



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

ARIZONA MUNICIPAL WATER USERS ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT BOARD

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

October 8, 2025 – 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: 815 3667 5632
(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 9, 2025 Meeting
2. Next Meeting Date: November 12, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.
3. Post-2026 Colorado River Operations
4. Update on Efforts to Develop New Supplies
 - a. Water Infrastructure Finance Authority's Long-Term Augmentation Fund
 - b. Expansion of Bartlett Dam
 - c. Advanced Water Purification
 - d. Other

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

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**MANAGEMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2025
HYBRID MEETING**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kirk Beaty, Avondale, Chair
David Burks, Peoria, Vice Chair
Jeremy Abbott, Chandler
Jessica Marlow, Gilbert
Ron Serio, Glendale
Barbara Chappell, Goodyear
Nicole Petker, Mesa
Brandy Kelso, Phoenix
Kira Peters, Scottsdale
Tara Ford, Tempe

AMWUA STAFF PRESENT

Michelle Barclay, AMWUA
Paul Bergelin, AMWUA

Tyenesha Fields, AMWUA
Caitlyn Hall, AMWUA

Warren Tenney, AMWUA
Sheri Trapp, AMWUA

A. Call to Order

Kirk Beaty called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

B. General Business – Items for Discussion and Possible Action

1. Approval of the Minutes from the August 13, 2025, Meeting

Upon a motion made by Barbara Chappell, and a second made by Ron Serio, the AMWUA Management Board unanimously approved the August 13, 2025 meeting minutes. minutes.

2. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 8th, at 10:00 a.m.

3. Post-2026 Colorado River Operations Drought Plan

Warren Tenney, Executive Director, reported that negotiations between the Upper and Lower Basin States remain far apart, though they continue to meet. If no agreement is reached by November 11, the federal government has indicated it will impose a decision. The Lower Basin States have been pushing for collaboration and reminding stakeholders that litigation only adds uncertainty. Mr. Tenney explained that reductions of at least 1.5 million acre-feet in the Lower Basin are expected post-2026 based on the Lower Basin's alternative had proposed. Arizona would then face a 760,000-acre-foot cut—deeper than a Tier 3 shortage under the Drought Contingency Plan. Mr. Tenney explained that finding shared responsibility for Arizona's reduction will be difficult since CAP has junior priority. He reviewed Arizona's 98 Colorado River users and the priorities they are under.

While hydrologic challenges could result in deeper cuts after 2026, Mr. Tenney emphasized that the opportunities for Arizona to strengthen water security by investing in infrastructure, partnerships, and self-reliance. He urged that collectively we continue prioritizing water as the foundation of the state's economy and community well-being.

Ms. Peters asked how other cities are approaching Advanced Water Purification (AWP) to address Colorado River water cuts. Responses showed a mix of strategies: some communities, like Glendale and Surprise, are conducting studies or planning future sites, while others are pursuing partnerships with Phoenix at the 91st Avenue facility. Goodyear, Peoria, Gilbert, and Avondale are utilizing reclaimed water through recharge and recovery, so AWP is a less likely alternative.

4. Lessons from the Drought Contingency Plan

Mr. Tenney stated that as discussions continue on the Colorado River post-2026, it is helpful to step back and revisit how the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) was developed and lessons learned from that process.

Paul Bergelin, Water Policy Advisor, presented an overview of the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP), explaining that it is an amendment to the 2007 Interim Guidelines, which govern releases from Lakes Powell and Mead and allocate shortages among Lower Basin States. He noted that DCP added deeper reductions and included separate agreements for the Upper Basin, Lower Basin, and Mexico. For Arizona, where legislative approval was required, an implementation plan was created that focused on two strategies: mitigation water for affected users in Arizona (particularly Pinal County irrigation districts and some Non-Indian Agricultural (NIA) users) and offset CAWCD's ICS that would be used for mitigation by having tribes store ICS in Lake Mead. Mr. Bergelin emphasized that despite these measures, DCP reductions have proven insufficient to stabilize the system and additional action has been necessary. Arizona and its CAP users shouldered significant reductions, conserving over 4.2 million acre-feet since 2020. Yet, as the hydrology continues to worsen, DCP and other actions have not been enough, and post-2026, we run the risk facing one crises after another.

Mr. Tenney emphasized that while the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) was a significant milestone, with basin states reaching agreement and Arizona developing its own implementation plan. Yet, hindsight reveals it fell short. He acknowledged the major contributions made by Arizona and other Lower Basin States toward conservation but stressed that the lesson is clear: it cannot only be about finding water to leave in the system. Going forward, there will need to be comprehensive management and overall reductions shared across all Basin States, not just Arizona.

Kirk Beaty noted that when the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) was developed, there may have been some “extra” water available, but today the situation is far more difficult—real, painful cuts will have to be made. The key question now is who will bear those cuts.

