

Minutes of the ITAA General Meeting
March 6, 2023

Chair Dana Offerman called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. The only person attending the meeting for the first time was Mike Bryan.

Dana introduced Kirsten Engel, former state senator, and a professor at the University of Arizona College of Law. Sen. Engel discussed the water situation in Arizona. Much of Arizona's water comes from the Colorado River, and the Colorado River is not able to supply enough water for all who use it. The federal government has asked the states who use the Colorado River to work out a plan to deal with the current drought and lower levels of water available. All the states but California agreed on a plan; California has its own plan. The federal government could force a solution on the states.

The Upper Basin states have agreed as to who gets what percentage of water and when there is a drought or other shortage, each gets cut so percentages remain the same. The Lower Basin states have a certain number of acre feet of water allocated. The Lower Basin states should follow the same plan as the Upper Basin states.

We also need to work with the tribal groups who are entitled to allocations from the Colorado River.

Other solutions include changing the type of crops grown so that crops that need less water are used. We also need to change our types of landscaping. There is federal money to help with these solutions.

Ground water is also a problem. Populated areas of the state have Active Management Areas where water usage is regulated; rural areas in the state do not. However, a bright spot is that voters in Cochise County just voted to establish an Active Management Area in Douglas.

The quality of water is affected by contaminants. Again, there is federal money available to help with this.

Both the legislature and Congress could help with the water crisis. Senator Kelly has said this is a priority of his.

When asked what the legislature could do, Sen. Engel said that one thing would be to pass legislation to help rural areas monitor and regulate their water usage. It also would be helpful to monitor water usage statewide.

When asked about Governor Hobbs' plans, Sen. Engel noted that the governor has established a Water Advisory Committee and a Resiliency Committee which will, among other things, deal with industry and its use of water. Governor Hobbs also can negotiate with tribes. For example, the state has an agreement with the Gila River tribe and that tribe sells its excess water to the state.

If other questions arise, you can reach Sen. Engel at engelforarizona@gmail.com.

Dana announced that Indivisible National has designated Arizona as a battleground state. The state organization has adopted three initiatives for Arizona. The first is to establish accountability teams to shadow Representative David Schweikert in District 1 and Representative Juan Ciscomani in District 6. Both of these districts are seen as winnable districts in 2024. The second is to serve on a

state-wide messaging team. The last is to look at membership statewide, both to increase membership and to get more members to take an active role. To sign up for any of the committees, you can [sign up here](#).

Dana then talked about transition. She said that we did get a good response from the survey that was sent out last month with many people eager to help. However, we still need to have people to fill the positions of chair, vice-chair, and treasurer. Our treasurer, Margo Nichols, is moving back to Pennsylvania. Eileen Hollowell has taken over the position on an interim basis only.

The Board of Directors does not want to have ITAA go away, and we are looking at ways to streamline operations. One way is to have fewer meetings so we will not have a meeting in April; we will have a meeting in May, but no meeting will be held in June, July, or August. We also have voted to dissolve the corporate structure. ITAA incorporated to give officers and members greater protection in case a lawsuit was filed, but there were hidden costs that were burdensome.

Dana again emphasized the need for new leadership and offered the services of all current leaders to share about duties and to help in transition.

Sally Mayersohn asked about the difference in working with Indivisible and working for the Democratic party. Dana explained the background of how ITAA was formed and noted that many members worked through both ITAA and the party. Eileen noted that there are some teams that Indivisible has that political parties don't have such as the Letters to the Editor team and the state team which concentrates on the state legislature.

Sally then asked about training for various tasks. Joe Smith noted that there is training for all text bank teams and that we will be having text banks for the Wisconsin Supreme Court race later this month and for several Governors' races later this year.

Jackie Marshall advised Sally that the Letters to the Editor team and participating with the party are not mutually exclusive. She chairs the LTE team and also is involved with the Oro Valley Democrats and is a precinct committeeperson.

Dana emphasized that everyone must determine what activities work best for them. She also said that ITAA partners with other organizations such as we did when gathering signatures on petitions and working with the Democratic party to canvas for candidates.

Jan Counts announced that we will be partnering with Field Team 6 to do postcards for races for governor in other states. In addition, Cindy will be sending out an invitation to do postcards for Indivisible for the Wisconsin Supreme Court race.

Beth Smith then announced that there will be house parties at which Kirsten Engel will speak on both March 16 and March 23. If you want to attend, please call Beth at (407) 760-0199.

The meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm. The next meeting will be on Monday, May 1 at 3:30 via Zoom.

Last night, Ezra Levin, co-founder of Indivisible, was interviewed by Rachel Maddow. If you're interested in listening to this interview or amplifying it on social media, here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aU0-PgrgLM8>

