

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

# ARIZONA MUNICIPAL WATER USERS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Updated MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Thursday, October 26, 2023 – 11:00 a.m.

This meeting will be held as a Hybrid meeting.

Attendance in person is welcomed; Others may join via Zoom.

Access this <u>Link</u> to join via Zoom. Meeting ID: 896 8866 2292 (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 28, 2023, Meeting
  - 2. Next Meeting Date: December 7, 2023 11:00 a.m.
  - 3. 2024 Legislative Agenda
  - 4. Governor's Water Policy Council
  - 5. Current Conservation Efforts
  - 6. Nominating Committee for AMWUA Board Officers for 2024
  - 7. Enlisting an IT/Website Consultant
- C. Executive Director's Report
- D. Future Agenda Items
- E. Adjournment

More information about AMWUA public meetings is available online at <a href="https://www.amwua.org/what-we-do/public-meetings">www.amwua.org/what-we-do/public-meetings</a>, or by request.

<sup>\*</sup>The order of the agenda may be altered or changed by the AMWUA Board of Directors. Members of the AMWUA Board of Directors may attend in person or by internet conferencing.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

September 28, 2023 HYBRID MEETING

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councilmember Bart Turner, Glendale, President
Councilmember Sheri Lauritano, Goodyear, Vice President
Council Member Mark Freeman, Mesa
Councilmember Curtis Nielson, Avondale
Councilwoman Ann O'Brien, Phoenix
Vice Mayor Matt Orlando, Chandler
Mayor David Ortega, Scottsdale

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Barry Aarons, Aarons Co. Liz Barker Alvarez, Avondale Alexis Apodaca, Chandler Amy Arguilez, Gilbert Kirk Beaty, Avondale Anthony Beckham, SRP Paul Bergelin, AMWUA Cynthia Campbell, Phoenix Craig Caggiano, City of Tempe Barbara Chappell, Goodyear Harry Cooper, AMWUA Ray Diaz, Goodyear
Kathleen Ferris, AMWUA
Laura Hixson, Town of Gilbert
Simone Kjolsrud, Chandler
Maegan Johnson, City of Phoenix
Jack Lunsford, Lunsford Group
Claude Mattox
Brad Moore, AMWUA
Jacob Perez Laurent, AMWUA

Ryan Peters, Chandler
Adam Santiago, Scottsdale
Tina Sleeper, Tempe
Drew Swieczkowski, Glendale
Warren Tenney, AMWUA
Sheri Trapp, AMWUA
Theresa Ulmer, Ulmer Consulting
Ginger Spencer, Phoenix
Tammi Watson, CAP
Adam Weichman, ASU

#### A. Call to Order

Councilmember Turner called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

## B. General Business – Items for Discussion and Possible Action

1. Approval of the Minutes from the August 24, 2023, Meeting

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Nielson and a second from Councilwoman O'Brien, the AMWUA Board of Directors unanimously approved the August 24, 2023 meeting minutes.

2. Schedule Next Meeting Date: Thursday, October 26, 2023 – 11:00 a.m.

There was brief discussion that the November 16, 2023 Board meeting conflicts with the National League of Cities Meeting and most board members plan to attend that conference. This item will be revisited at the October 26, 2023 meeting.

Arizona Municipal Water Users Association

## 3. Overview and Status of the Governor's Water Policy Council

Mr. Tenney reported that while the Governor's Water Policy Council has been discussed at the last couple of meetings, today's meeting is an opportunity to give a more in-depth presentation about the background and context of the Governor's Water Policy Council. Plus, we will provide a general overview of a proposal ADWR presented yesterday to the Assured Water Supply Committee.

Mr. Tenney said that the Governor's Water Council was tasked to look at Rural Ground Water issues along with Assured Water Supply issues in the AMAs.

The Rural Ground Committee is focusing on trying to develop a management framework for groundwater in rural communities beyond AMAs and INAs. They also exploring ways to require metering and reporting of groundwater pumping outside of AMAs and INAs.

Mr. Tenney explained that the Assured Water Supply Committee is reviewing and making recommendations for changes to AWS policies to address challenges raised by Phoenix AMA groundwater model projections released in June. The two tasks presented: 1) how to strengthen the assured program by closing gaps in coverage and 2) ensuring that future growth is not dependent on mined groundwater by exploring new ways to enable development in areas where growth has been paused.

