which carried 8-0.

### PCWAA REORGANIZATION:

Jake Lenderking said that the group had met several times and discussed some of the existing funding mechanisms. He added that the group wanted to have further discussion on IDAs and statutory remedies. He said that the group was aware that legislative ideas would have to be developed quickly for the upcoming legislative session. Steve Miller said that he had met with Mark Reader and was trying to coordinate another meeting with him and several of his colleagues to discuss bonding, revenue and PCWAA statutes. Miller said that he hoped the meeting could be set up soon. Collings said that legislative proposals would probably have to be developed by November.

### FY 24 PCWAA AUDIT:

Joe Singleton referred members to their copies of the recently-completed audit of the PCWAA FY 2024 finances. Singleton said that the Reporting and Insights document did not indicate any problems. He referred members to the financial statement, noting that the odd-looking revenue figure was accounting for a revenue shortfall from a previous fiscal year for monies requested and not realized from the City of Coolidge. Craig McFarland moved to approve the FY24 PCWAA audit. Stephen Miller seconded the motion which carried 8-0.

## BARTLETT DAM MODIFICATION:

Bill Collings said that there was not much new to report. He said that the Bartlett Dam Modification Steering Committee would meet in November and that the Needs subcommittee could meet to respond to action from the Bureau of Reclamation. Joe Singleton said that there was an additional Needs subcommittee meeting tentatively scheduled for September 25, 2024. He said that he had not heard if the meeting would be cancelled.

Fred Schneider added that both PCWAA and Arizona Water Company had been accepted to participate in the Phase 2 of the work for the Salt River / CAP Interconnect Facility (SCIF) technical committee.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Joe Singleton said that he and Cheyenne Walsh had met with Patrick Adams, Water Policy Advisor to Gov. Hobbs, to discuss water legislation and the Authority. Singleton said that Adams seemed supportive of the PCWAA and its funding. Singleton said that Adams hoped to see public support for the DAWS Rulemaking proposal.

Singleton told members that he, Mayor McFarland, Supervisor Miller, and Fred Schneider were part of a water panel sponsored by the Pinal Alliance for Economic Growth, and that they talked about and advocated for the ADAWS rulemaking proposal at that meeting. He said that the Alliance membership was encouraged to support the proposal. Singleton said that the hearing on the rule package would be on September 23, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at ADWR. He said that there was a remote option for the hearing, and that the Department would be taking comments on the proposal until 5:00 p.m. the day of the hearing.

Singleton said that as Fred Schneider had mentioned previously, that PCWAA and Arizona Water Company had been voted into the SCIF group. He told members that SRP was confirming the mechanics of incorporating new members into the study. Singleton said that eventually the Authority would want to reach out to CAP to begin discussing a wheeling agreement between the two parties to utilize the CAP canal to bring PCWAA SRP water into the Pinal AMA. Singleton said that there were meetings of the Bartlett Modification's Needs subcommittee tentatively scheduled for September 25, 2024 and 11/15/2024. He told members that the meetings may be placeholders to react to any BOR action on the Bartlett application, and that the meetings could be cancelled in absence of any federal action.

Singleton told the group that the Arizona Water Banking Authority would have its next quarterly meeting tomorrow, September 11, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. He said that the AWBA uses the fall meeting to begin public discussion of their Plan of Operations for the upcoming calendar year. He said that the group would then present to the Groundwater User Advisory Councils (GUACs), take comments, and look to finalize their Plan at their December meeting. He said that the Pinal GUAC would hear a presentation of the AWBA draft Plan at their September 18, 2024 meeting. Singleton said that the GUACs were also called upon in the early



fall to make a groundwater withdrawal fee recommendation to the director of the Department of Water Resources each year before October 1, and it was likely they would be doing so at that meeting. Singleton told members that he did not know if the timing was significant in terms of ADWR coming to a decision of the unresolved PCWAA funding request for FY24.

