SEC Form 4

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number:	3235-0287
Estimated average burden hours per response:	0.5

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

☐ Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. *See* Instruction 1(b).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

☐ Check this box to indicate that a transaction was made pursuant to a contract, instruction or written plan for the purchase or sale of equity securities of the issuer that is intended to satisfy the affirmative defense conditions of Rule 10b5-1(c). See Instruction 10.

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *	2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading Symbol	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
Cotton Stephen	Aqua Metals, Inc. [AQMS]	X Director — 10% Owner
(Last) (First) (Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)	X Officer (give title below) — Other (specify below)
5370 KIETZKE LN	10/13/2026	Chief Executive Officer
SUITE 201	4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)
(Street)		X Form filed by One Reporting Person
RENO NV 89511		Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
(City) (State) (Zip)		

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	10/13/2026		A(1)		35,310	A	$0	354,094	D	
Common Stock	10/13/2026		F(2)		2,352	D	$1.92	351,742(3)	D	

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				

Explanation of Responses:

1. Represents 35,310 shares underlying restricted stock units ("RSUs") that are not yet vested and deliverable. The RSUs will vest and be settled in six equal semi-annual installments over a three-year period, subject to the Reporting Person's continuation of service with the Company. These RSUs have been granted under the Company's 2026 Long Term Incentive Program as non-cash stock awards. Each RSU shall entitle its holder to receive one share of Common Stock of the issuer.

2. Represents the withholding of 2,352 shares of common stock to satisfy tax withholding obligations in connection with the October 13, 2026 vesting of 5,553 previously reported restricted stock units.

3. Includes 208,293 shares underlying restricted stock units ("RSUs") that are not yet vested and deliverable.

/s/ Eric West, by power of attorney 10/15/2026

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4 (b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.