

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

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2026:

A special meeting of the Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority was convened at 10:00 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 Miller, Pinal County
- Jake Lenderking, Water utilities without a CAP water subcontract (until 11:00)
- Bryan Hartman, Maricopa-Stanfield Irrigation & Drainage District
- Bob Marsh, City of Maricopa
- Craig McFarland, City of Casa Grande

### Also Present:

- Joe Singleton, PCWAA Executive Director
- Chyenne Walsh, Compass Strategies

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Bill Collings called the meeting to order at 10:00.

2026 AZ LEGISLATION:

Joe Singleton told the Board that He had sent the Compass Strategies report out last night. He said that Cheyenne Walsh suggested focusing on the priority bills, listed at the front of the report and those that would appear on Natural Resource committee agendas later today. Singleton said that Walsh would join them shortly.

Singleton said that There were a group of bills that deal with cloud seeding or solar radiation management. He said that during the last legislative session, Rep. Fink had run legislation to make both illegal. He told the group that Sen. Kavanaugh was running that same legislation again this session, although he had indicated to Cheyenne Walsh that he was open to discussion on amending cloud seeding out of the proposed prohibition. Singleton reminded the group that he and Walsh had been meeting with Rep. Fink and stakeholder since summer on her new bill to further regulate (but not ban) cloud seeding and had made decent progress. He said that the larger issues in her current legislation were adding in a public notice provision for cloud seeding projects and allowing for a ADEQ review of the seeding agents. He noted that Sen. Farnsworth was running identically worded legislation in the Senate. Singleton said that both rep. Fink and Sen. Farnsworth were running legislation to ban solar radiation management. Cheyenne Walsh said that Rep. Griffin's bill to change WIFA's definition of water supply development to include cloud seeding for snowpack augmentation and thus make those kinds of projects eligible for funding from this WIFA pool of money was opposed by the Sierra Club. Walsh noted that the Authority had been asked to support the solar radiation ban. Walsh noted that Supervisor Miller, Craig McFarland, and Zach Sakas from Greenberg Traurig would be on hand to testify for the PCWAA bonding legislation. Walsh told Jake Lenderking that Spencer Kamps had signed in as neutral on the PCWAA legislation and had cited the agreement that he made with Walsh last year to not oppose the legislation after some language was added to address some of his concerns.

Cheyenne Walsh noted that PCWAA had previously supported appropriations to the Colorado River litigation fund, and had supported Rep. Griffin's commingling legislation, both of which had been reintroduced during this legislative session. She said that the current draft of the commingling legislation did not contain language from the Home Builders Association of Central Arizona. Group discussion was positive about supporting these again. There was discussion on HB 2027, which concerns the physical availability of groundwater under the Assured Water Supply Program. It was ultimately decided to monitor it, as referred to, but did not regulate the Pinal AMA. Bill Collings and Jake Lenderking suggested monitoring all of the bills like this that only seek to make changes in the Phoenix AMA. There was discussion of HB 2099 and SB 1201, which anecdotally were thought to limit water storage during a declared shortage to Groundwater Savings Facilities, but may or may not accomplish that through the drafted language. It was decided to monitor these bills, as well as proposals that seek to

additionally regulate multifamily housing. H.B. 2827 seeks to extend the sunset of the Temporary Groundwater and Irrigation Efficiency Projects Fund and continue to direct a portion of the withdraw fees to the fund by extending those provisions as well. The Board was supportive. There was discussion of HB 2052, which would change the lost and unaccounted for water standard from 10% to 8%. Joe Singleton said that a proposed committee amendment would further limit the proposed requirement to providers with a designation of assured water supply that have CAP water. There was discussion that although water savings were good, passage could be problematic to end users in terms of cost.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

ATTEST:

  
William Collings, Chairman

  
Stephen Q. Miller, Secretary-Treasurer