Singleton told members that the internal PCWAA reorganization/finance group being overseen by Supervisor Miller and Jake Lenderking was tentatively meeting every Thursday morning, and cancelling the meetings that lead to schedule conflicts or were deemed unneeded.

Stephen Miller asked if Patrick Adams had spoken about resistance to the Ag-to-Urban proposal or about the ADAWS rulemaking. Singleton said that the concern expressed was about the ADAWS proposal, and not specific to Pinal.

#### LOBBYIST REPORT:

Cheyenne Walsh of Compass Strategies reminded the group that getting ideas and concept together for the upcoming legislative session was better done sooner rather than later. She reiterated that the ultimate makeup of next years' legislature was still unknown, pending the fall elections.

#### PINAL STAKEHOLDER PROCESS REPORT:

Stephen Miller said that there was nothing new to report. He said that additional progress seemed to take place through other mechanisms.

#### CHAIR'S REPORT:

Chairman Collings said that he had attended the Agribusiness and Water Council of Arizona's annual meeting. He said that the group largely did support to Ag-to-Muni concept, and ADAWS. Collings added that he (in his capacity as Chairman of the Pinal GUAC) had yet to see an agenda from ADWR staff for the Pinal GUAC meeting that was scheduled for September 18, 2024.

#### CALL TO THE AUTHORITY:

There was a call to the Authority. Bob Marsh noted that there was a lot of overlap between the Authority and the Pinal Partnership Water Resource Committee, who had encouraged a letter writing campaign. He asked about the Partnership's draft support letter being sent out to PCWAA membership. Craig McFarland said that Casa Grande City Manager Larry Rains had mentioned his desire to work with Global Water on the draft agreements with

PCWAA regarding funding for the Bartlett Modification construction. Jake Lenderking said he would reach out to Rains to work on the agreement language. Bill Collings said that he had indicated to SRP staff that they would try to have language by the end of the year in order to demonstrate commitment to the Bartlett process by PCWAA. Collings added that some of the Bartlett modification partners were beginning to grumble that the net effect of the BOR possibly taking a bigger share of the new capacity from the raised dam height would leave some of the partners with allocations that were too small and might be turned back. Collings said that he hoped to capture any additional supplies that might be turned back. Fred Schneider thanked Bob Marsh for noting the letter writing campaign, and encouraged all members to continue to seek out supporters for the ADAWS rule proposal.

#### CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There was a call to the public. Mitch Basefsky of CAP said that Colorado river conditions were largely the same. He noted that the state was in a Tier 1 shortage condition for this year, and that the August 24-month study, which is determinative in decision-making indicated that we would be in a Tier 1 shortage next year as well. He said that the BOR had put out 5-year probabilities beyond 2026, which project 53-57% chance of remaining in Tier 1 shortage conditions during 2027-2028, and a 50% chance of Tier 1 conditions in 2029. Basefsky said that these projections were soft, as they were modelled on the 3 million-acre-foot savings that the Lower Basin States are currently engaged in, and the other existing regulatory structures, like the 2007 guidelines, Minute 323 and the DCDP guidelines that may or may not resemble the structure that is put in place post-2026.

Ricardo Aguirre said that he received 15 letters supporting their WIFA application for funding for their recharge demonstration project. The project will be a partnership between CAID and the Dryland Alliance addressing Water Needs (DAWN). Aguirre said that he wants to identify stormwater as a credible water supply by preventing evaporation and recharging the water in a manner that gets it quickly to the aquifer. He said that he hoped to be engaged in field trials next March.

#### NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting will be held on October 8, 2024 at 7:00 a.m. Stephen Miller noted that the county conference room would be unavailable on October 8, as it would be in use for early voting. Mayor McFarland said that the group could use City Hall. Supervisor Miller said that he would be unavailable to meet in person, but might be able to participate virtually. It was decided that the October Board meeting would take place virtually-only.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 a.m.

ATTEST:

  
William Collings, Chairman

  
Stephen Q. Miller, Secretary-Treasurer