



Public Notice Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02

ARIZONA MUNICIPAL WATER USERS ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT BOARD

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

**This meeting will be held via AMWUA Zoom
Access this [Link](#) to join. Meeting ID: 879 9458 5045**

(Option to join by phone: 602-753-0140, same Meeting ID as above)

A. Call to Order

B. General Business—Items for Discussion and Possible Action

1. Approval of the Minutes from the August 11, 2021 Meeting
2. Schedule Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
3. Colorado River Shortage
4. Outdoor Water Initiatives
5. Governor’s Water Augmentation Innovation & Conservation Council

C. Member Reports

D. Executive Director’s Report

E. Future Agenda Items

F. Adjournment

*The order of the agenda may be altered or changed by the AMWUA Management Board. Members of the AMWUA Management Board will attend by internet conferencing.

More information about AMWUA public meetings is available online at www.amwua.org/what-we-do/public-meetings, or by request.

Arizona Municipal Water Users Association



MANAGEMENT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2021

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Jessica Marlow, Gilbert, Chair
Brian Biesemeyer, Scottsdale, Vice Chair
Kirk Beaty, Avondale
Craig Johnson, Glendale
John Knudson, Chandler
Karen Peters, Phoenix
Terry Piekarz, Tempe
Cape Powers, Peoria
Javier Setovich, Goodyear
Jake West, Mesa

OTHERS PRESENT

Patrick J. Adams, AMWUA	Gretchen Erwin, Goodyear	Dawn Nall, SW EFC
Michelle Barclay, AMWUA	Paulette Fenderson, Phoenix	Diana Pina, AMWUA
Gretchen Baumgardner, Scottsdale	Kathy Ferris, AMWUA	Jacob Perez Laurent, AMWUA
Anthony Beckham, SRP	Heather Himmelberger, SW EFC	Valerie Schneider, Scottsdale
Ned Blum, CliftonLarsonAllen	Lauren Hixson, Gilbert	Martin Stiles, CAP
Gregg Capps, Chandler	Simone Kjolsrud, AWBA	Drew Swieczkowski, Glendale
Chris Connor, Chandler	Karen Kruse, Phoenix	Warren Tenney, AMWUA
Jennifer Davidson, Avondale	Amy Love, Senator Kelly's Office	Sheri Trapp, AMWUA
Brian Draper, Mesa	Kathy Macdonald, Mesa	Theresa Ulmer, AMWUA
Sam Draper, AMWUA	James Markham, SW EFC	Lindsay Walker, Daily Independent
		Adam Wiechman, ASU

A. Call to Order

Ms. Marlow called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

B. General Business – Items for Discussion and Possible Action

1. Approval of the Minutes from the June 9, 2021 Meeting

Upon a motion made by Mr. West and a second by Ms. Peters, the AMWUA Management Board unanimously approved of the June 9, 2021 meeting minutes.

2. [Next meeting scheduled: Wednesday, September 8, 2021, 10:00 a.m.](#)
3. [Update on Pending Colorado River Shortage](#)

Mr. Tenney reported that the Bureau of Reclamation's August 24-month study release on August 16th, 2021 will trigger a Tier 1 shortage declaration effective January 1, 2022. Arizona has been expecting such a shortage and has agreed to reduce the amount of water it would receive as part of a broader plan to protect the overall health of the Colorado River system. AMWUA staff have been working hard to coordinate among the AMWUA cities and regional partners in preparation for this Tier 1 shortage declaration. With the release of the August 24-month study, AMWUA has increased the messaging tools for all members and interagencies to utilize in a consistent response.

Sheri Trapp, Communications Manager, reported that the Shortage Awareness Campaign has provided consistent messaging for municipal and regional partners regarding the shortage on the Colorado River. The ongoing coordination has expanded the explanation about promotion of state-wide conservation efforts, specific preparations that have been done, and what investments have been made in water supplies and infrastructure. Regional agencies are currently heavily engaged in this proactive approach in preparation for the August 24-month study. In addition, new supporting materials and talking points in response to questions arising from the shortage declaration have been developed to assist preparation efforts moving forward. AMWUA and its members continue to utilize the Colorado River Shortage Awareness Campaign in external outreach efforts to ensure the narrative remains positive while also internally educating their city staff. AMWUA has strategically adapted existing messaging to remain relevant and appropriate as the State anticipates the declaration of a Tier 1 shortage.

