

# **A message to the Rio Verde Foothills community**

re: DWID formation

**Steve Chucri (BOS)**

**Oct 1, 2020, 11:42AM**

I have recently heard from people on both sides of this issue and wanted to take an opportunity to clarify my position and role in the formation of a Domestic Water Improvement District (DWID).

First and foremost, to those who have written to my office stating your opposition to a DWID- I will be certain your communications are part of the public record if this item comes before the Board of Supervisors for a vote.

To be clear, there is nothing before the Board to consider at this time. Forming a DWID is a community initiative, much like irrigation districts, street improvement districts and the like. Those community-led efforts occur in counties and cities regularly. Some citizen-led initiatives succeed and some fail.

As the elected official representing the area, I do not lead a community initiative. I respond to it with my vote, after the process outlined in statute is followed, and after a public hearing occurs once petitions are presented.

My office, the Clerk's office and the County Attorney have responded to questions raised by constituents about the DWID statutes. Some people have implied that there have been "secret meetings". When a constituent emails or calls or asks for a meeting, I try to accommodate. A standpipe DWID was an idea formulated within the community years ago. Since then, just like with an irrigation district, proponents asked about how that process works and how a DWID is formed. We provided that information to them. For further information, I have attached the link to Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 48, Chapter 6 which governs improvement district formation and processes: <https://www.azleg.gov/arsDetail/?title=48>

As to why an Attorney General opinion was sought by then County Attorney Bill Montgomery: The County was not certain if the statutes contemplated a non-contiguous DWID delivering water to a standpipe. The answer came back that a DWID may properly form with internal noncontiguous boundaries. These opinions are sought to provide clarity to local governments and citizens. (see attached)

For further information and to clarify more questions, back in February, Representative Kavanagh had sponsored a bill about DWIDs at the request of some residents. It became apparent that the community was divided on the issue. Rep. Kavanagh and I asked Brian Biesemeyer from the City of Scottsdale –for a status on the issue of Scottsdale's water. That letter was shared with the community in mid-May. (see attached)

Finally, the petition language must be legal and conforming before signature collection efforts start. This piece is currently under county review. Community members that wish to form such districts, hold their own community meetings to hear from their neighbors. I will listen to all sides on this issue and I will watch carefully that the community is informed and engaged. In the meantime, there is nothing before the Board to consider, it is in your community's hands at this point.

Thank you,

Steve Chucri  
Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, District 2