



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

ARIZONA MUNICIPAL WATER USERS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

September 25, 2025 @ 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 [Link](#) to join via Zoom. Meeting ID: 865 3483 4377**
(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 for the August 28, 2025 Meeting
 - 2. Next Meeting Date: October 23, 2025 @ 11:00 a.m.
 - 3. Post-2026 Colorado River Operations
 - 4. Lessons from 2019 Drought Contingency Plan
 - 5. AMWUA's Currents Conservation Efforts
- C. Executive Director's Report**
- D. Future Agenda Items**
- E. Adjournment**

*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.

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

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
August 28, 2025
HYBRID MEETING**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Scott Anderson, Gilbert, President
Councilwoman Kesha Hodge Washington, Phoenix, Secretary/Treasurer
Vice Mayor Curtis Nielson, Avondale
Councilmember Matt Orlando, Chandler
Councilmember Laura Kaino, Goodyear
Vice Mayor Jennifer Crawford, Peoria
Councilmember Nikki Amberg, Tempe

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mayor Mark Freeman, Mesa, Vice President
Councilmember Bart Turner, Glendale

AMWUA Staff

Michelle Barclay, AMWUA	Caitlyn Hall, AMWUA	Sheri Trapp, AMWUA
Paul Bergelin, AMWUA	Rhett Larson, AMWUA	
Tyenesha Fields, AMWUA	Warren Tenney, AMWUA	

A. Call to Order

Mayor Scott Anderson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

B. General Business – Items for Discussion and Possible Action

1. Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes from the June 18, 2025 Meeting

Upon a motion made by Vice Mayor Curtis Nielson, and a second made by Councilmember Nikki Amberg the AMWUA Board of Directors unanimously approved the June 26, 2025 meeting minutes.

2. **Approval of the Minutes from the June 26, 2025 Meeting**

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Nikki Amberg and a second made by Councilmember Laura Kaino, the AMWUA Board of Directors unanimously approved the June 26, 2025 meeting minutes.

3. **Next Meeting Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.**

4. **2025 Colorado River Post-2026 Operations**

AMWUA's Executive Director Warren Tenney provided an update on the Colorado River, highlighting growing uncertainty as the 2026 operating guidelines approach and water supplies continue to decline. He explained that drought, hotter and drier climate conditions, and overallocation have reduced river flows from a long-term average of 14.6 million acre-feet to about 12.4 million acre-feet in the past 25 years, with projections suggesting it could drop further. Reservoir storage has fallen significantly, with Lake Mead and Lake Powell each at just 31% capacity. The Basin States continue to negotiate, but no consensus has been achieved. The Department of the Interior has said it will impose action if the Basin States fail to reach agreement. Mr. Tenney reported on a new concept, "supply-driven", that is being considered. He also noted that the Lower Basin States' alternative that proposes a 1.5-million-acre-foot reduction is being seen as the most likely reduction in the Lower Basin States under different scenarios. This would translate to a 20% cut for CAP municipal and industrial users. Mr. Tenney emphasized that this uncertainty makes it difficult for cities to plan but also presents an opportunity to reinforce the importance of water in decision-making, expand conservation, invest in infrastructure, and strengthen partnerships to ensure long-term resilience.

Mayor Curtis Nielson asked why Arizona is expected to take the biggest hit in reductions compared to other states. Mr. Tenney explained that Arizona faces deeper cuts largely because the Central Arizona Project (CAP) has junior priority rights, meaning it is legally the first to be curtailed in times of shortage. While it is politically unlikely that CAP would be completely shut off, this position has historically pushed Arizona to step forward in negotiations and emphasize collaboration, since turning off CAP alone cannot solve the river's overall challenges. He noted that current cooperation between Arizona and California is encouraging, especially given past conflicts.

Councilmember Matt Orlando then asked when the next meetings among the Basin States would occur. Mr. Tenney responded that he understood they are meeting about every two weeks, with added urgency from the federal government's deadline of November 11 for an agreement..

Mayor Scott Anderson asked about CAP's communication coalition. Mr. Tenney reported it a CAP-led effort designed to draw attention to the importance of Colorado River water to central and southern Arizona. It is a messaging campaign including videos featuring mayors, aimed at highlighting that water security is not only vital to our communities' way of life but also to the state and national economy.

Councilwoman Kesha Hodge Washington asked why California appears to be cooperating more closely with Arizona at this time. Mr. Tenney responded that California recognizes the overall stress on the Colorado River system, how its urban areas could be impacted, and the long-term benefits of collaborative management. The current partnership between Arizona and California is a positive development.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington further asked what might happen if the basin states fail to reach a consensus agreement by the November 11 deadline, particularly given ongoing federal leadership vacancies. Mr. Tenney explained that, in such a case, the Secretary of the Interior would determine how the river will be managed beginning in 2027. This would create significant uncertainty, as it is unclear whether the federal government would adopt a supply-driven concept, manage on a year-to-year basis, or focus only on the Lower Basin states. He also noted the increased risk of litigation, though federal management would likely continue even with lawsuits. Mr. Tenney expressed concern that the Upper Basin states have not fully engaged in compromise, which undermines the collaborative progress that has historically set the Colorado River's management apart from other river systems.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington agreed that the uncertainty will only deepen without consensus, and supported efforts to push the Upper Basin states toward recognizing the risks. She emphasized that a mediated agreement would be preferable to litigation, which could result in lengthy delays and unpredictable outcomes

5. Designations of Assured Water Supply

Mr. Tenney provided an update on the status of Designations of Assured Water Supply, noting that all AMWUA cities have historically demonstrated a 100-year supply and submitted renewal applications last year, as required every 10–15 years. These designations are fundamental to Arizona's water security and economy, ensuring development follows the principle of "water first, then development." Designations protect consumers and businesses, support municipal bond ratings, and have enabled industries and businesses that generate roughly 85% of Arizona's GDP.

