

The total for 2016 water operating and capital projects expenses was \$6.46 million—\$882,393 (12.0 percent) less than budgeted. The total 2016 professional water engineering cost from the consultant firm Leonard Rice was \$81,152—\$11,152 (15.9 percent) more than budgeted. Some Donala capital projects were delayed until 2017 to provide an offsetting savings on budgeted capital engineering and construction expenses to keep Donala's 2016 water operating expenditures in balance. The district will use the remaining \$375,000 of a low-interest loan from the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority for capital projects in 2017.

Leonard Rice is conducting discussions with the federal Bureau of Reclamation on how to model Donala's use of the Pueblo Reservoir for its renewable surface water from Willow Creek Ranch southwest of Leadville. This modeling project is part of Donala's negotiations with the bureau for a long-term storage lease contract to replace the current annual storage lease renewals. Donala has leased 499 acre-feet of the reservoir's total storage capacity of 250,000 acre-feet (0.2 percent). An acre-foot is 325,851 gallons. Donala's leased storage capacity is about 163 million gallons.

Over the past four years, Donala has produced about 800 acre-feet of water per year, dramatically down from 900 to 1,400 acre-feet per year in 2000 through 2012. Donala has been able to supply its entire summer water demand with this renewable Willow Creek Ranch surface water, which prolongs the limited lifespan of its Denver basin groundwater supply and provides savings on annual pumping costs. In 2016, over half of Donala's produced water came from Willow Creek Ranch. This ranch contribution is quite variable year-to-year depending on the previous winter's snowfall around Leadville and Donala rainfall during the following irrigation season. Donala's ranch water right is an annual rolling average of 280 acre-feet per year over a 38-year period. It began in 2012.

The Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility's (UMCRWWTF) total for 2016 wastewater operating revenues through Dec. 31 was \$1.136 million—\$263,511 (18.8 percent) lower than the total amount budgeted. The facility's 2016 total for

wastewater operating and capital projects expenses was \$1.163 million—\$178,865 (13.3 percent) less than budgeted.

The total 2016 professional wastewater engineering cost for UMCRWWTF was \$74,264—\$39,264 (112 percent) more than budgeted. This was due in part to \$25,000 for engineering for the replacement secondary access road. Yocam Construction LLC completed rebuilding the adjacent Monument Creek streambank reinforcements and the secondary access road before the Sept. 30 deadline for winter hibernation noise restrictions for the adjacent Preble's meadow jumping mouse habitat imposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Future flood waters will flow over the reinforced banks, along the new roadway, and back into the channel. See www.ocn.me/v16n1.htm#dwsd1210 and www.ocn.me/v16n6.htm#dwsd0519

The rest of the overage was for the unbudgeted expansion of the number of in-stream water quality studies and related in-stream sampling that UMCRWWTF is conducting for the Arkansas River/Fountain Creek Coalition for Urban/Rural River Evaluation (AF CURE). These new AF CURE initiatives will help its member wastewater districts better meet the burgeoning state reporting requirements for not only nutrients but many other wastewater effluent constituent metal and organic chemical concentrations now required by the state Water Quality Control Commission's Nutrients Management Control Regulation 85.

The total 2016 cost for large high-pressure air blower removal and replacement for UMCRWWTF was \$117,171—\$37,141 (46.5 percent) more than budgeted.

The board asked Petersen to provide semi-annual summary reports on Donala's various very conservative cash investments with Chandler Asset Management.

The board unanimously accepted the financial reports as presented.

2017 regular meeting schedule adopted

The board unanimously approved the 2017 annual schedule of board meetings and posting locations notice, which was essentially unchanged from 2016. Donala's board meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. However, there are three stan-

dard exceptions again in 2017:

1. The regular June meeting will be held on Thursday, June 22 rather than June 15.
2. The Nov. 15 meeting is changed to a workshop that will be held at 9 a.m. rather than 1:30 p.m.
3. The December regular board meeting will be held on Dec. 7 for approval of the 2018 budget to meet the state's December 15 submission deadline.