Mr. Tenney reported that both Lake Mead and Lake Powell sit at record low levels. The River's releases from Lake Powell into Lake Mead will be much smaller, threatening to drop Lake Mead's levels even lower. This also signifies that we will most likely see the Colorado River at a Tier 2 shortage in 2023, with an increasing probability that a Tier 3 shortage could occur in 2025. Through 2026, under the Arizona DCP Mitigation Plan, any reductions in CAP M&I priority supplies that the cities may experience under a Tier 2 or Tier 3 shortage will be firmed by the Arizona Water Banking Authority. The Upper Basin States had agreed under their DCP to release water from reservoirs above Lake Powell if the situation warranted it. Reclamation has started those synchronized releases from upstream reservoirs, which are projected to raise Lake Powell by an additional 2.6 feet in order to maintain hydropower production in the short-term. The Lower Basin DCP requires that if any 24-month study shows Lake Mead reaching elevation 1,030 feet within the next two years of that study, then the Secretary of the Interior and the Lower Basin States are to consult and determine additional measures that can be taken to prevent Lake Mead's levels from dropping to 1,020 feet. CAWCD staff said based on their forecasting, the 1,030 trigger could occur as early as November 2021. Mr. Tenney reported that this forecast is an opportunity for us to strengthen our water resources and engage with elected officials and the public on the importance of continual investment

in infrastructure and technology. This includes advancing water conservation and efficiency measures, developing direct potable reuse, considering augmentation opportunities such as a desalination, and continued discussions on improving groundwater management.

Ms. Peters stated that the City of Phoenix is very committed to making sure its messaging is consistent due to the Tier 1 Shortage news. Mr. Setovich from Goodyear agreed and was glad that members have been proactive in sharing information with their citizens to prepare them for what's coming next. As this news makes its way to the media, we will need to continue the consistency of the messaging. Ms. Marlow stated that the Town of Gilbert has been expanding upon its conservation materials for educating the public. Mr. Biesemeyer reported that the City of Scottsdale will be invoking the first stage of their Drought Preparedness Plan following the declaration of a Tier 1 shortage by the Bureau of Reclamation. He expressed caution about upcoming questions regarding the long-term planning for shortage, as conditions are anticipated to worsen in the coming years. While the answers to those questions may not be easy, coordinating among members will help all members demonstrate innovative thinking and planning.

4. Water Loss Control Training and Technical Assistance Program

Patrick Adams, Water Policy Advisor, reported that AMWUA has provided the Water Loss Control Training and Technical Assistance Program to nine of the AMWUA members over the last year. He introduced the Southwest Environmental Financial Center technical experts - Heather Himmelberger, SW EFC Director, and SW EFC Research Engineers, Dawn Nall and James Markham - to give an overview and results of the training program.

Nine of the ten AMWUA member utilities participated in the training and technical assistance program, allowing all to grow their respective utility water loss program and incorporate industry standard methodologies. The program is comprised of various stages including utility water loss audit, leakage component analysis and validation, and economic water loss analysis, all for individual utilities to act in controlling Real and Apparent water loss. A wide variety of activities and resources were also provided as practice for utilities developing their own water loss programs.

Together, all members have completed a validated audit, increased the understanding of non-revenue water volumes and values, and compared the audit results to the state's loss and unaccounted for water. Using this information, municipal utilities can take action towards their own individual operations and apply program training further. In addition, the program training has identified areas where municipalities continue to improve their water loss programs, such as data quality. Through the process of the program, the SW EFC has provided recommendations for the utility participants, such as program management & support, data & future water audit, and water loss control activity. Recommendations for AMWUA are to continue to facilitate water loss information sharing between members and sponsor additional trainings toward water loss control efforts. The SW EFC also made recommendations to ADWR, such as coordinating interagency opportunities regarding water loss control standards as well as providing statewide training. SW EFC believes the AMWUA

members who participated in the program are prepared to continue expanding this process through future programs.

