

uncertainty about the validity or economic/technical feasibility of a proposed stream standard.

The other alternative is to request a discharger or site specific variance that only lasts three years, the length of each state river basin water quality review cycle, and presumes that the proposed river basin standards are valid. However, the supporting documentation required

for a variance application is much more time-consuming and costly to complete than the less complex justification package required for a state temporary modification request.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on April 9 at the Tri-Lakes facility's conference room, 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month. Information for these meetings will continue to be available at 481-4053.

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

Academy Water and Sanitation District, March 20

Rate increase contemplated

By Susan Hindman

At the March 20 meeting, Treasurer Walter Reiss asked if, considering all the water restrictions that other districts are putting in place, the Academy Water and Sanitation District board should investigate increasing water rates. While the budget would have to justify the increase, it would serve a secondary role of discouraging high water use. Director Ron Curry said it would be good to build up a reserve on the water side of the budget; such reserves would help pay for issues that come up, such as leaks that occurred last year, costing thousands of dollars to repair.

There is already money being set aside for future sludge removal from the lagoons. In addition, money is being put away for a future replacement vehicle, Reiss said, and TABOR requires that the district set aside 3 percent of its total expenses in escrow; currently that amount is \$58,000.

Reiss said that he and Operator Anthony Pastorello would look at the numbers and determine if water rates or service fees should be increased.

Looking for board members

Board President Richard DuPont expressed concern about the need to get people to volunteer to serve on the district board. "I can hang in there as long as I can, but I'm 84," he said.

Curry said that when the next bond issue comes up

before voters — which is inevitable considering required upgrades to the sewer treatment facility — he thinks interested people will come forward. Director Jim Weilbrenner wondered where those people would come from. Regarding the bond issue, Curry said it's "a matter of education. I was just a normal citizen the last bond issue (in 1994), and I was easily convinced that we needed the system: Do you want to have water or not? This next go-round will be, do you want to flush your toilet or not?"

Water quality and more

Operator Anthony Pastorello reported that both the water and sewer systems are in good condition. He noted that he is preparing the annual Consumer Confidence Report — a detailed water quality report — for delivery to customers in June. Included with the report this year will be an update prepared by Director Susan Hindman highlighting what's happening in the district on both the water and sewer sides.

Among the topics will be a request for a resident with website development experience to help the

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