



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

ARIZONA MUNICIPAL WATER USERS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

October 22, 2026 – 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 September 24, 2026 Meeting
2. Next Meeting Date: November 19, 2026 @ 11:00 a.m.
3. Post-2026 Colorado River Operations and Impacts for Arizona
4. 2027 Legislative Agenda
5. Overview of New Water Supplies
6. Regional Messaging Campaign

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
September 24, 2026
HYBRID MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Scott Anderson, Gilbert, President
Vice Mayor Kesha Hodge Washington, Phoenix, Secretary/Treasurer
Vice Mayor Curtis Nielson, Avondale
Vice Mayor Ray Malnar, Glendale
Councilmember Laura Kaino, Goodyear
Vice Mayor Michael Finn, Peoria
Mayor Lisa Borowsky, Scottsdale
Councilmember Nikki Amberg, Tempe

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mayor Mark Freeman, Mesa, Vice President
Councilmember Matt Orlando, Chandler

AMWUA STAFF PRESENT

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

A. Call to Order

Mayor Scott Anderson called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

B. General Business – Items for Discussion and Possible Action

1. Approval of the Minutes from the August 27, 2026, Meeting

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Michael Finn, seconded by Vice Mayor Curtis Nielson, the AMWUA Board of Directors unanimously approved the August 27, 2026, Board of Directors meeting minutes.

2. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, October 22, 2026, @ 11:00 a.m.

3. Post-2026 Colorado River Operations and Impacts for Arizona

Paul Bergelin, AMWUA's Water Policy Advisor, provided an update on the 2027–2028 Colorado River operating guidelines, including Arizona's anticipated 760,000-acre-foot reduction. Mr. Bergelin explained that CAP's proposed mitigation measures could reduce CAP municipal and industrial pool by 14% and Indian priority pool cuts to 10%, pending completion of Lower Basin Agreement. Mr. Bergelin noted that reservoir elevations, releases from Lake Powell, and snowpack could affect the need for additional reductions.

Mr. Bergelin also reported on Nevada's pending lawsuit and the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board's authorization to pursue legal action, if necessary. Mr. Bergelin noted that the Lower Basin States continue finalizing the implementation agreement and that Arizona legislative approval would require a special session. Mr. Bergelin emphasized it will be critical to meet community water demands and bring new supplies online over the next decade.

Vice Mayor Curtis Nielson asked how actual municipal water use had changed with population growth despite that it is touted that the AMWUA cities use only 11% share. Warren Tenney, AMWUA's Executive Director, clarified that AMWUA cities collectively use 11% of Arizona's total water and approximately the same volume as in 2000, despite adding one million residents. Mr. Tenney emphasized that worsening hydrology and reduced supplies are driving current challenges more than population growth.

4. Wet-Credit Water Exchange

Mr. Tenney explained that the proposed credit-for-water exchange would allow municipalities to exchange long-term storage credits for wet water, increasing flexibility during Colorado River reductions. Mr. Tenney requested Board support for continued development with stakeholders, with eventual legislative language to return to the Board for approval.

Mr. Bergelin presented the concept, explaining the current requirements for exchanging water between two users and noted that stored water must be first recovered before exchanging, which can create permitting, infrastructure, and cost barriers. The proposed new exchange concept would simplify transactions by allowing long-term storage credits to be exchanged for wet water. This would allow providers to defer recovery and help municipalities support one another during shortages. Mr. Bergelin outlined potential exchanges involving Peoria and Cave Creek, and Gilbert and Queen Creek, along with proposed safeguards addressing eligible supplies, credit resale, and recovery conditions. Mr. Bergelin noted that AMWUA is working with ADWR and member city staff to develop the proposal into legislation.

Vice Mayor Curtis Nielson asked how water would physically be delivered under the proposed Peoria–Cave Creek exchange. Mr. Bergelin explained that Cave Creek could receive CAP water through its existing turnout and usual delivery system.

Vice Mayor Kesha Hodge Washington expressed support for the proposal, emphasizing the opportunity for AMWUA to develop legislation and shape water policy rather than solely respond to legislative actions.

