

# DRAFT

## **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE ESCUDILLA MOUNTAIN DOMESTIC WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT OF APACHE, ARIZONA, OCTOBER 19, 2024 11:00 AM AT THE ALPINE FIRE STATION #2 IN NUTRIOSO, AZ**

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** David Knobbe called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. Present were Pat Cruse and David Knobbe. Melissa Chivers, John Cochran, Mike Draper attended by phone. Six district members and one non-district member were in attendance.
2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.** Pat Cruse motioned to approve the agenda. Mike Draper seconded. Unanimously approved.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 31, 2024 BOARD MEETING.** The minutes were previously distributed. Pat Cruse motioned to approve the minutes. Mike Draper seconded. Unanimously approved.
4. **CHAIR, BOARD MEMBERS AND CLERK REPORTS.**
  - Financial Report - Lorie Knobbe reported that the current balance is \$40,385.19. This includes both the Apache County and BMO accounts.
  - Assessment Progress - Frank Cassidy completed the “Restatement of the EMDWID Boundaries” that was required by the Apache County Assessor’s Office to start the assessment process. The document has been recorded by the Apache County Recorder’s Office.
  - SWCA Environmental Study - David Knobbe reported that he and Lorie met with the biologists and walked the pathway of the proposed pipeline. They are looking to see if the New Mexico Jumping Mouse lives in the area. The money to pay for the study is coming from WIFA’s Technical Assistance Program. Unfortunately, it is estimated that the environmental study will spend most of the \$50,000 allotment on this study. That means the district will have to pay for the design of the Standpipe Project. WIFA advised that any money spent on the design can be paid back with the proceeds of the loan. Melissa Chivers commented that in most cases if they find an endangered species, they could limit the months of construction to avoid the breeding season or move the pipeline to a nearby location. SWCA indicated they should have the results before the end of the year.
5. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ALLOW FOR ANNEXATION.** At the last meeting it was approved to allow for annexation. This meeting discussed the particulars. John Cochran motioned to allow for annexations in the four subdivisions on the mesa including all of LPDP1, LPDP2, EME1 and EME2. The limit of properties allowed to be annexed at this time will be 20. The open enrollment will end January 1, 2025 unless 20 properties have been added,

whichever comes first. Mike Draper second. David and Melissa approved. Pat Cruse voted no.

The cost to the new district property owners will be the \$1000.00 Standpipe Infrastructure / Access Fee with the minimum down payment of \$626.00. The new district members will be responsible for the legal costs involved. If the property abuts up to the existing EMDWID border the legal fee will be \$230. If one property owner has two contiguous properties being annexed there will only be one fee of \$230. As in the original establishment, if a property owner has multiple properties, all properties that are located in the four subdivisions must be added. If the property does not abut to the current EMDWID boundary, please contact Lorie to get the costs.

**6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO BEGIN THE DESIGN PROCESS.**

The board members discussed not wanting to spend any money on the design process until we have the results of the environmental study. Some planning work can begin so that we are ready to go once approval is given including preparing a Scope of Work. Mike Draper motion to begin the Design Process and Pat Cruse seconded. All in favor.

**7. CALL TO PUBLIC** - Justin Organ commented that the Board's decision to not allow for deannexation was not fair to those who did not receive the letter from Apache County. He would like the board to reconsider. Pat and David agreed to put it on a future agenda.

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS** - The next meeting will be held in January unless an earlier meeting is needed due to the completion of the report by SWCA.

**9. EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None required.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**- John Cruse motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mike Draper seconded it. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:57am.