Mr. Tenney recounted that in June, ADWR released its updated Phoenix AMA Groundwater Model. The model projects 4.9 million-acre-foot of unmet demand would occur by 2121. When there is an unmet demand, ADWR is required by statute to no longer issue any new certificates or designations for development. Some have tried to minimize this 4.9 million-acre-foot of unmet demand, but it's important to remember that the overdraft at the end of the 100-year period would be near 387,000 acre-feet per year which is double of what is happening today, and the groundwater levels are projected to drop by an average of 185 feet. Due to the model, ADWR has paused subdivision developments outside of designated providers – no development solely dependent upon groundwater. Development can continue in designated provider's service area, which includes all AMWUA cities because you have an Assured Water Supply designation and have the supplies to continue to develop.

Mr. Tenney shared a map of the Phoenix AMA model. The green highlighted areas are the AMWUA cities and additional providers who have designations. This is a large amount of area that can continue to develop. The blue is where certificates have been primarily issued and is where the development is on pause.

Earlier this month, the Assured Water Supply Committee reviewed several assumptions that were used as part of the Phoenix AMA Model and ADWR showed four different runs based on changing the assumption and the intent to address criticism that the model has received. None of those runs altered the trajectory that the Phoenix AMA is still facing a future with unmet demand.

Mr. Tenney explained that the challenges for the Assured Water Supply Committee is how do you enable development to continue where growth has been put on pause? How do we curb non-AWS pumping that has not been limited by the model's projections? Without a path forward for development, water will become increasingly politicized with the risk of undermining the AWS Program and too much flexibility for development risks undermining the AWS Program.

Paul Bergelin stated that the AWS Program requires developers of subdivided land to obtain a certificate of water service from designated providers. To demonstrate an assured water supply through either a designation or a certificate, the proposed sources of water must be physically available for 100 years and the model must show enough groundwater is physically available to meet 100 years' worth of demands. Designation of Assured Water Supply includes all water uses with the provider's service area, which covers everything from single family homes to industrial facilities. Also, service area of designated providers (such as the AMWUA cities) are still open for development. Certificates of Assured Water Supply is only for subdivided lands, primarily single family, for-sale housing and generally does not include multi-family, build-to-rent, commercial, industrial developments. Certificates are no longer being issued because of groundwater model.

Over the last couple of decades, developers have preferred pursuing areas outside designated providers using certificates based on groundwater because it has been easier because undeveloped desert land is less expensive, CAGRD replenishment is an easy mechanism for offsetting excess groundwater pumping, and it avoids dealing with municipal development policies and impact fees. Groundwater was considered physically available based on previous models, but that is no longer the case, so the status quo has been halted.

Mr. Bergelin shared that one concept that has been suggested is to move away from status quo and shift from certificates towards designations as a foundation for future development. Designation have many benefits, however, water providers including Buckeye, Queen Creek, and some private water systems have yet to become designated. This is because to become designated, a water provider has to assume responsibility for the groundwater not covered by AWS Program, the member lands currently replenished by CAGRD, have sufficient water supplies for future demand, and sufficient customer base for financing new supply acquisitions and necessary infrastructure. With these hurdles, that is why some water providers have remained undesignated.

Mr. Bergelin reported that at the September 27, 2023 AWS Committee meeting, ADWR unveiled a concept to address hurdles for designation to create an alternative path to designation. The concept is still in its early stage of development.

The provider could only pump at its 2021 levels each year under its designation. 2021 was selected because that was the final year of groundwater pumping data that the ADWR used when developing the Phoenix AMA model. A provider that is currently not designated can pump groundwater at even greater volumes, however, under this proposal, no new groundwater pumping would be allowed. The provider would be given a groundwater allowance (an amount yet to be determined) as done with previous designations. The provider would enroll as a member service area with the CAGRD and any pumping not covered by its groundwater allowance would then be replenished. The provider would determine when to use its groundwater allowance and when to make pumping subject to CAGRD replenishment.

Since the provider can't grow on groundwater, it would need to obtain new supplies under this new alternative pathway and avoid expending groundwater allowance and high costs of CAGRD replenishment. New water supplies include effluent, surface water, Colorado River water, CAP water, and transported groundwater not used in 2021. 30% of new water supplies will replace existing groundwater pumping to reduce groundwater reliance. ADWR will establish an expedited process for modifying a designation to add new water supplies, which will apply to all designated providers.

Mr. Bergelin shared that this concept has several benefits. It does not increase groundwater pumping, it reduces previous unconstrained non-AWS groundwater pumping, and development occurs within the designation framework. Concerns that still need to be addressed are the size of groundwater allowance needs to be determined, sufficiency of requiring 30% of new water supplies to offset groundwater pumping, and the impact to CAGRD's obligations.

