

Chairman's Report 7-16-26

BRDWID Accomplishments Since late March

- ✓ At the June Board meeting, the Board voted to make a couple of changes to the officer roles. Harry Markley is moving from Vice Chairman to Chairman, and I am moving from Chairman to Vice Chairman effective July 1, 2026. We are working through a smooth transition.
- ✓ Election of Board Members:
 - Dan Goodwin and Tom Ostereday, whose terms expire on Dec 31, 2026, decided to not run for reelection this November. Two other candidates emerged who have submitted their applications to the County Elections office, Terry Payne and Ernie Meza. Since only two individuals submitted paperwork for the election, the County Board of Supervisors will appoint them to fill the open seats on the Board for positions beginning January 1, 2027, and running through December 31, 2030. Both gentlemen have extremely relevant experience and skills and are committed to our community long-term.
 - ✓ Terry and his wife have lived full-time in Blue Ridge estates for over 7 years. He has over 40 years of experience in the telecommunications industry, ranging from service technician to Project Manager, handling large scale build outs for Banner Health. Terry has significant prior board experience including with the Blue Ridge Estates HOA.
 - ✓ Ernie was born & raised in Phoenix. He and his wife bought their cabin in Tamarron Pines in September of 2025 and are splitting their time between their cabin and their home in the Valley. He was Facilities Director for Murphy Elementary School District and Transportation Director (school busses)

for Pendergast Elementary School District, Deer Valley Unified School District and Paradise Valley Unified School district. He has experience in government procurement and finance.

- ✓ The Board voted to accept the Budget for FY 2026/2027 as recommended by the Budget Committee. This included a \$1.00 per month increase in the base rate and raised service fees to cover the actual costs we incur from our vendors. A special thanks to Lori Davis, Committee Chair; Jim Barnard, Committee Secretary; Bob Dahlgren, Steve Lawrence and Shannon Scott, Committee members.
- ✓ The Board elected not to extend the trial contract with Baldwin Water Services. We concluded that it wasn't the match we needed. Mike Bourne of Blue Ridge Services has moved back into our District Manager role. Thanks, Mike!
- ✓ A-Quality Excavating completed the exercising and inspections of all the valves and fire hydrants in the system.

BRDWID Goals for Upcoming Months

- ✓ Infrastructure Committee:
 - The Infrastructure Committee is currently leading the following project:
 - A-Quality Water is making the repairs identified in the valve and fire hydrant survey project.
 - Pumphouse building repairs
 - Russ Churchill has joined the Infrastructure Committee.
- ✓ Our Ad-hoc Technology Working Group, with Ken Terrell, Harry Markley and Amy Snodgrass, is evaluating our website for possible clean-up and improved structuring.

- ✓ The Board is working to facilitate a smooth transition to two new members in January 2027.

Milestone Celebration

- ✓ With the three-year anniversary of the BRDWID purchasing the assets of Starlight water Company on September 13, 2023, it seems appropriate to celebrate some of the major accomplishments of the District:
 - We made four principal, interest and fee payments in two years in compliance with the terms stipulated by WIFA restated agreement after the delay from the initiation of the loan. We are now on flat payments for the remainder of the loan.
 - We secured a \$450,000 loan from WIFA with very favorable terms to fund the purchase and deployment of new electronic meters. This resulted in a much more efficient reading system and significantly improved the accuracy of our billing.
 - We created a standing Infrastructure Committee, an annual Budget Committee, a periodic Rules and Regulations Committee and an Ad-hoc Technology Working Group. Each of these Committees and Working Groups is led by members of the community as the Chairman and the Secretary with a Board member functioning as the Board Liaison.
 - We moved our meetings from Saturdays to Thursdays to enable Board members to share more weekend time with family and friends. We added a virtual meeting option to allow those not able to attend in person to join remotely. We invested in technology to make this truly functional for all.
 - We upgraded many of our contracted services vendors: Arizona Utility Billing Solutions has improved our customer service as well as making significant improvements in our financial reporting. Our new law firm, Snell & Wilmer, has provided world-class counsel to us on Open Meeting Law requests for information as well as contract reviews. We contracted with Philadelphia Insurance

Companies to get better coverage at lower cost. (Thanks, Bill Cross!) Our CPA firm, Haynie & Co., has become familiar with our business and helped us do some clean-up of our records. They are able to deliver our Annual Reviews more quickly and at lower cost.

- We have hosted two very informative guest speaker presentations:
 - Professor Abe Springer for MAU taught us about the Hydrology of our Area.
 - Rodney Held of SRP educated us on Water Rights Adjudication
- We upgraded our technology platform to Microsoft 365.
- We have consistently had members of the community serve as Board members, bringing their experience, expertise and passion to benefit the community.
- Significant improvements have been made in our infrastructure, including a new Control System for the Starlight Pines well site and a new motor and pump for Pine Canyon.
- And we continue to benefit from our partnerships with other organizations that share our interests.

Partnerships

- ✓ Rural Water Working Group
 - Advocating for legislative protection of groundwater in rural Arizona
 - Our interest is protecting our aquifer from being targeted in the future to supply water for metropolitan areas.
- ✓ Coconino Plateau Water Partnership
 - Collaborative sharing of scientific information about our shared aquifer and advocating for responsible management

- Field Trip to East Clear Creek scheduled for September 25th.
- ✓ Arizona Special Districts Alliance
 - Networking to support DWIDs and other special districts
 - Advocating for legislative protection of special districts
 - Partnering to get services at reduced rates
- ✓ WIFA
 - Provided low-interest loans for our original acquisition of assets and for our electronic meter project.

Reminders

- Please call AUBS at 928-445-0551 for any billing or account issues or for new meter installs.
- Please call Jim Bossert at 928-606-7512 for any outages or significant leaks that require immediate attention.
- Please call Mike Bourne at 480-688-9075 or email him at mike.bourne@brdwid.org for any other District related items.

Final Thoughts...

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the Board since January of 2023 and as Chairman since January of 2024. I truly believe that our local control of our water provider gives us the best product at the lowest cost, now and for future generations. Much has been accomplished, and much more will be done! I will continue to serve on the Board for the remainder of my term.

Sincerely,

Tom