



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

ARIZONA MUNICIPAL WATER USERS ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT BOARD

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Wednesday, October 12, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

***This meeting will be held as a Hybrid meeting.
Attendance in person is welcomed; Others may join via Zoom.***

***Access this [Link](#) to join via Zoom. Meeting ID: 864 4663 1361
(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 September 14, 2022 Meeting
2. Schedule Next Meeting Date: November 9, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
3. Colorado River Conditions
4. 2023 AMWUA Legislative Agenda
5. AMWUA Outdoor Water Conservation Initiatives

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 may attend in person or 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

September 14, 2022

HYBRID MEETING

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Cape Powers, Peoria, Chair
Tara Ford, Tempe, Vice Chair
Kirk Beaty, Avondale
Brian Biesemeyer, Scottsdale
Cynthia Campbell for Karen Peters, Phoenix
Chris Hassert, Mesa
Craig Johnson, Glendale
John Knudson, Chandler
Jessica Marlow, Gilbert
Javier Setovich, Goodyear

OTHERS PRESENT

Barry Aarons, Aarons Co.	Brian Draper, Mesa	Simone Kjolsrud, Chandler
Patrick J. Adams, AMWUA	Sam Draper, AMWUA	Jacob Perez Laurent, AMWUA
Gretchen Baumgardner, Scottsdale	Paulette Fenderson, Phoenix	Marisa Manheim, ASU
Anthony Beckham, SRP	Kathy Ferris, AMWUA	Mike Milby, CliftonLarsonAllen
Brad Berles, APS Palo Verde	Brett Fleck, Peoria	Diana Pina, AMWUA
Rebecca Bernat, AWBA	Rachel von Gnechten, ADWR	Martin Stiles, CAP
Craig Caggiano, Tempe	Lisa Gray, CliftonLarsonAllen	Warren Tenney, AMWUA
Cynthia Campbell, Phoenix	Lauren Hixson, Gilbert	Sheri Trapp, AMWUA
Ray Diaz, Goodyear	Hayley Howard, Aarons Co.	Theresa Ulmer, Ulmer Consulting
		Stefan Walston, Gilbert

A. Call to Order

Mr. Powers called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

B. General Business – Items for Discussion and Possible Action

1. Approval of the Minutes from August 10, 2022 Meeting

Upon a motion made by Mr. Biesemeyer and a second from Mr. Setovich, the AMWUA Management Board unanimously approved of the August 10, 2022 meeting minutes.

2. [Schedule Next Meeting Date: October 12, 2022, 10:00 a.m.](#)

3. [Colorado River Shortage and Conditions for 2023](#)

Mr. Patrick Adams, Water Policy Advisor, reported that based on the modeling of the median and 10th percentile inflow forecasts from the August 24-Month study project, Lake Powell will continue declining. Below the buffer elevation of 3,525', dam operations and power generation from Glen Canyon Dam are impacted. The scheduled releases from Lake Powell to Lake Mead is projected to be 7 million acre-feet, the minimum release under the River's operating procedures. Mr. Adams added that Glen Canyon Dam would no longer be able to move sufficient water to generate power at elevation 3,490', with dead pool stopping all water deliveries through the dam at elevation 3,370'. Mr. Adams reviewed two plausible future scenario models over the next 4 years for both Lake Powell and Lake Mead provided by the Bureau of Reclamation. Mr. Adams recalled that on August 16th, the Bureau of Reclamation declared a Tier 2a Shortage on the Colorado River though no follow-up was given on the 2-4 million acre-feet mandate, nor any significant action to reduce demand. Elected officials and water managers in Nevada and Arizona have publicly called for Reclamation to impose water use reductions throughout the Basin.

Mr. Adams reported that Arizona's position in continued negotiations are as follows: all users in all sectors in all states must contribute to reducing water use; the CAP deliveries of Colorado River water are critical for the regional and national economies; and the Department of the Interior must take action to protect the system where the Basin States haven't been able to. Both the Southern Nevada Water Authority and Arizona Department of Water Resources have sent recommendations of possible actions for the Interior to implement. Mr. Adams then displayed scenario tools that illustrate distributions of CAP delivery supplies to AMWUA members under significant water cuts. Mr. Adams emphasized that impacts to CAP supplies will impact all subcontractors in the Valley. All other water supplies need protection through the future, and we must find collaborative solutions, such as exchanges or interconnects, to address CAP impacts. AMWUA will continue to elevate the municipal perspective, advocating for immediate plan of action and participating in long-term solutions through Reconsultation. In addition, AMWUA will coordinate and evolve messaging about our preparation and response for less Colorado River water.

Mr. Setovich asked for clarification regarding the extraordinary conservation impacts to the CAP supply. Mr. Adams responded that this scenario tool is only to give approximate values of priority pool size and availability while CAP is participating at different amounts of conservation actions.