Vice Mayor Ray Malnar expressed support for the proposal and emphasized that prohibiting credit resale would be a critical safeguard. Vice Mayor Michael Finn also expressed support, noting that the Peoria example of working with Cave Creek clarified how the proposed exchange differs from arrangements permitted under current law.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Kesha Hodge Washington, seconded by Vice Mayor Curtis Nielson, the AMWUA Board of Directors supported the development of the credit-for-wet-water exchange.

5. Secure Water Arizona Program

Mr. Tenney explained that flexibility in using existing water supplies will be essential to meeting municipal demands during Colorado River shortages while new supplies are developed. Mr. Tenney requested Board support for the Secure Water Arizona Program, a voluntary framework developed by Phoenix and Tucson, to allow AMWUA to advocate for its implementation and communicate its benefits to water agencies, legislators, and the business community.

Max Wilson, City of Phoenix, presented an update on the voluntary Secure Water Arizona Program, developed by Phoenix and Tucson to address water providers' differing exposure to Colorado River shortages. Dr. Wilson outlined three components: an emergency reserve, a reduction offset program, and a water sharing program.

Dr. Wilson explained that Phase One is targeted to launch in January 2027, establishing the emergency reserve and a framework for initial projects while participants develop Phase Two. Outstanding issues include emergency eligibility, limits on reserve access, and repayment terms. Dr. Wilson noted that participant authorizations are underway, with full implementation targeted within 12 to 18 months ahead of potentially greater Colorado River reductions.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Kesha Hodge Washington, seconded by Vice Mayor Michael Finn, the AMWUA Board of Directors supported Phase One of the Secure Water Arizona Program and the development of Phase Two.

6. AMWUA Communication Update

Sheri Trapp, AMWUA's Communications Director, reported on member cities' efforts to communicate water security investments and preparations for Colorado River reductions. Ms. Trapp highlighted increased audience engagement through the KTAR partnership and encouraged continued outreach to share the municipal perspective.

Ms. Trapp also reviewed work with conservation staff to develop targeted messaging that reduces outdoor water waste and encourages behavior change. Ms. Trapp noted that outdoor use can account for up to 65% of household water use and highlighted resources including the water waste webpage, simplified watering guidelines, and an upcoming redesigned landscaping book. Ms. Trapp outlined plans to distribute the book, expand conservation messaging, and pursue additional outreach opportunities.

C. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Tenney reported that SRP's reservoir system was 47% full, compared with 53% a year earlier.

Mr. Tenney also reported that AMWUA and the Southern and Northern Arizona water users associations jointly held a virtual Water Security 101 presentation attended by 29 legislators and candidates.

D. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were requested.

E. Adjournment

Mayor Scott Anderson adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

AMWUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INFORMATION SUMMARY

October 22, 2026

Post-2026 Colorado River Operations and Impacts for Arizona

ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

Sustainable Water Management

Promote policies and actions to sustain and safeguard members' water resources by preparing for Colorado River reductions and managing a stressed aquifer.

- Analyze and evaluate developments related to post-2026 Colorado River operations and their implications for CAP deliveries in 2027.

SUMMARY

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has issued its Record of Decision for the Colorado River management framework from 2027 to 2036 and the specific operating guidelines for 2027 and 2028. Reclamation will determine operations and deliveries every two years within its 10-year framework based on a wide range of parameters. The most significant restriction is imposing up to 3 million-acre feet of reductions annually on the Lower Basin States by priority. This means CAP would be cut first under this framework.

Reclamation has agreed to most of the Lower Basin Proposal for operating the river in 2027 and 2028. Arizona, California, and Nevada would share an annual reduction of 1.25 million acre-feet in 2027 and 2028, which equates to a 760,000 AF cut to Arizona in each of those years. Additionally, Nevada will contribute 100,000 acre-feet and Arizona and California each will contribute at least 300,000 acre-feet to leave in Lake Mead through 2028.

