



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

ARIZONA MUNICIPAL WATER USERS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

September 24, 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 August 27, 2026 Meeting
2. Next Meeting Date: October 22, 2026 @ 11:00 a.m.
3. Post-2026 Colorado River Operations and Impacts for Arizona
4. Wet-Credit Water Exchange
5. Secure Water Arizona Program
6. AMWUA Communications Update

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 27, 2026
HYBRID MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

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 11:01 a.m.

B. General Business – Items for Discussion and Possible Action

1. Approval of the Minutes from the June 25, 2026, Meeting

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Curtis Nielson, seconded by Councilmember Matt Orlando, the AMWUA Board of Directors unanimously approved the June 25, 2026, Board of Directors meeting minutes.

2. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, September 24, 2026, @ 11:00 a.m.

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

Warren Tenney, AMWUA's Executive Director, stated that Arizona faces unprecedented Colorado River reductions and emphasized the need for continued planning, investment, and coordinated messaging as the river becomes increasingly unreliable. Paul Bergelin, AMWUA's Water Policy Advisor, presented an overview of the federal government's post-2026 operational framework, including anticipated 20% reductions to CAP municipal and industrial subcontractors and the potential for deeper cuts due to worsening hydrology and declining reservoir levels. He discussed Nevada's lawsuit challenging the federal decision, anticipated legislative action, and concerns from credit rating agencies about long-term water supply reliability. He outlined AMWUA's priorities, including water supply firming, demand management, flexible use of existing supplies, consistent messaging, and developing new supplies to maintain reliable service, avoid groundwater overdraft, and support responsible growth.

Vice Mayor Ray Malnar asked whether Nevada's lawsuit would leave the current proposal intact pending resolution or could result in a stay, and what the potential outcomes would be. Rhett Larson, AMWUA's Legal Consultant, explained that the court could either grant an injunction blocking the two-year operating guidelines, creating further uncertainty about the federal government's alternative approach, or allow the guidelines to proceed while addressing Nevada's legal challenges. In response to a follow-up question, he explained that Arizona could intervene in the lawsuit to oppose a stay while supporting some of Nevada's concerns. He also noted that Arizona and other water users could file separate lawsuits, with potential consolidation and venue decisions dependent on legal strategy.

Vice Mayor Curtis Nielson asked about Glen Canyon Dam operations. Mr. Bergelin explained that power generation stops below 3,490 feet and prolonged use of the alternative outlet tunnels risks infrastructure damage. Councilmember Laura Kaino asked who would determine Arizona's involvement in litigation and whether the Legislature would approve the three-state agreement. Mr. Larson identified ADWR as the lead agency, ideally coordinating with CAP and other stakeholders. Mr. Bergelin acknowledged uncertainty about legislative approval and cautioned that rejecting the agreement could expose Arizona to greater reductions. Vice Mayor Kesha Hodge Washington asked whether legal challenges could proceed while preserving the two-year guidelines. Mr. Larson confirmed this was possible and noted concerns that the federal framework could permit future operational changes without meaningful additional environmental review.

Sheri Trapp, AMWUA's Communications Director, presented an update on regional communications efforts following the federal Colorado River decision. She emphasized the need for clear, consistent messaging that acknowledges the seriousness of the

reductions while explaining how cities have prepared, how they plan to respond, and why state and federal support is needed. She discussed public concerns about water reliability, growth, data centers, conservation, and rising rates, stressing the importance of proactive outreach to build trust and reduce confusion. She added that AMWUA is developing fact sheets and expanded conservation messaging to support its member cities.

Ms. Trapp added that the materials were distributed to member cities' water resources, communications, conservation, and intergovernmental staff for their use. Vice Mayor Ray Malnar thanked Ms. Trapp for consolidating the information and suggested making it easily accessible through city websites so residents could readily locate resources.

Ms. Trapp noted that cities had previously used the materials for website FAQs and talking points. She also encouraged cities to maximize the renewed KTAR partnership to share their water stories, citing July's record engagement growth.

