

BRDWID Chairman's Report

January 16, 2025

1. Two new Board members: Harry Markley & Larry Lambert
2. Hand-over and transition has occurred for the Secretary/Clerk role between John and Dan. John willing to assist as needed. John, Dan and Amy are working on document sharing/storage/archival strategy. Treasurer transition pending with Larry, Brian and SUM. OML Certifications are up-to-date.
3. Committees: The Infrastructure Committee is operational and making great progress. We will launch a Budget Committee for 2025 later this month/early February. We will launch a committee to review/update our Rules & Regulations in February/March. Candidates for all 3 Committees have surfaced through the pursuit of Board candidates. Our model is for the committee leadership (chairperson and secretary) to be from the community with a Board liaison for each committee. Liaisons: Infrastructure – Mike Bourne; Budget – Larry Lambert; Rules & Regulations Review – Harry Markley. Committee memberships still in process.
4. 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.
5. A few minor corrections are being made to the Financial Report by Haynie & Company. This will be made public as soon as the final Report is issued.
6. We will be scheduling a year-end financial review with WIFA. The Report by Haynie & Company will be the basis of our meeting with WIFA.
7. The Arizona Special Districts Alliance held their Annual meeting on Thursday, 11/14. The Alliance is now official.
8. I continue to participate in the Rural Groundwater Working Group, advocating for local control of groundwater when it is threatened. An in-person meeting occurred on January 10 in Phoenix. The group is optimistic that legislation can be passed this legislative session.
9. 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.
10. I am arranging for a hydrologist from NAU, as well as an expert on water rights adjudication, to speak at our upcoming meetings so we have an accurate understanding of our aquifer and the potential threats.
11. I continue to monitor the Winslow Atlas Global Development Planned Area Development. The Winslow City Council passed zoning changes and voted to accept the development plan at a December 10th meeting. The plan is available on the Winslow website. The plan includes a data center and a hydrogen manufacturing plant, both very water-intensive operations.
12. I will be publishing a "... from the Chairman's desk" report within the next 45 days.