# Sunnyslope County Water District Basis of Authority & Operating Principles of the Board

#### 7000: Basis of Authority & Operating Principles of the Board

**7000.1** The Board of Directors is the unit of authority within the District. Apart from his/her normal function as a part of this unit, Directors have no individual authority. As individuals, Directors may not commit the District to any policy, act, or expenditure.

**7000.2** Directors do not represent any fractional segment of the community, but are, rather, a part of the body that represents and acts for the community as a whole.

7000.3 Operating Principles of the Board (Norms)

#### A. Implementation

- 1. Sunnyslope County Water District is committed to practice these norms, whereupon we will evaluate, learn, and adjust according to what we learn.
- 2. Upon the occasion of the occurrence of what appears to be a breach of these norms, we are committed to addressing this perception first to the individual(s) involved, before raising the issue with the Board itself. Because we value learning and improvement, we are committed to debriefing each of these at each of our Board meetings.

## B. **Qualities of an Effective Director**

- **1.** It's not all about you.
- 2. Adapt to your board's culture, established norms, and organizational procedures.

#### C. Communication Norms

- 1. All communication will be accurate and brief.
- **2.** Board and staff will attempt to describe our behavior before we engage in it, and actively listen when communicated with.
- **3.** Always Check Your Assumptions (C.Y.A.).
- 4. Revisit and display these norms at each Board meeting.

## D. Process Norms

- 1. The Board needs to address and resolve policy issues and set priorities, but NOT function as management (or make decisions that are more appropriate for management). The Board is committed to doing this by practicing the building of consensus and orderly implementation.
- 2. The Board is committed to Sunnyslope County Water District's mission and to work

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as a team.

- 3. The Board needs to monitor and respond to changes in the market and environment.
- **4.** Staff needs to make available all information and analysis of alternatives so that the Board can make "reasoned decisions."
- **5.** The Board and staff will jointly discuss and identify its interest(s) prior to establishing a position and negotiating with external organizations.
- **6.** All requests from the Board for information/agenda items will be funneled through the General Manager and distributed to all Board members.

#### E. <u>Relationship Norms</u>

- **1.** Create an environment that promotes respect and appreciation between the Board, Staff, Consultants, and customers.
- **2.** Fundamental agreement that the focus of Sunnyslope County Water District is its accomplishments and future vision that meets the needs of its customers.
- **3.** Establish, accept, and support a common purpose and vision.

#### F. Capacity Norms

- 1. Continue the process of hiring qualified personnel.
- 2. Support education for the Board, Staff and the Public.
- **3.** Expect creative decision-making.
- **4.** Maintain competitive advantage by adhering to a policy of updating technology and resources.
- 5. Encourage and promote a cooperative and open work environment.

Policy Approved: A

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