Mr. Biesemeyer noted that the Assured Water Supply Designations are based on full allocations of their respective water supplies, and these nuances will need to be discussed and addressed. Mr. Adams agreed, adding that AMWUA does not support adjusting the timeframe or rigor of the AWS during the shortage on the Colorado River.

Mr. Powers commented that the State of Arizona has tried to be a leader in system conservation, as evidenced in the 500+ plan, with no significant following from other Basin States. He noted it will be interesting to see the leadership strategy moving forward at the individual city level and state level.

Mr. Hassert asked if there is any information from the Department of Interior regarding a timeline or strategy plan. Mr. Tenney stated that discussions are continuing but the federal government needs to show leadership with definitive actions, where every sector participates.

Mr. Tenney added that there is a lot of uncertainty on the Colorado River and we need to be preparing for much less Colorado River water in the future. All the operational and financial needs of a city require certainty in water deliveries, and he encouraged all members to work closely with their water resources and conservation staffs and integrate them among other departments of their respective municipality.

C. Member Reports

Mr. Biesemeyer reported that the annual Water Citizen Academy in the City of Scottsdale is being held again after a three-year hiatus.

Mr. Hassert reported that the City of Mesa is continuing to roll out AMI starting with 2,000 meters, focusing on beginning communications between the infrastructure, customer, and utility. He added that full deployment will occur over the next 3 – 5 years. This information will be relevant for customers to make water wise decisions. Ms. Ford commented that having accurate figures across the whole system has helped tremendously in rate studies and leak detections.

Mr. Johnson announced that he will be retiring as Water Services Director on November 30th, 2022, with Ron Serio stepping in as Interim Director beginning September 30th.

Mr. Knudson reported that the City of Chandler is moving forward with their AMI infrastructure. Now that all meters have been installed, the next stage is implementing the software for their service area. He also announced that Jeremy Abbott has been brought on as Assistant Director Public Works & Utilities.

Ms. Campbell reported that there was a memorandum of understanding of using Colorado River water between metropolitan water districts in the Basin States. Recently, members of the Western Water Urban Coalition in Arizona – CAP, SRP, and the City of Phoenix – were informed of openness to see other municipal utilities sign onto the memorandum if they so choose.

Ms. Ford reported that the City of Tempe has started up their Water Reclamation Plant for recharge projects, which is slated for completion in 2025. She also reported that they have hired a new Deputy Municipal Utilities Director, Barbara Chappell. In addition, Tempe will be going to Council in October to present their new water rate structure.

D. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Tenney reported that the Arizona Water Banking Authority discussed the need for a formal firming policy for the Bank. Mr. Tenney stated that AMWUA will work with member's staff to develop a collective position surrounding the distribution of those credits for long-term benefit.

Mr. Tenney reported that AMWUA has begun looking towards the 2023 Legislative Session and AMWUA will be working with the Arizona Agribusiness Council to put together a Vetting Forum 4 Water in November.

Mr. Tenney reported that CAP will be holding a roundtable to develop a new conservation initiative on September 28th. AMWUA plans to suggest using their resources to encourage awareness of existing municipal conservation programs and efforts, rather than develop an entirely new conservation incentive.

Mr. Tenney reported that five positions are open for the CAP Board this coming election, and it is AMWUA's goal to get information surrounding the possible candidates so voters can make informed decisions. AMWUA is working with the Kyl Center for Water Policy and the Arizona Hydrological Society to survey CAP Board candidates and produce a voter guide to be promoted.

Mr. Tenney noted that the AMWUA Board of Directors will be meeting on September 22nd.

E. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Knudson asked for more information regarding any action taken to firm and transport stored water from Tonopah Desert Recharge Project. Mr. Tenney responded that a recovery plan was put together in 2021, and that CAP has been working on how to move forward as water quality standards are being approved. AMWUA will have more up-to-date information regarding Tonopah from a CAGRDC Committee meeting tomorrow. Mr. Knudson asked if drilling and treatment of stored water could be a candidate for state and federal funds being provided for sustainable long-term solutions. Mr. Tenney noted that, in his opinion, these infrastructure uses should be considered for funding.

F. Adjournment

Mr. Powers adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

MANAGEMENT BOARD

INFORMATION SUMMARY

October 12, 2022

Colorado River Conditions

ANNUAL 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 such as identifying ways to strengthen members' drought (shortage) preparedness plans.
- Risks – Analyze long-term risks of shortages to our members

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 the Tier 2 Shortage declaration for 2023. To date, Reclamation has not specified how extraordinary additional reductions will be implemented in the short term. However, there have been indications that Reclamation is considering how to factor in evaporation in the Lower Basin and evaluating the term "beneficial use."