The only way this alternative pathway can work is with an introduction of new supplies. There are several water sources that could be considered new supplies. The alternative pathway is meant to increase the motivation and ability to invest in new near-term water supplies for designations. Need to enhance WIFA's ability to acquire supplies. Near-Term water supplies necessary for any proposal to work include, transporting groundwater from the Harquahala INA, McMullen Valley, and Butler Valley, expanded Bartlett Dam water, Tribal leases, director potable reuse/advanced water purification, and LTSCs.

In response to a question, Mr. Tenney said that if we want to continue to thrive as a State we must continue to invest in water supplies and infrastructure. We made a good start last year with the Water Infrastructure Financing Authority, but we should be looking at ways that we can bolster those funds so that more creative ideas can be developed.

Councilmember Turner explained there are concerns over Build-To-Rent Housing because while they are covered under our designations because our designations cover all water uses, outside of designated service areas, those Build-To-Rent entities are not considered a subdivision and don't fall under the Assured Water Supply rules. He asked if that is correct? Mr. Bergelin said yes. Mr. Bergelin explained that after the Pinal Active Management Area Groundwater Model was released in 2019 and showed there was unmet demand and no more certificates could be issued, developers started switching to building the Build-to Rent properties because they were excluded under the Assured Water Supply Program. We are also starting to notice this in the Phoenix AMA as well. Councilmember Turner added that this is not a criticism of this style of housing, but we need to make sure there is water available to for both renters and homeowners.

Councilmember Orlando asked about a water provider's ability to finance for the new supplies and infrastructure? Mr. Tenney stated that ADWR had explained that they are approaching the financing the same way that current designations are required to. You must demonstrate that you have the financial capability to put to use the new supplies of water in the same way that existing designated providers have to show. As a designated provider, you have to decide how are you going to generate the finances appropriately to satisfy ADWR. Will you use impact fees or will you increase your rates? All of this has to be considered.

Councilmember Turner said that some undesignated communities working off certificates, may have 100% groundwater reliance and then what they do is pay the CAGRD money to find outside sources of water to replenish what they are using in groundwater and that's the part that is unstainable. Those communities who hope to grow by leaps and bounds, it's not sustainable for them to do it on groundwater only. How do we bring them into a model that works for all of us because when the Governor says no more building in areas that are relying on groundwater only, since this impacts all of us when national stories are claiming that there is no more water left and you can't grow anymore. That's far from the truth but that is the story that goes out.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked if we don't take this alternative path, it sounds like areas can continue to build and grow as long as they don't build single family homes, correct? Is there any legislation being considered to change that? Mr. Tenney responded that is the task that has been given to the

Assured Water Supply Committee. The groundwater pumping occurring today in Buckeye, Queen Creek, and other areas will continue as is and it can expand if they bring in Build-to-Ren Housing, industries, or multi-family housing, which are not under the Assured Water Supply Program. Councilwoman O'Brien said, for example, a designated provider can bring in any industry, subdivisions, or other development? Mr. Tenney said correct. Mr. Tenney said the challenge is place limitations and close some of the gaps in the Assured Water Supply Program that allows industries and businesses to use groundwater outside of a designated provider's service area

Mr. Bergelin added at the last legislative session there was an effort to bring Build-to-Rent properties into the Assured Water Supply Program, but nothing passed. However, there may be more political momentum in the next session to bring these properties into the Assured Water Supply Program. The Build-to-Rent property issue does not only affect the Phoenix and Pinal area, it is affecting Tucson and Prescott also.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked if there a reason why Build-to-Rent are in a different category than multi-family properties? Mr. Tenney said we need to go back to the mid 1990's when the Assured Water Program came about. At that time, it was envisioned that the bulk of growth was going to happen on subdivided land. It was not envisioned that there would be a lot of multi-family homes and Build-to-Rent was even not a concept. It wasn't envisioned that you would find large water using industries coming to Arizona outside of designated providers.

Ms. Ferris added in 1973 when the legislature decided that developers should show an adequate supply it was tied to the definition of subdivision in the real estate code and that has never been changed, and in 1980 it continued to be tied to the definition of subdivision. To change this, to cover Build-to-Rent as a subdivision, you have would have to change the definition of subdivision and this is hard to do. Subdivisions are not apartment buildings or Build-to-Rent homes but are single family for sale homes.

Councilmember Turner added that the Assured Water Supply Designation was to protect homebuyers who would come to the Valley selling homesites to people who lived out of state who would buy land but not know that they didn't have water. Doing this designation was a way to ensure that they had water. A renter was not seen at having the financial risk a homeowner would have. Councilwoman O'Brien added that she hopes from a political standpoint that we are looking at this differently because this is a disservice to community members whether they own or rent. Mr. Tenney emphasized that this is why moving toward a designated framework would be positive because it includes multi-family, Built-to-Rent, commercial, and industry properties.