He explained that designations apply across an entire service area—covering residential, commercial, and industrial uses—making them critical to long-term planning. By contrast, development outside of designated providers must rely on certificates, which generally apply only to single-family subdivisions. Following ADWR's 2023 groundwater model showing long-term groundwater deficits in the Phoenix AMA, subdivision

development outside of designated areas has effectively halted, further underscoring the importance of designations.

Mr. Tenney reported that while ADWR has until the end of 2025 to complete reviewing the redesignations but progress has slowed due to workload pressures and prioritization of alternative designation (ADAWS) applications. To address concerns about the delay, ADWR has issued written confirmation that existing designations remain valid while applications are under review. This is important since designations are essential to water security, and economic vitality in Arizona.

C. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Tenney noted that SRP's Salt and Verde watersheds have experienced poor runoff from both the winter snowpack and summer monsoon, leaving the SRP reservoir system at 55% capacity compared to 80% at this time last year. As a result, SRP will adjust deliveries by reducing surface water use and increasing reliance on groundwater.

AMWUA's new partnership with KTAR has launched, featuring a branded Water Watch webpage, banner ads, social media tags, and weekly water news highlights labeled "brought to you by AMWUA."

He also reported strong interest in the Government Relations Director position, with first-round interviews completed and the role expected to be filled by the end of September.

D. Future Agenda Items

There were no requested future agenda items.

E. Executive Session

Upon a motion made by Vice Mayor Curtis Nielson and seconded by Councilmember Matt Orlando, the AMWUA Board of Directors entered Executive Session at 11:52 a.m.

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38.431.03.A.3 and 4, the AMWUA Board of Directors may vote to convene in Executive Session to discuss and consult for legal advice with AMWUA's legal counsel and consider its position on HBACA v ADWR CV2025-002623.

The AMWUA Board returned to regular session at 12:34 p.m.

F. Consideration of Action Pursuant to Executive Session

Councilmember Matt Orlando made the motion to approve the drafting and filing of an amicus brief in support of the Arizona Department of Water Resources' position in the Home Builders Association of Central Arizona vs ADWR lawsuit filed in January 2025. AMWUA's legal counsel is directed to emphasize the economic benefit and consumer

protection by the Assured Water Supply Program and ADWR's management of groundwater, which AMWUA's members complied with over the last four decades by continuing to collectively invest billions in their water resources and infrastructure.

Councilmember Nikki Amberg seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

G. Adjournment

Mayor Anderson adjourned the meeting at 12:35 pm.

AMWUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INFORMATION SUMMARY

September 25, 2025

Post-2026 Colorado River Operations

ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

Colorado River Transition

Assist, monitor, and coordinate the impacts of reduced Colorado River water to ensure our members' interests are forefront.

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

SUMMARY

Last month, the US Bureau of Reclamation announced that Lake Mead would continue to be at a Tier 1 shortage in 2026. More importantly, next year is the last year for the Colorado River system to be managed under the current 2007 interim guidelines. There continues to be no certainty for how the river will be managed beginning in 2027. The seven Basin States are still meeting but there is no indication of consensus between the Upper and Lower Basins. The United States has told the Basin States that if they have not reached an agreement by November 11, 2025, Reclamation will move forward with an alternative. Plus, the river's hydrology continues to confirm that the Colorado River is producing less water. This year's projected unregulated runoff inflow into Lake Powell is 50% despite the snowpack in the upper Colorado River Basin being nearly average this winter.

AMWUA staff will provide an update about the Colorado River negotiations and hydrology.

RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Board of Directors is requested to ask questions and discuss the Colorado River situation.

AMWUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INFORMATION SUMMARY

September 25, 2025

Lessons from the Drought Contingency Plan

ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

Colorado River Transition

Assist, monitor, and coordinate the impacts of reduced Colorado River water to ensure our members' interests are forefront.

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

SUMMARY

As Arizona faces Colorado River reductions after 2026, we want to revisit the development of the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) and how DCP shortage reductions were both implemented and mitigated in Arizona. AMWUA staff will present an overview about DCP, and the lessons learned.

RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Board of Directors is requested to ask questions and discuss the Drought Contingency Plan.

AMWUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INFORMATION SUMMARY

September 25, 2025

AMWUA's Current Conservation Efforts

ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

Conservation & Demand Management

Excel as a leader in water conservation by effectively strategizing with members on program development and implementation and coordinating awareness about conservation efforts to enhance sustainable water resources.

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

Colorado River Transition

Assist, monitor, and coordinate the impacts of reduced Colorado River water to ensure our members' interests are forefront.

- Facilitate opportunities to assist and synchronize continuing preparation for less Colorado River water.

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

SUMMARY

AMWUA staff will report on current conservation efforts we have been pursuing including working with its members' conservation teams to identify demand management actions that would be beneficial with Colorado River reductions after 2026. AMWUA staff will share about this effort and about other conservation efforts.

RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Board of Directors is requested to ask questions and discuss AMWUA's conservation efforts.