Councilmember Laura Kaino thanked Ms. Trapp for coordinating with communications staff and emphasized connecting data centers to everyday activities, such as online banking, medical services, and commerce, to improve public understanding of their role.

4. [Arizona Water Banking Authority's Firming of M&I Subcontracts](#)

Mr. Tenney stated that AMWUA has been working to ensure water stored by the Arizona Water Banking Authority for municipal and industrial subcontractors can be accessed in 2027 when their allocations are reduced. He introduced Mr. Bergelin's presentation on these efforts to support continued water security for member communities.

Mr. Bergelin explained that the Authority has stored approximately 1.6 million acre-feet of water in the Phoenix Active Management Area for CAP municipal and industrial subcontractors. He reported that AMWUA's advocacy, supported by other stakeholders, helped secure policies providing bank credits to fully offset allocation reductions in 2027 and voluntary system conservation contributions in 2027 and 2028. He noted that agreements and recovery arrangements must still be finalized. Future discussions about firming beyond 2027 will consider the limited supply of bank credits, potential long-term shortages, and subcontractors' access to other water supplies. Councilmember Matt Orlando asked whether sufficient infrastructure exists to recover and deliver the stored water. Mr. Bergelin responded that recovery capacity varies by facility, with limited infrastructure at some locations, including the Tonopah storage facility. He explained that long-term storage credit swaps and water exchanges could help address these limitations and encouraged members to consult their staff about available recovery infrastructure.

Mr. Bergelin further explained that the Arizona Department of Water Resources recently published an online planning resource identifying recovery wells and their owners near storage facilities. He noted that, except for longstanding challenges at Tonopah, recovery wells generally exist near these facilities, but agreements are needed to use them to deliver stored water where needed.

5. Conservation and Demand Management Update

Dr. Caitlyn Hall, AMWUA's Water Conservation & Demand Management Coordinator, presented regional demand management efforts to help member cities respond to anticipated Colorado River reductions. A working group of conservation and water resources staff identified outdoor irrigation and cooling towers as priority areas for improving water efficiency.

Dr. Hall highlighted updated watering guidance and a water waste identification and repair guide available on AMWUA's website for cities to incorporate into their educational materials. Additional efforts include developing address-based watering schedules and water efficiency benchmarks and budgeting tools for cooling towers and data centers. She emphasized proactive, consistent regional messaging while maintaining flexibility for individual cities.

Vice Mayor Ray Malnar asked whether watering guidelines were voluntary or mandatory. Dr. Hall clarified that AMWUA's guidance serves as an educational resource. Mr. Tenney added that some cities outside the Phoenix area use voluntary or mandatory schedules and that familiarizing residents with the concept now could help prepare them for future drought response measures.

Councilmember Laura Kaino commended AMWUA's conservation leadership and suggested engaging HOA, landscaping, and data center associations directly to reach large water users. Dr. Hall confirmed that staff are developing a coordinated outreach strategy and working with municipal parks departments to identify practices applicable to other large landscapes.

Vice Mayor Curtis Nielson shared that forgoing winter ryegrass overseeding and installing smart irrigation controllers have helped reduce water use and landscaping costs in his HOA.

C. **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Tenney reported that investing in new water supplies is critical to adapting to reduced Colorado River availability. He noted that WIFA advanced two California water exchange proposals for detailed analysis and continues reviewing other augmentation options. SRP's reservoir system was 48% full, compared to 55% a year earlier.

Drawing on Singapore’s diversified water supplies and public education efforts, Mr. Tenney encouraged member cities to build on their history of leadership and pursue long-term, multigenerational water security.

D. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were requested.

E. Adjournment

Mayor Scott Anderson adjourned the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

AMWUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INFORMATION SUMMARY

September 24, 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.

Fortunately, Reclamation has adopted 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 Lower Basin States now must put together the implementation agreement to formalize sharing the cut of 1.25 million acre-feet in 2027 and 2028. To complicate the matter, Nevada filed a lawsuit against the federal government to halt the implementation of any post-2026 operational measures due to various flaws in Reclamation's process. Despite the lawsuit, the three states are working to finalize the agreement for 2027-2028 operations. This also includes formalizing the contributions from each state for leaving water in Lake Mead through 2028.