Donala meetings continue to be posted at the district office at 15850 Holbein Drive, People's National Bank on the south end of Gleneagle Drive, the Loaf-N-Jug on Gleneagle Drive, next to the district drop box, and <http://donalawater.org/images/stories/pdfs/Board%20Meeting%20Annual%20Schedule.pdf>.

Manager's report

Petersen said Donala's water attorney, Rick Fendel, continues to conduct further due diligence investigations on the Gray Family Trust's proposed sale to Donala for \$3.8 million. See www.ocn.me/v16n11.htm#dwsd and www.ocn.me/v17n1.htm#dwsd.

Fendel has confirmed 254 acre-feet of this water right but is still attempting to confirm the other 70 acre-feet. The due diligence period expires on Feb. 17, but can be extended another 60 days for \$25,000. The full amount is refundable if the sale is not completed.

Petersen said he received the signed 2017 annual renewable surface water transport and treatment agreement on Jan. 5 from Colorado Springs Utilities, which is good through Dec. 31. A 25-year agreement with CSU cannot be signed until Donala obtains a long-term Pueblo Reservoir storage agreement from the Bureau of Reclamation and Pueblo County 1041 permit compliance approval.

Petersen noted he will be this year's president of the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority.

The meeting went into executive session at 3 p.m. for the board's annual performance review for Petersen.

The next board meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 16 in the district conference room at 15850 Holbein Drive. Information: 488-3603 or www.donalawater.org. Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

District Accountability Advisory Committee, Jan. 10

Committee receives performance data, introduction to Unified Improvement Plans

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee received advance information on the District Performance Framework and Unified Improvement Plans (UIPs) before reviewing the UIPs of the district and individual schools.

Director of Secondary Learning Services Lori Benton gave an overview of the District Performance Framework, based on last year's test scores. She explained that the areas for rating were academic achievement, academic growth, and postsecondary and workforce readiness. The postsecondary and workforce readiness area includes graduation rate and ACT scores. The ACT was taken by juniors over the past several years and is used by colleges to determine achievement. Beginning this year, the SAT will be administered instead, with the PSAT offered first.

She explained that all related documents are color coded, with blue to indicate "exceeds," green to indicate "meets," yellow to indicate "approaching," and red to indicate "does not meet." Only the areas indicated in red or yellow require an improvement plan.

The district is accredited with distinction, with low participation in the tests. Although the federal government still requires 95 percent participation in testing, the state offered waivers in the event that parents declined to have students take a test. Therefore, although the district's accreditation remains high, it must develop an improvement plan to increase participation.

Benton stressed that the only way to evaluate growth is by generation of reliable data. Data and accountability are vital, she said.

The Unified Improvement Plan Process consists of gathering data, describing trends, setting performance targets, and identifying strategies for improvement through the use of benchmarks. Improvement should be

evaluated at least quarterly.

The District Performance Framework can be viewed on the district website, lewispalmer.org.

Safety and Security update

Chief of Safety and Security Dennis Coates outlined his plans for his new position and department. His primary vision is to provide a safe environment in which students and faculty are free to concentrate on learning without fear of violence or disruptions. To achieve this, he will coordinate and oversee drills at all locations, train faculty and staff, act as liaison with local law enforcement, and assist in threat assessments.

Coates said that he intends to add a security presence at the elementary and middle school levels and to examine and improve such aspects of security as cameras, clarification of which individuals have access to schools and students, and improved communication.

He also wishes to improve communication with parents and the community. One aspect of improving communication would be to standardize announcements that would be used in the stadium or school when there is a need for evacuation or other action so that misunderstandings could be avoided.

Legislative update

Board Liaison John Magerko reported on trends at the state level, reminding committee members that the Colorado Department of Education is reviewing state academic standards this year and invites educators and the public to make their opinions known.

The Colorado Association of School Boards is continuing its efforts to eliminate unfunded mandates by embarking on a new initiative called Give Us Liberty or Give Us Funding. Unfortunately, trends in the state budget imply that state funding might decrease and the district will need to remain innovative in funding its schools.

Vehicle donation sought
It's tax time. Save yourself the headache of getting rid of that old vehicle and donate your used vehicle to a family in need of one. Must be in good running condition. Email: pdq123@hush.com or call 303-882-5511. Will provide receipt for your tax write off.

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