

BRDWID Chairman's Report

March 27, 2025

- There has been significant change in our Board composition over the past couple of months. John Ritter and Brian Willia's terms expired on Dec 31, 2024. The Board Selection Committee engaged many members of our District to identify eligible voters who were interested in serving on the Board. Four candidates submitted Letters of Interest and were interviewed. The Committee recommended to the Board that Harry Markley and Larry Lambert be appointed. The Board voted to accept the recommendation at our December 19, 2024 meeting. Harry and Larry took the oath of office at our January 16, 2025 Board meeting. Also, at the January meeting the following officer roles were nominated and voted on:
 - - Chairman: Tom Osterday
 - Vice Chairman: Harry Markley
 - Secretary/Clerk: Dan Goodwin
 - Treasurer: Larry Lambert

Later that month, Larry advised me that he would be unable to fulfill his role due to a significant change in his work responsibilities. The Board voted to appoint Steve Cannon to the Board, and he took the oath of office at our February 20 meeting. Steve agreed to assume the office of Treasurer.

- Committees: The Infrastructure Committee is operational and making great progress. They are executing a Request for Proposal process for electronic meters as well as installation.

We will launch a Budget Committee for 2025 as soon as practical. We will launch a committee to review/update our Rules & Regulations in the Spring. Our model is for the committee leadership (chairperson and secretary) to be from the community with a Board liaison for each committee.

Infrastructure Committee:

Board Liaison: Mike Bourne

Chairperson: Bob Hardin

Secretary: John Ritter

Members: John Drew, Eric Nelson, Christine Turner, Brian Willia, Terry Payne and Ken Grode

Budget Committee:

Boart Liaison: Steve Cannon

Chairperson: TBD

Secretary: TBD

Members: Lori Davis, Jim Barnard

Rules & Regulations Review Committee:

Board Liaison: Harry Markley

Chairperson: TBD

Secretary: TBD

Members: Marty Hopwood, Ken Terrell

- Steve Cannon and Ken Terrell have volunteered to work with our webmaster, Amy Snodgrass, to develop our document storage and archival strategy.
- District Manager – Mike Bourne, principal of Blue Ridge Services, has signed a professional services agreement with

BRDWID to serve as our District Manager as of 1/1/25. The contract was approved at our Special Board Meeting on 12/28/24. Thank heavens for Mike!

- We experienced a lot of pipe and meter freeze-ups over the past couple of months. We intend to address the issue during the deployment of the electronic meters. This has caused significant maintenance expenditures. (\$30K in February)
- The final Financial Report by Haynie & Company for FY2023/2024 was issued on January 13, 2025. We were found to be “in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America”. This is posted on our website under “Documents”
- I sent the Report by Haynie & Company to Scott Connelly at WIFA. He replied that they would review the report and let me know if they have any questions.
- I continue to participate in the Rural Water Working Group (RWWG), advocating for local control of groundwater when it is threatened. Senator Sundareshan and Rep. Mathis proposed a bill in the Senate and the House which our group supports. Unfortunately, neither bill received a hearing. Sen Dunn proposed SB1520 which would provide limited relief to 4 groundwater basins in AZ but would make it virtually impossible for any other basins to receive protection in the future. The RWWG held an event urging bi-partisan legislation on March 25th in the Capitol Rose Garden. The bill was heard in the House Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee on March 25th. Update to follow.

- Before the beginning of the business portion of our February 20th Board meeting, I arranged for Abe Springer, Professor of Ecohydrogeology at the School of Earth and Sustainability at Northern Arizona University, to educate us on the Hydrology of the Mogollon Rim. One of the most significant things that I learned is that the development in Winslow is not a threat to our aquifer. Hydrologically, we are “at the top of the waterfall”. The biggest threat to our aquifer is lack of precipitation on our mountain! Here is a link to the Zoom recording of his very informative presentation:

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/d6Tn5XSy2WnosLpZkGHFFzX6ngmYXMekgvC59IGHnFDEEeX49oYPuwsQNGm3IVq7.uamk7RXUiEBL-hjx>

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- I am arranging for an expert on water rights adjudication, to speak at one of our upcoming meetings so we have an accurate understanding of any potential threats to our water rights.
- I will be participating in a Resiliency Workshop on the Little Colorado Plateau Aquifer, led by ASU’s Kyl Center for Water Policy, on June 20th.

Tom Osterday, **Chairman**

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Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District