Mayor Ortega added that Scottsdale is working to ensure that development occurs in a way that positive housing opportunities exists for its residents. This includes making sure that water resources are available. Scottsdale has been actively advocating for the federal government to accept the water quality standards so non-project water can be delivered through the CAP. This is important for everyone so that new water supplies can be available.

Councilmember Freeman asked what the timelines will be for these new water supplies? Mr. Tenney said that was not discussed but there is a lot of work necessary to bring new supplies for this proposal or any other similar proposal that may come forward. He believes the timeline could be anywhere from 5 to 20 years so it's important that the State be investing now in water supplies and infrastructure.

Brad Moore shared concepts for closing gaps in the AWS Program. Concepts discussed include incorporate Build-to-Rent developments into the AWS Program, address wildcat subdivisions, and retire grandfather rights. Industrial groundwater pumping is another loophole. He highlighted that the top percentage of Industrial groundwater users. Councilwoman O'Brien and Councilmember Turner asked if additional information could be provided about those industrial users Brad Moore said that it is available. Mr. Moore than noted ways that industrial groundwater users could be more responsible for their groundwater pumping. Mr. Tenney added that these are concepts we are hoping the Assured Water Committee will discuss. The AWS Committee will meet next on October 17<sup>th</sup>. The Governor's Water Council is scheduled to meet next on October 27<sup>th</sup>. As more proposals are presented to the Council, AMWUA will analyze and discuss with the WRAG, Management Board, and Board of Directors.

## C. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Tenney reported that the AMWUA Board supported seeking the Groundwater Users Advisory Council to recommend an increase to the groundwater withdrawal fee to ensure there is adequate funding to support long-standing and new conservation efforts funded through that fee. The Groundwater Users Advisory Council did recommend a 5-cent increase to the fee. This was the amount that ADWR staff was the minimal needed to keep the Water Management Assistance Program in the black.

Mr. Tenney explained that Reclamation received over 200 letters commenting on the process for developing the post-2026 operating guidelines. The Basin States are tasked with developing its own proposal for post-2026 operational guidelines by March so that it can be considered in Reclamation's overall formal process. Finding consensus among the Basin States and among Arizona's water users will be a huge lift.

## D. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were requested.

## E. Adjournment

Councilmember Turner adjourned the meeting at 12:29p.m.



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

October 26, 2023

## 2024 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 2024 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 2024 Legislative Agenda does not preclude AMWUA from taking a broader action on legislation that may arise per AMWUA's 2015 legislative policies and procedures.

The 2024 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.

The following is AMWUA's proposed state Legislative Agenda for 2024. AMWUA staff will review this proposed legislative agenda with the AMWUA Board at the October 26, 2023 meeting.

## 2024 AMWUA Legislative Agenda

## **Municipal Water Providers**

Promote the fact that the AMWUA cities are open for business because they have demonstrated a 100-year assured water supply, do not rely solely on groundwater, and continually manage and invest in their water supplies and infrastructure.

Educate and emphasize that municipal water providers are ultimately responsible for providing water to their communities. Advocate for the Legislature to only take action that supports the ability of municipal water providers to meet their responsibility to provide for the long-term viability of their communities.

## **Arizona State Agencies**

Promote the ability of the Arizona Department of Water Resources and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to perform effectively their statutory responsibilities including through the retention of staff.

Advocate for further investment in water supplies, infrastructure, and conservation through the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona and using its funds only for their intended purposes.

## **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 reliable water supplies now and for future generations.

## **Colorado River**

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.

## **Water Efficiency and Conservation**

Support legislation that promotes practical, effective water efficiency and conservation.

## **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 further advanced water purification.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The AMWUA Management Board recommends that the Board of Directors adopt the proposed Legislative Agenda for the 2024 legislative session and consider including these issues into their respective municipal legislative agendas.

Suggested Motion: I move that the Board of Directors approve the adoption of the proposed 2024 Legislative Agenda.



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

## INFORMATION SUMMARY

October 26, 2023

## **Governor's Water Policy Council**

### **ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE**

## **Sustainable Water Management**

Promote efforts and policies that will sustain and safeguard our members' water resources and prepare for critical water management issues.