AMWUA staff will provide an update about the Colorado River situation and its impact on Arizona at the September 24, 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, the Record of Decision, the 2027-2028 operations, and post-2026 impacts on Arizona.

AMWUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INFORMATION SUMMARY

September 24, 2026

Wet-Credit Water Exchange

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.
- Pursue policies that allow flexibility for municipal providers to utilize supplies and meet demands during Colorado River shortages while protecting the aquifer.

SUMMARY

To help its members continually meet demands in a post-2026 environment, AMWUA has been exploring possible revisions to water exchange requirements. Many AMWUA cities have established water exchanges with other water providers that rely on recovering stored water. Although these exchanges can help cities weather Colorado River shortages in the coming years, implementing such exchanges has proven difficult primarily due to the required recovery well permits.

Based on a suggested solution from the Cities of Phoenix and Tucson that would provide more flexibility, AMWUA has been developing a new option for water exchanges. Under this option, a participant would be able to directly exchange long-term storage credits for certain types of “wet” water, such as Central Arizona Project water, surface water not considered Salt River Project water, and effluent. Enacting this option would relieve cities of the burden of obtaining recovery well permits and create more flexibility for moving “wet” water supplies around. It may additionally facilitate recovery of Arizona Water Banking Authority firming credits.

AMWUA would like to pursue this exchange concept as legislation for the 2027 regular session. AMWUA would like to work with other stakeholders interested in this concept, including the State. To do that, AMWUA staff would like support from the Board of Directors to work with AMWUA members and other stakeholders to develop this concept.

As this wet-credit water exchange is developed, AMWUA staff will provide updates to the AMWUA Board, which will include having the Board take a formal position on introduced legislation.

RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Management Board recommended that the AMWUA Board of Directors support the development of this credit for wet water exchange concept.

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the AMWUA Board of Directors support the development of the credit for wet water exchange.

AMWUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INFORMATION SUMMARY

September 24, 2026

Secure Water Arizona Program

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.
- Pursue policies that allow flexibility for municipal providers to utilize supplies and meet demands during Colorado River shortages while protecting the aquifer.

SUMMARY

At the June 25, 2026, meeting, the AMWUA Board received an overview about the Secure Water Arizona Program (SWAP). Phoenix and Tucson developed SWAP as a means for allowing municipal providers and others to mutually aid each other during severe Colorado River reductions that will be more likely post-2026. SWAP is a voluntary program that would enable participants to reduce the impacts of shortage based on their individual water supply portfolios. SWAP includes an emergency reserve to prevent wet-water emergencies that Phoenix and Tucson are willing to stand up. The program could also facilitate opportunities for user-funded arrangements such as conservation programs with on-river irrigation districts.

Based on the overall benefits that SWAP would give to municipal providers, it would be positive for AMWUA to formally advocate for SWAP. This could include explaining it to the business community and encouraging ADWR and CAWCD to complete necessary administrative hurdles to make SWAP work. Phoenix staff will give an update about SWAP.

RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Management Board recommended to the AMWUA Board of Directors to support Phase One of the Secure Water Arizona Program and the development of Phase Two.

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that AMWUA is supportive of Phase One and the development of Phase Two of the Secure Water Arizona Program.

AMWUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INFORMATION SUMMARY

September 24, 2026

AMWUA Communications Update

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.
- Collaborate with business organizations and other stakeholders on policies that protect water security and support the economic foundation that municipal water systems provide.
- Expand AMWUA's influence by securing speaking opportunities to ensure the municipal perspective shapes the narrative beyond digital platforms.

SUMMARY

With increased attention from the media, public, and elected officials about water and the Colorado River, AMWUA has been stepping up its communication efforts. AMWUA staff will provide an update on communications efforts, including current Colorado River messaging, expanded conservation messaging and materials, and the strategy for moving forward.

RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Board of Directors is requested to ask questions and provide feedback regarding AMWUA's communication efforts.