The 2027 and 2028 operating guidelines are contingent upon the Lower Basin States completing an implementation agreement to formalize sharing annually the cut of 1.25 million acre-feet those two years. The lawsuit filed by Nevada against the federal government regarding Reclamation's 10-year framework has complicated drafting an agreement. The three states each say they want the agreement for 2027-2028 operations and are to be working on it. This also includes formalizing the contributions from each state for leaving water in Lake Mead through 2028. If this agreement is not approved, CAP has warned that it could face a 1.1 million acre-foot cut, which would reduce the M&I subcontracts by 50%.

In the meantime, overall system storage, inflows into Lake Powell, and other intervening flows into the Colorado River remain historically low.

AMWUA staff will provide an update about the Colorado River situation and its impact on Arizona at the October 22, 2026 Board of Directors meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Board of Directors is requested to ask questions and discuss the Colorado River situation including its hydrology, federal action, the Lower Basin agreement, and post-2026 impacts on Arizona.

AMWUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INFORMATION SUMMARY

October 22, 2026

2027 Legislative Agenda

ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

Legislation

Actively advocate for the municipal water perspective at the Legislature.

- Engage in state and federal legislation aligned with the Legislative Agenda and our members' collective interests.
- Position AMWUA as the premier voice on municipal water issues at the Legislature.

SUMMARY

The 2027 Legislative Agenda outlines the principles and priorities that will guide AMWUA's legislative action in a post-2026 Colorado River world and is aligned with the 2027 Annual Plan. AMWUA members may use the agenda as a reference when developing their individual legislative agendas to increase regional collaboration and coordination.

Attached is AMWUA's proposed state Legislative Agenda for 2027, which AMWUA staff will review with the AMWUA Board of Directors at the October 22nd meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Management Board recommended that the AMWUA Board of Directors adopt the proposed 2027 Legislative Agenda for the upcoming legislative session.

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the AMWUA Board of Directors adopt the proposed 2027 Legislative Agenda.



2027 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

AMWUA will advocate that legislators:

- Recognize that municipal water providers supply the water security essential for Arizona's thriving economy.
- Understand that successfully navigating a post-2026 Colorado River world requires bringing new water supplies online within the next 10 years while taking actions to ensure water providers can continue meeting their communities' demands in the interim.

AMWUA supports legislation that:

Empowers Municipal Water Providers

- Protects municipal water providers' ability to manage their water resources and infrastructure to reliably serve their customers.
- Allows municipal providers the regulatory flexibility to meet demands during Colorado River shortages while protecting the aquifer.
- Protects cities' access to their water supplies, including stored water and Arizona Water Banking Authority firming credits.

Invests in Arizona's Water Future

- Establishes a revenue source dedicated solely to funding the acquisition and development of new water supplies and infrastructure.
- Supports municipal water providers' water supply and infrastructure projects, including Bartlett Dam expansion and Advanced Water Purification.

Supports Sustainable Water Management

- Effectively manages existing and new state water resources to strengthen Arizona's long-term water security.
- Promotes aquifer sustainability in a post-2026 Colorado River world.
- Advocates for state agencies to efficiently and proactively manage state water resources in partnership with municipal water providers.

Promotes Water Conservation

- Advances practical, effective water efficiency and conservation efforts.

Ensures Safe Drinking Water

- Preserves and enhances the quality of members' water supplies, including proposals to improve watershed management.
- Appropriates funding to remedy water quality issues.

AMWUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INFORMATION SUMMARY

October 22, 2026

Overview of New Water Supplies

ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

Sustainable Water Management

Promote policies and actions to sustain and safeguard members' water resources by preparing for Colorado River reductions and managing a stressed aquifer.

- Support efforts for development of new water supplies and necessary infrastructure and advocate for establishment of a dedicated revenue source to ensure Arizona's long-term water security.

SUMMARY

Developing new water supplies will be critical for offsetting Colorado River reductions to meet current and projected demands, not relying on long-term groundwater pumping, and demonstrating Arizona's long-term water security. Advanced Water Purification (AWP) and expansion of Bartlett Dam have been the most discussed water projects, but other projects are also at play.

AMWUA staff has compiled an overview of various water projects that have either been proposed or are under development. This overview will include information on potential costs and timelines for implementation and is intended to increase awareness about the range of new supplies that our members can pursue while facilitating discussion about those projects that would be most viable.

RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Board of Directors is encouraged to discuss and ask questions about the overview of new water supplies presented by AMWUA staff.

AMWUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INFORMATION SUMMARY

October 22, 2026

Regional Messaging Campaign

ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

Strategic Outreach & Communications

Simplify complex water issues and clearly link policy impacts to residents' daily lives to strengthen AMWUA's influence.

- Leverage strategic media partnerships to proactively inform the public and decision-makers about long-term water security.
- Develop post-2026 Colorado River messaging and coordinate with members and partner agencies to present a unified front to a broader audience.

Demand Management

Help cities respond swiftly and effectively during drought and shortage by maximizing demand management.

- Strengthen coordinated implementation of demand management actions across members and increase engagement in state and national policy discussions.

SUMMARY

With reduced Colorado River supplies, the AMWUA cities need the support of their residents - from investments in new supplies and infrastructure to helping them use less water, ~~specifically outdoors~~. Recent polls indicate more than two-thirds of voters are concerned Arizona won't have enough water for its future. Communicating effectively with the public will be critical as the AMWUA cities navigate this new water reality.

A cost-effective way to increase public engagement would be for AMWUA to launch a regional messaging campaign to reduce demand, particularly outdoor usage. The main goal of a regional campaign would be to motivate behavior change through consistent messaging across the Valley while increasing participation in AMWUA cities' conservation programs, from rebates to classes. Another benefit is responding to residents who question why water providers are not doing more in conservation. The visibility of a regional messaging campaign is why Southern Nevada Water Authority is seen as doing more on conservation than others. Plus, a ten-city campaign allows greater saturation with a wider reach across one media market.

The idea for a regional messaging campaign grew out of discussions with the AMWUA city managers, who asked AMWUA staff to assess what it would take to launch such an effort. The

city managers recognized that upcoming Colorado River cuts require more than awareness — we need behavior change to reduce demand.

To follow up on that request, the AMWUA team proposes initiating an RFP process to gather more detailed information on what could be achieved by hiring an agency for a one-year regional campaign. The agency would conduct baseline research, develop research-based messaging, establish clear metrics to measure long-term impact, and target a campaign launch in April 2027 to align with pre-summer prep, before outdoor usage spikes.

Based on initial research using an estimated \$750,000 budget, this one-year timeframe would include a 12-week peak water-use period, from April to July, using digital streaming, radio, and potentially freeway billboards. The campaign would also include a shorter fall campaign for September and October to promote fall-watering scheduling and the importance of skipping overseeding lawns. The estimated \$750,000 budget would be separate from AMWUA's current operating budget, and each city would pay one-tenth.

At the end of the year, the campaign's effectiveness would be evaluated by reduction in outdoor demand vs. the pre-campaign baseline; increased participation in city conservation programs; and message comprehension and favorability, using the pre-campaign baseline and tracking surveys mid- and post-campaign. The campaign could be renewed and used to advance other messaging that supports and explains the municipal perspective.

The selected agency would be expected to provide recommendations to ensure the campaign is effective and measurable, with a more detailed strategy and budget than our initial research. We recognize that launching a campaign in April 2027 is aggressive, but our new water reality requires bold action.

To increase success, the goal will be to maximize message saturation and stretch the investment; therefore, it will be critical to maintain a consistent regional message with local flexibility, which will allow promotion of rebates and incentives while maximizing city platforms, including billboards, bill inserts, e-newsletters, websites, social, and city facilities to reach every utility customer across all ten cities. AMWUA and its members can also increase the campaign's visibility by reaching out to business community partners, landscaping associations, HOAs, nurseries, etc. AMWUA will also pursue earned media opportunities to further expand the campaign.

The AMWUA team will present a more detailed overview of this regional messaging campaign initiative at the October 22, 2026 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Board of Directors is requested to discuss and ask questions about establishing an AMWUA-led messaging campaign. The Board is requested to support an RFP process to select an agency that will provide a more detailed campaign outline before AMWUA staff provides a final recommendation on agency selection and a finalized budget.