• Governor's Water Council – Actively protect and promote our members' perspectives. 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, Pursue Post-2025 Water Policy

### **SUMMARY**

Governor Hobbs has established her Water Policy Council to update the tools available for managing groundwater by proposing changes to the Assured Water Supply Program and improving management of rural groundwater. The Governor is asking the Water Council to review and make recommendations by the end of 2023 that would improve challenges facing both issues. Subsequently, the Council has been divided into two committees to develop proposals for the Assured Water Supply Program and rural groundwater.

The Assured Water Supply Committee is tasked to close gaps in the Assured Water Supply Program and find a path for developing on the periphery of the Valley where new certificates have bene paused. Both are to be accomplished in a way that does not weaken the overall Program. At the September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee, ADWR presented its concept for an alternative path to designation.

AMWUA staff will give an update on the Governor's Water Policy Council and the Assured Water Supply Committee and review ADWR's proposal for an alternative path to designation.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The AMWUA Board is encouraged to ask questions and discuss the current activities regarding the Governor's Water Policy Council.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS INFORMATION SUMMARY

October 26, 2023

## **Current Conservation Efforts**

## **ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE**

## **Conservation & Efficiency**

Excel as a leader in water conservation by assisting our members with strategizing their program implementation and coordinating awareness about ongoing and new conservation efforts that enhance water resource supply sustainability.

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 staff will update the Management Board about AMWUA's recent efforts to advance conservation as well as promote the collective conservation and efficiency accomplishments of the AMWUA members.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Board is encouraged to ask questions and discuss AMWUA's current conservation efforts.



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

INFORMATION SUMMARY
October 26, 2023

## **Nominating Committee for AMWUA Board Officers for 2024**

## STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE

Operational Principles – Facilitate our Strength in Numbers

## **SUMMARY**

The AMWUA Board of Directors is to elect a President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer by its December meeting. The officers serve from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. To meet this requirement, the current President of the Board is to appoint a three-member nominating committee to recommend a slate of officers.

According to the AMWUA By-laws, the officers are to each have served on the current Board of Directors at least from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Each officer must be able to serve for a one year period. Each officer also may serve a maximum of two consecutive years in the same position. A member of the Board of Directors may serve a maximum of six consecutive years as an officer.

Each of the Board members meet the requirements to serve as President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer, except that the current officers of Councilmember Turner as President, Councilmember Lauritano as Vice-President, and Councilmember Anderson as Secretary-Treasurer have each served for two consecutive years and would not be able serve in their current respective position in 2024.

Any Board member who is interested in serving as an officer and meets the above-noted requirements should submit a letter by November 10<sup>th</sup> to the Executive Director. All letters of interest will be forwarded to the appointed nominating committee.

### RECOMMENDATION

The President of the AMWUA Board of Directors is requested to appoint three members of the Board as a nominating committee to recommend a slate of officers for President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer for calendar year 2024.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS INFORMATION SUMMARY

October 26, 2023

## **Enlisting an IT/Website Consultant**

### **ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE**

## **Enhanced Communication**

Advance how AMWUA conveys the municipal perspective on water, stays in front of water issues, and better communicates and personalizes the impact to the average citizen.

- Work with member and partner PIOs and communications staff to facilitate information exchange, identify shared challenges and opportunities, and enhance messaging coordination on water resource issues and the importance of conservation.
- Facilitate the coordination of regional messaging to ensure the public and decision-makers understand the wide range of implications of reduced Colorado River water for municipalities.
- Maximize AMWUA's various communication platforms, including website, weekly blog, social media, and public presentations and events.

Strategic Plan: Educate – Facilitate our Strength in Numbers, Excel as an Expert and Resource, Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Interconnect Disciplines

## **SUMMARY**

The AMWUA website is an important tool for advancing the municipal perspective on water issues and for educating about water conservation. This month, AMWUA has encountered difficulties in keeping its website secure, which has created problems for both AMWUA and its members. While staff believes the immediate problems have been corrected, the whole situation has emphasized the need for a better long-term security plan to ensure effective web support and protection. To accomplish this objective, AMWUA staff would like to secure the services of a consultant to do diagnostics on our website to ensure our current status is secure as well as to develop a strategy for better protecting the website.

Since hiring a consultant would be outside of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget's expenses, staff is requesting the AMWUA Board's approval to utilize monies from the reserve fund. The reserve fund can be used for professional services that fall outside of the normal operations of AMWUA. Staff is currently reaching out to consultants to determine which one would best work with AMWUA. The intention is to have a cost range by the October 26, 2023 meeting.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The AMWUA Board is requested to approve a no-more than amount from the reserve fund to enlist the services of a consultant to improve the overall security of AMWUA's website. Staff will present the amount that it would like approval for when this item is discussed at the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.