

Domestic Water Improvement Districts

County Improvement Districts



COCONINO
COUNTY ARIZONA



Why Form a DWID?

What is a DWID?

- A DWID is a quasi municipal corporation of the State of Arizona, formed pursuant to the statutory authorization in A.R.S. Article 1 and 4, Chapter 6, Title 48.
- The District will be governed by a locally elected board of directors composed of property owners within the community.
- The District will serve those properties included in the District .



Why Form a DWID?

Advantages of DWIDs

- **The District would provide for the water distribution system and obtain water from an existing well in the community.**
- **The District can provide the lowest cost of operation of a water system with the least regulatory oversight from the State of Arizona or other regulatory entities.**



How Does a District Operate?

- **The District Board of Directors is elected by property owners in the District who are registered to vote in the State of Arizona.**
- **The District Board has the power to develop, operate and maintain a domestic water delivery system that supplies water to the community.**
- **The District Board sets water rates and it sets an annual budget, which will cover the costs of operation and maintenance.**



Operations of the Board

- **Conducts all business in public so citizens and property owners are aware of what the District is doing and how their rates are being spent.**
- **The Board is subject to Open Meeting Law, which requires all meetings are open to the public. Agendas must be posted prior to meetings and all decisions must be made in a public meeting.**



Operations of the Board

- **District records are public records available to members of the public. Meeting minutes must be available after each meeting.**
- **The Coconino County Board of Supervisors are allowed to review and comment on District activities, but no regulatory oversight.**
- **All construction must be done through the public bidding process.**
- **Annual audits will be filed with the State and the District.**



Operations of the Board

- **The District has power to develop rules and regulations governing the operations.**
- **The District can conduct planning for future projects which may be needed as growth and development occur.**
- **The District can set rates for services through a public hearing process.**
- **Financing can be through taxation based on property valuation, fees, or the issuance of bonds payable out of special assessments.**



How to Establish a District

- **The method of forming a DWID is strictly set in the Arizona Revised Statute for County Improvement Districts and Domestic Water Improvement Districts.**
- **A Petition requesting a DWID must be filed with the Clerk of the County BOS.**
- **51% or more of the real property owners must sign**



How to Establish a District

- **At the time of filing, the petitioners must also file a bond in case the Coconino BOS refuses to establish the District.**
- **When the BOS receives the Petition, it sets a date for a public hearing (within 45-days) on the establishment and appointment of a Board of Directors.**
- **Once the District is organized, the Board of Directors can meet and begin to exercise the powers granted to the District.**



Arizona Revised Statutes Title 48 – Special Districts

Chapter 6 – County Improvement Districts

Article 1 General Specific elements for DWIDs

§48-910 – Authority to set fees, liens and foreclosure

Article 4 Alternative Form of Government for DWIDS and Domestic Wastewater Improvement Districts

§48-1011, §48-1012, §48-1013, §48-1014,
§48-1015, §48-1016, §48-1017, §48-1019