Jeremy Abbott then asked whether DCP’s 1.1-million-acre-foot reductions could be used as a baseline for Arizona’s post-2026 target of 1.5 million acre-feet, since those reductions had already been agreed upon once before. Mr. Tenney responded that DCP was meant to serve as a bridge to post-2026, and while it relied heavily on CAP users and contributions from the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the expectation was that all stakeholders in the Basin would contribute. He stressed that post-2026 guidelines, which could last 20 years, will require deeper, broader reductions to ensure both water security and economic stability.

Barbara Chappell added that the Lower Basin must feel as though “no good deed goes unpunished,” since the sacrifices made under DCP are now being treated as the new baseline for even greater contributions.

5. Post-2026 Conservation Efforts

Mr. Tenney explained that there is no single solution to offset post-2026 reductions. Including conservation. Yet, conservation will continue to be a vital tool. Caitlyn Hall, AMWUA’s Water Conservation & Demand Management Coordinator, reported on a conservation effort to prepare for a post-2026 world. Dr. Hall explained that AMWUA has been cataloging what municipalities are already doing—through existing conservation programs, ordinances, and drought preparedness plans—to create a comprehensive “long list” of nearly 70 potential conservation measures.

These options range from rebates and leak detection to landscape conversion, rainwater harvesting, indoor efficiency, demand management for new development, cooling and energy use, and public engagement. Each option is being evaluated on potential water savings, cost, and implementation difficulty, with the goal of identifying high-impact, cost-effective measures to employ post-2026, if necessary.

Ms. Hall stressed that this repository is an internal reference tool for AMWUA members, meant to guide coordination and r preparation. She noted that AMWUA cities already

show strong alignment in their conservation efforts, which will help keep a unified front going forward. Next steps include incorporating reviewing actions from non-AMWUA cities and then identifying a “shortlist” of priority conservation actions that could be deployed after 2026.

Mr. Tenney added that the conservation repository developed by Ms. Hall is an impressive and valuable tool for conservation professionals and water resource managers, as conservation and demand management will increasingly play a key role in managing water supplies. Mr. Tenney stressed that conservation will become even more vital moving forward.

Nicole Petker said she has seen a preview of the conservation tool and is impressed with how it will help cities prioritize and manage limited resources to ensure greater efficiency.

C. Member Reports

Board members did not have any reports to provide.

D. Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Tenney reported that the Alliance for Water Efficiency, a national organization focused on conservation, is re-engaging with Congress to establish tax parity for water conservation rebates, ensuring they are not treated as taxable income—similar to energy rebates. Legislation has been introduced in both the Senate and House, with Senator Gallego as a sponsor, and AMWUA will work with intergovernmental partners to support this effort.

Mr. Tenney also noted that SRP reservoirs are currently at 55% capacity, down from 79% last year at this time, leading SRP to adjust its water deliveries by decreasing surface water and increasing groundwater use.

Mr. Tenney announced that AMWUA has hired Aly Slobodzian as its new Government Relations Director, formerly with the Phoenix REALTORS Association, and expressed excitement about her joining the team.

E. Future Agenda Items

No Future Agenda Items.

F. Executive Session

Upon a motion made by Nicole Petker and seconded by Brandy Kelso, the AMWUA Management Board entered Executive Session at 11:10am.

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38.431.03.A.3, the AMWUA Management Board may vote to convene in Executive Session to discuss and consult for legal advice with AMWUA's legal counsel regarding HBACA v ADWR CV2025-002623.

The AMWUA Management Board returned to regular session at 11:33 a.m. and no action was taken.

G. Adjournment

Mr. Beaty adjourned the meeting at 11:34 am.

AMWUA MANAGEMENT BOARD

INFORMATION SUMMARY

October 8, 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

The current 2007 interim guidelines for the Colorado River system expire next year. The seven Basin States are still meeting but there is no indication of consensus between the Upper and Lower Basins on what the new operational guidelines should be. 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. At the same time, 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 49% 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 Management Board is requested to ask questions and discuss the Colorado River situation.

AMWUA MANAGEMENT BOARD

INFORMATION SUMMARY

October 8, 2025

Updated on Efforts to Develop New Supplies

ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

Colorado River Post-2026

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

- Facilitate opportunities to assist and synchronize continuing preparation for less Colorado River water.
- Support collaboration for actions to replace Colorado River water with other long-term supplies, including Advanced Water Purification, Bartlett Dam expansion, stormwater capture and reuse, and other long-term augmentation alternatives.

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

Finances & Water

Examine, analyze, and influence water positions and policies that impact our members' finances.

- SRP – Better understand the impact of SRP's long-term water costs, including the expansion of Bartlett Dam.
- WIFA – Promote investment in projects that align with the Augmentation Principles and support permanent funding for augmentation and conservation at the state level.

Strategic Plan: Collaboration and Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Minimize Financial Impacts

SUMMARY

With reductions to Colorado River water anticipated starting in 2027 and other motivating factors, the AMWUA cities and other entities have been pursuing major water projects to generate new supplies. This agenda item is to give a progress update on those efforts, including developing augmentation projects with WIFA's Long-Term Augmentation Fund, the expansion of Bartlett Dam, and utilization of Advanced Water Purification. Presentations will be given on each of those projects.

RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Management Board is requested to ask questions and discuss these efforts to develop new water supplies.