Mr. Biesemeyer thanked AMWUA and the SW EFC for all the valuable efforts they have provided. He added that there are methodologies within the software that may not consider the process of recharging treated water for credits. Ms. Himmelberger stated that the AWWA standards are being continually adjusted, and that accounting recharge water may require a more robust audit process to separate Real losses in a utility system.

Mr. Powers stated that Peoria has found a lot of value from this program and will continue to demonstrate the efficient uses of their water resources management. He thanked both AMWUA and the SW EFC for this level of training and collaboration.

5. [City of Chandler's Reclaimed Water Interconnect Facility](#)

Mr. Knudson introduced Utility Regulatory Affairs Manager, Chris Connor, to present the City of Chandler's Reclaimed Water Interconnect Facility (RWIF) project. Chandler's existing potable water infrastructure incorporates a large wellfield within its original city development. Moving into shortage, it is important to maintain and rely on recharge and recovery. While Chandler's current recharge program meets regulations, the City's resource managers sought to have more of the recharge of CAP water occur underneath the local Chandler area. This is accomplished the Reclaimed Water Interconnect Facility that allows Chandler to store more of its CAP water at its reclaimed water recharge sites. The RWIF leverages mostly existing infrastructure owned by Chandler to optimize local resources and the local aquifer, as well as satisfying future industrial water demands in Chandler. Mr. Knudson added that this project satisfies two core goals for Chandler by bringing recharge recovery back underneath Chandler to offset pumping while also supplying an affordable source of reclaimed water to the industrial partner.

Mr. West thanked Chandler staff for the presentation and commended the project. Ms. Marlow commented that this infrastructure project is a great example of innovative solutions to the challenges facing water resource demands, while continuing to support economic development.

6. [AMWUA Quarterly Financial Statements – Fiscal Year 2021 Fourth Quarter](#)

Mr. Tenney reported that at the end of the fourth quarter, AMWUA is showing a year-to-date actual of \$103,634 under the year-to-date budget. Savings from Fiscal Year 2021 generated a carryover credit for the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, which allowed for the second straight year of reducing assessments from the budgeted amount.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Biesemeyer and a second by Mr. Johnson, the AMWUA Management Board unanimously recommended approval of the AMWUA Quarterly Financial Statements to the AMWUA Board of Directors.

C. Member Reports

Mr. Beaty reported that Jennifer Davidson has joined the City of Avondale as the new Water Resource Manager.

Mr. Biesemeyer reported the direct potable reuse rules passed in 2018 by ADEQ has only repealed the prohibition and supplied guidance documents without providing guidance to allow large DPR projects to be created under a Phase II plan. The City of Scottsdale continues to pursue a direct potable reuse permit and has been pushing the Water Reuse Association to have ADEQ implement the Phase II rules. DPR is another tool for all municipalities to utilize when faced with the upcoming shortage. Mr. Biesemeyer encouraged all members and AMWUA to remain engaged in the development of these rules which allows members to move forward positively with DPR as an option for their communities.

Ms. Peters reported that the City of Phoenix has updated their Water Resource Plan and it is available for viewing. She thanked Cynthia Campbell, Water Resource Management Advisor, and staff for their effort in this update.

Ms. Marlow reported that Eric Braun will fill the position of Assistant Public Works Director for the Town of Gilbert and Lauren Hixson will be moving into the role of Interim Water Resource Manager.

Ms. Marlow was curious if there were any updated changes or discussions within the communities regarding COVID procedures for staff given recent CDC guidelines. The Town of Gilbert strongly encourages masks be worn indoors based on CDC guidance and still provides opportunities for remote work when needed. Mr. Piekarcz reported that the City of Tempe has returned to a mask mandate and will be continuing to have remote meetings with its City Council. Mr. West reported that the City of Mesa allows masks to be worn if preferred and that there have been resummptions of meetings, similar to previous months. Mr. Setovich reported that the City of Goodyear reinstated the connection to CDC guidelines but does give staff the choice for masks. Staff has an option to work remotely at least a couple of days a week. Goodyear is a heavy user of remote meetings in terms of efficiency as well, so there will be continued use. Mr. Beaty reported that the City of Avondale has required masks for staff that are meeting with the public, and there are no requirements for the public to wear masks at the intercity buildings. Masks are not required between workers and remote work and virtual meetings are being encouraged. Mr. Knudson reported that the City of Chandler staff has come back to work with an optional mask policy. Ms. Peters reported that the City of Phoenix has a mask requirement for anyone entering city buildings as well as offering employee testing opportunities.

D. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Tenney reported that due to heavy July monsoons, the inflows to SRP's reservoirs from the month of July are estimated to be approximately 84,000 acre-feet and meteorologists are hopeful

that this increased precipitation will continue through September. The Salt and Verde reservoirs' combined capacity is currently 67% full.

Mr. Tenney reported that the Post 2025 AMAs Committee had recently met to focus on unreplenished groundwater pumping. ADWR provided a presentation regarding the different types of residual pumping within each sector, with additional discussion for how unreplenished groundwater withdrawals could be addressed. The Committee will meet again September 9th to look at the hydrologic disconnect.

E. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were discussed.

F. Adjournment

Ms. Marlow adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

MANAGEMENT BOARD

INFORMATION SUMMARY

September 8, 2021

Colorado River Shortage

STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE

Colorado River Management & Shortage Preparation

Assist, monitor and coordinate on the impacts of shortage declarations on the Colorado River along with the Reconsultation of the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines to ensure our members' interests are forefront.

- Ongoing Coordination – Pursue opportunities to assist and synchronize continuing preparation efforts.
- Enhanced Messaging – Facilitate the coordination of regional messages to ensure the public and decision makers understand how Colorado River shortage affects our water supplies; what our members have done, and continue to do, to prepare; our collective resilience to shortages; and increase the visibility and frequency of conservation awareness messaging.

Strategic Plan: Facilitate our Strength in Numbers, Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Minimize Financial Impacts

SUMMARY

AMWUA staff will give an update regarding current Colorado River conditions and shortage-related developments.

RECOMMENDATION

AMWUA staff is requesting that the AMWUA Management Board ask questions and discuss the Colorado River conditions and the shortage.

MANAGEMENT BOARD
INFORMATION SUMMARY
September 8, 2021

Outdoor Water Initiatives

STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE

Demand Management & Efficiency

Continue to excel as a leader in water conservation by assisting our members in strategizing demand management and in raising awareness about ongoing conservation efforts in order to enhance water resource supply sustainability.

- Increase outdoor water efficiency including efforts to research and develop outdoor water efficiency standards.

Strategic Plan: Facilitate our Strength in Numbers, Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Strengthen Groundwater Management, Prepare for Impacts of Post-2025 Water Policy, Minimize Financial Impact, Interconnect Disciplines

SUMMARY

AMWUA recently updated its spreadsheet that catalogs its members' water ordinances. AMWUA staff will give a presentation about this tool and opportunities to build upon our outdoor water conservation efforts.

RECOMMENDATION

AMWUA staff is requesting that the AMWUA Management Board ask questions and discuss possible approaches for new outdoor water initiatives.

MANAGEMENT BOARD

INFORMATION SUMMARY

September 8, 2021

Governor's Water Augmentation Innovation & Conservation Council

ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

Sustainable Water Management

Evaluate and pursue our members' contribution towards efforts and policies that will sustain and safeguard our water resources and prepare for the critical water management issues beyond 2025.

- Governor's Water Augmentation, Innovation and Conservation Council – Actively participate to protect and promote our members' perspectives.
- Post-2025 – Lead discussions in the Post-2025 AMAs Committee toward developing strategies and solutions to address issues associated with the AMA management structure, unreplenished groundwater withdrawals, the hydrologic disconnect, Assured Water Supply Program, the CAGR, and exempt wells.

Strategic Plan: Facilitate our Strength in Numbers, Educate – Excel as an Expert and Resource, Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Strengthen Groundwater Management, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Pursue Post-2025 Water Policy, Interconnect Disciplines

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an update regarding activities related to the Governor's Water Council and its committees, particularly the Post-2025 AMAs Committee. The Governor's Water Council is scheduled to meet September 16, 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Management Board is encouraged to ask questions and discuss the update presented regarding the Governor's Water Council.