

already 12 residents registered on March 16.

Operations and projects

The Triview wastewater influent Parshall measurement flume at Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility had been removed, replaced, and calibrated, though some final grouting remained to be completed. Triview owns and maintains the flume.

Petersen noted recent statements by the state’s Water Quality Control Division staff members that are attending the current round of Nutrients Stakeholder workgroup meetings in Denver that they are planning to recommend the state Nutrient Control Regulation 85 water quality standards for total phosphorus (1 mg/l) and total inorganic nitrogen (15 mg/l) be extended for five more years, through 2027.

Doral Way excavation planned

Donala will undertake a major \$775,000 water main replacement in the area of Doral Way of 3,250 feet of 8-inch pipes that are about 50 years old. Also, the district

will replace service lines between the mains and the curb stops for homes, primarily within county right-of-way but within private property in some cases. Petersen said that design work for this project is underway. District crews have been out in the area “potholing” the street and easements to make sure the existing Donala water and sewer lines have been properly located before excavation begins. The construction will go out for bids in late April. Residents will receive notices from Donala, and the district will hold an open house before this construction begins in May. There will be several other Donala capital projects this year, “but the Doral Way project will be the most visible,” he said.

Development update

Petersen reported that questions had been raised by El Paso County attorneys during county development review about whether the proposed conversion of some abandoned Gleneagle golf course property to residential lots (the Gleneagle golf course infill project) would fall

under a 100-year or 300-year demonstrated groundwater availability rule. Donala has been supplying potable water to this land since the mid-1970s using Denver basin wells. In 1985, Donala began providing reuse treated wastewater to the golf course for irrigation only. The historical golf course use has been 25 acre-feet per year, enough for 41 single-family homes.

This level of Donala potable groundwater service to the golf course began under the previous statewide 100-year groundwater rule. However, 56 homes have been proposed in this residential conversion project. Petersen said the additional 15 homes would be provided with 9.15 acre-feet of Willow Creek Ranch renewable surface water, which should not be subject to the state’s groundwater guaranteed 300-year aquifer lifespan rule. He stated that both sources should be considered under the 100-year rule since service to the land by Donala has been uninterrupted.

Petersen noted that the county is also considering applying El Paso County’s 300-year groundwater rule, passed in 1986 (after construction of the Gleneagle golf course in 1978), to two proposed vacant parcels for development on Struthers Road near the Gleneagle Drive and Northgate Road intersections. However, the county has already approved three recent Donala will-serve letters for other previously proposed developments based on the 100-year rule.

Under the county’s current position of imposing the 300-year groundwater commitment from Donala as a condition of approval, each of these three new projects would not have enough “will serve” water available from Donala. To date, the Donala board has declined to provide the extra groundwater needed to satisfy the much higher allocations that would be required in excess of the historic 100-year requirement to satisfy the county’s proposed 300-year groundwater requirement. Each developer would have to have a water waiver approved by the county Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners. The board has told these developers that otherwise they must provide very expensive new water rights to Donala to augment the historic uses.

For more information, see the El Paso County Planning Commission article on page 22.

Manager’s report

Petersen advised the board that Donala’s auditor, Tom Sistare of Hoelting and Co., had suggested that the board raise the threshold for capitalizing a district acquisition from \$2,000 to \$5,000 to more accurately reflect current conditions of value. A motion to approve an increase in the threshold by \$3,000 was unanimously approved.

Petersen and Director Ed Houle said they learned at the March 8 Arkansas Basin Roundtable from representatives of the state Health Department, Colorado Water and Regional Power Development Authority, and the Department of Local Affairs that Donala will not be eligible for state grants due to Donala’s good “economic health” and its comparatively high median household income compared to depressed state areas in rural Colorado. However, Donala will remain eligible for low-interest state loans from the authority. There were no discussions regarding financing of future reuse projects.


Petersen said that as the 2017 president of the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority, he would be the host for the Arkansas River Forum to be held on April 26-27. He said no significant water bills had been passed by the state Legislature to date.

Petersen noted that Donala’s accountant Sharon Samek would be moving to Pennsylvania and that her last day would be March 17. The staff planned to hold a luncheon for her that day. He added that he had started the interview process for a new district accountant. Petersen and the directors thanked her for her hard work and dedication. www.ocn.me/v13n9.htm#dwsd , www.ocn.me/v14n8.htm#dwsd0717 , www.ocn.me/v16n7.htm#dwsd-0623

Petersen reported that the district and Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility financial reports through the end of February were “tracking” normally. Donala supplied 99 percent of its potable water to its customers from the district’s stored renewable surface water at the Pueblo Reservoir in February. Colorado is having another “wet winter” that will increase the headwaters snow melt from the district’s Willow Creek Ranch near Leadville this spring.

The meeting went into executive session at 2:25 p.m. concerning the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of a property interest. No motions or decisions were made after coming out of executive session before adjournment.

The next board meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on



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memcmanus@outlook.com • 720.231.8097