

**JUC (Cont. from page 13)**

Wicklund said that since the Monument Board of Trustees is so busy with land use decisions, roads, and other topics, the trustees don't spend a lot of time on water issues. "I think the town council should get out of the water business and form a separate water district (like the Denver Water Board), so they can actually spend real time on it." Strom said that at WWSD meetings, in contrast, a great deal of time is spent on water discussions.

Wicklund said that most town trustees live in Triview Metropolitan District (on the east side of I-25) but are making the decisions about the town's water system on the west side of the highway. The consensus of the members was that the patchwork nature of all the different special district utilities serving this region's residents was confusing.

**Nutrient stakeholder meeting report**

Kendrick reported on several nutrient stakeholder meetings held in January and February and how decisions being made in Denver could affect TLWWTF.

He said the biggest unknown for dischargers is whether the state Water Quality Control Commission will implement the stricter discharge requirements of the "interim values" in Reg. 31.17, and/or if Reg. 85 will be turned off, and whether the changes would happen in 2022, 2027, or 2028. "We do not know what the target is for nitrogen and phosphorus, so it is hard to plan for it."

Kendrick summarized other unknowns on the horizon, including:

- Possible change in timing for rulemaking hearings for the state's eight individual river basin water quality standard regulations, from a staggered five-year schedule to a simultaneous 2028 revision to impose all aspects of Reg 31.17 statewide, including the current TP and TN interim values for all rivers and streams as well as all lakes and reservoirs.
- Adding selenium limits to ammonia and nutrients criteria, vastly increasing statewide capital treatment construction planning complexity.
- Possible tightening of all existing total inorganic nitrogen (TIN) discharge permit limits from the current Regulation 85 limit of 15 mg/l to 10 mg/l as a way of "showing progress" to the EPA.
- Possible new interpretations of Water Quality Control Commission definitions, including: "new facility," "headwaters," "direct use water source," and applying "large" treatment facility regulatory limits to small wastewater treatment facilities as well, which have been exempt before.
- Possible changes to nutri-

ent, chlorophyll 'a', and other recreational use numeric water quality standards for individual stream segments where there are no current recreational uses.

Kendrick also said that the state's lakes and reservoirs criteria will change the water quality limits for Monument Lake if a possible new water reuse plant that pumps effluent from TLWWTF upstream to a new discharge point at Crystal Creek, above Monument Lake, is ever built by the Town of Monument and WWSD. The state would reclassify Monument Lake from a headwaters classification to a downstream direct use water supply (DUWS). "This is a big deal" that will create "a bunch of unknowns," he said.

This generated a long technical discussion about concerns related to the possible reuse plant. For background, see [www.ocn.me/v16n11.htm#mbot1017](http://www.ocn.me/v16n11.htm#mbot1017), [www.ocn.me/v17n1.htm#mbot](http://www.ocn.me/v17n1.htm#mbot).

Wicklund said that the possibility of adding an upstream discharge point could affect TLWWTF's permit limits since its existing discharge pipe would no longer be the first wastewater effluent discharge to Monument Creek. He said there was a lack of communication between the town and the JUC about the possibility of locating a new Town of Monument-WWSD water reuse facility inside TLWWTF. Note: The town of Monument is not a TLWWTF co-owner, and an option like this is not addressed in the TLWWTF Joint Use of Facilities Agreement.

Burks asked WWSD to keep the JUC up to date on Woodmoor's joint planning process with the town. Strom said PLSD also needed to be involved, since if the project went forward, it could mean increased costs to all three districts. Burks wondered who would pay the difference in cost of treatment "if (the town) is going to force (the reuse plant) on us." Kendrick asked Burks how the town could force the reuse plant on TLWWTF, but Burks did not reply.

Gillette said it was premature to discuss these questions yet, since the reuse treatment process had not yet been determined. "Everyone here is getting all worked up about being in the dark, but it is all conceptual ideas at this point," adding that when the plan was more developed, the town would have a conversation with the JUC. He said WWSD has met with Tharnish about four times so far "to throw out ideas."

Kendrick then reported that at the Feb. 7 Arkansas River/Fountain Creek Coalition for Urban/Rural River Evaluation (AF CURE) meeting, the members reached consensus to hire a contractor to manage accounting for this stakeholder coalition. This would be the same contractor who performs the same duties for the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority (PPRWA), which develops regional solutions to water supply issues. AF CURE

is one of the projects sponsored by PPRWA.

AF CURE also approved a \$10,000 contract with Brown & Caldwell to continue 2017 planning for the scientific data collection and analysis work that the firm is doing for stakeholders to create a watershed model for Monument Creek and Fountain Creek. The model would be presented to the state Water Quality Control Division to document actual stream conditions in different stream segments.

Burks reported that he had located an alternate data collection site on Smith Creek to replace the inaccessible site that had originally been chosen by Brown & Caldwell. While the new site is not upstream of TLWWTF, it is still a good representation of northwestern El Paso County's non-point source effects on Monument Creek in-stream water quality.

**Financial report**

Burks presented the financial report for January, saying all items looked normal. Strom asked why expenses for natural gas were up in January, and Burks explained that colder weather causes this jump but that it would even out by the end of the year. The members accepted the financial report as presented unanimously.

Burks told the members that TLWWTF's accountant, Jackie Spegele of Numeric Strategies LLC, suggested that each district make a one-time additional supplemental \$7,000 payment to the facility's operating fund to increase the cash available from \$59,000 to \$80,000. Orcutt said she would have to check with the PLSD board first. Wicklund said that the formal cash flow escrow agreement between the districts, specifying how much each district puts in, would have to be adjusted and signed again. Burks and Orcutt said the escrow

contribution amounts had been increased before, and Burks said he would research that.


Smith asked about the 2017 engagement letter with Numeric Strategies and whether they should be retained at an hourly rate again this year or use a lump sum divided by 12 instead. Smith and Orcutt both wondered why the January accounting bill was higher than normal monthly bills. After some discussion, the consensus was to wait until the March meeting to decide.

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The next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. March 14 at the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility, 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month and are open to the public. For information, call Bill Burks at 719-481-4053 or see

[www.tlwastewater.com](http://www.tlwastewater.com).  
Lisa Hatfield can be reached at [lisahatfield@ocn.me](mailto:lisahatfield@ocn.me).

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