The AMWUA cities have been approached to sign on to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with other Colorado River Basin municipal water providers to voice a commitment for further advancement of municipal conservation efforts. Original signatories for the MOU included Denver Water, Southern Nevada Water Authority, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and others, however, the language has been revised to accommodate participation of Arizona water providers. With the increasing attention and concerns about the Colorado River situation, it would be a positive message here in the Valley to have the AMWUA cities join onto this MOU.

RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Management Board is requested to ask questions and discuss the Colorado River shortage.

MANAGEMENT BOARD
INFORMATION SUMMARY
October 12, 2022

2023 AMWUA Legislative Agenda

ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

Legislation

Effectively advocate with one voice at the Legislature.

- Monitor, analyze and clarify state and federal legislation of interest to our members.
- Engage with legislators to inform them about the issues important to AMWUA including identifying and working with legislators to champion water issues.

Strategic Plan: Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Reinforce Groundwater Management, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Pursue Post-2025 Water Policy

SUMMARY

The 2023 Legislative Agenda outlines the principles and priorities that will guide AMWUA's actions throughout the session. These principles and priorities are consistent with the AMWUA Board's existing "Legislative Policies & Procedures" and the approved Annual and Strategic Plans. The 2023 Legislative Agenda does not preclude AMWUA from taking a broader action on legislation that may arise per AMWUA's 2015 legislative policies and procedures.

Adoption of the 2023 Legislative Agenda will provide a useful tool for each of the AMWUA members to incorporate into their individual legislative agendas and will increase collaboration and coordination between AMWUA staff and each member's InterGovs.

Following is AMWUA's proposed state Legislative Agenda for 2023. AMWUA staff will review this proposed legislative agenda with the Management Board at the October 12, 2022 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

It is requested that the AMWUA Management Board recommend to the AMWUA Board of Directors adoption of the proposed Legislative Agenda for the 2023 legislative session and consider including these issues into their respective municipal legislative agendas.

Suggested Motion: I move that the AMWUA Management Board recommend to the AMWUA Board of Directors approval and adoption of the proposed 2023 Legislative Agenda.

2023 AMWUA Legislative Agenda

Arizona State Agencies

Promote the efficient and effective performance of statutory responsibilities by the Arizona Department of Water Resources, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, and the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona.

Support legislation that encourages investment in water infrastructure, including statutory changes that promote the utilization of federal funds from the Water Infrastructure Financing Authority by local governments.

Arizona Water Management

Uphold and enhance the Groundwater Management Code, the 100-Year Assured Water Supply Program and the Phoenix AMA's Safe-yield Management Goal – all which protect our members' ability to serve their communities with assured, safe, and sustainable water supplies now and for future generations.

Colorado River Water

Support efforts to stabilize the Colorado River system while continuing to protect the existing priorities, rights, and contracts of our members' Colorado River water supplies.

Support measures that provide appropriate regulatory flexibility necessary for the AMWUA members to adapt to near-term Colorado River shortages and meet the water demands of their communities.

Water Efficiency and Conservation

Support legislation that promotes practical, effective water efficiency and conservation, particularly measures targeting reduction of outdoor water use.

Water Quality

Support legislative efforts to protect and improve the quality of AMWUA members' water supplies, including proposals to improve watershed management. Support a sustainable funding mechanism for the Arizona Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF). Support efforts that advance direct potable reuse of recycled water supplies.

MANAGEMENT BOARD

INFORMATION SUMMARY

October 12, 2022

AMWUA Outdoor Water Conservation Initiatives

ANNUAL 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.
- Further quantify savings from water conservation efforts.
- Engage in efforts to pursue demand management best practices and policies of the State and of our members and through commercial, industrial, and institutional efficiencies.
- Engage in regional, statewide, and national demand management efforts and elevate our members' programs including evaluating and improving the Smartscape Program.
- Sustain AMWUA's resource materials including publications and websites that are utilized by our members and the public including updating *Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert*.
- Expand promotion and visibility of existing and new AMWUA and member materials and programs along with the overall messaging about our water conservation efforts.

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, Minimize Financial Impact, Interconnect Disciplines

SUMMARY

AMWUA's Strategic and Annual Plans identify short and long-term goals of demonstrating leadership in water conservation efforts and assisting the member cities in achieving success in their respective programs. Last year, AMWUA staff collaborated with the members to develop a suite of outdoor water conservation ordinance concepts that could spur reductions in outdoor water use. On December 2, 2021, the AMWUA Board endorsed the six concepts and directed AMWUA staff to forward them to each municipality for consideration.

At the October 12, 2022 AMWUA Management Board meeting, staff will provide a refresher of the outdoor water conservation ordinance concepts approved last year, and will solicit input from the Management Board on the best approach for the AMWUA cities to implement outdoor water conservation initiatives in order to continue to demonstrate leadership from Arizona's municipal sector.

RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Management Board is requested to provide feedback to AMWUA staff on the best approach for implementing an outdoor water conservation related initiative.