

Burks said he will try to schedule a local presentation of the same paper that Tetra Tech just presented on the TP clarifier project at the three-state Joint Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain American Waterworks Association and the Water Environment Federation (AWWA & WEF) in September. Members of the public and local wastewater district would be welcome to attend the speech and also tour the new building.

2017 draft budget presented

Burks presented a first draft of 2017

TLWWTF budget and answered many questions from the members concerning planned replacements of various specific pieces of equipment that are aging and becoming hard to repair. The members also discussed the operation of the new TP clarifier, its one-year warranty from Tetra Tech, and how both seasonal temperatures and the timing related to Reg. 85 TP effluent discharge limits could affect how it is operated.

Plant manager's report

Burks introduced new staff member Kevin

Love, who was welcomed by the whole group, since it has been a struggle to find the right person to hire for this entry-level operator position. MSD Environmental Compliance Coordinator Jim Kendrick said, "You know you have a job that will never be impacted by recession!"

Burks reviewed the July discharge monitoring report (DMR), saying the results were well within the required parameters as usual.

The consensus of the members, confirmed by consistently excellent DMRs, was that TLWWTF effluent is already of much higher water quality than many people in the world have available for drinking water. When "water reuse" is discussed as the trend of the future, such as it was at the AWWA & WEF conference, it means that treated effluent, which already has to meet discharge permit standards to be added back into the stream, is treated another time to reach state and federal drinking water quality standards. Direct and indirect reuse takes advantage of that water instead of sending it downstream. "What's the difference? Water is water, especially if you don't have it anymore, like is happening in Texas now," Burks said.

Periphyton, benthic macroinvertebrates, and water quality

Kendrick summarized the Sept. 6 meeting of Arkansas River/Fountain Creek Coalition for Urban/Rural River Evaluation (AF CURE). He said that Coordinator Sarah Reeves, environmental engineer and vice president of Brown & Caldwell (B&C), said that B&C has hired Otter Tail Environmental to perform the periphyton study in the Fountain and Monument Creek watershed portion of the Arkansas basin. These study results will meet Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) data formatting standards. TLWWTF will not have to help fund this study, Kendrick said.

Meanwhile, GEI Consultants Inc. is doing a separate aquatic life and periphyton study for TLWWTF in a format that

will meet federal U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) data formatting standards, which are different than state CDPHE standards. GEI planned to take samples of benthic macroinvertebrates (immature stages of many flies, beetles, mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies, dragonflies, aquatic worms, snails, and leeches) in Monument Creek in September. These samples will be collected to assess aquatic life, and samples of periphyton (aquatic organisms, such as certain algae, that live attached to rocks or other surfaces under water) to assess biological response to nutrients including phosphorus and nitrogen.

Reeves' draft contract agreement letter stated that AFCURE and its members are monitoring periphyton because Colorado Regulation 31, Basic Standards and Methodologies for Surface Water, will be fully implemented in 2021. It includes an interim stream value for chlorophyll a of 150 mg/m2 to protect recreation classified use. Because of this future regulation, several entities within AF CURE are interested in monitoring periphyton (analyzed as chlorophyll a) to understand seasonal trends, the potential risk of stream impairment, and the appropriateness of the Colorado Water Quality Division's sampling methodology. Also, AF CURE is developing a nutrient model for Fountain Creek and Arkansas River to understand the sources and loadings of nutrients and their impacts on designated uses. This nutrient model will utilize periphyton data in order to understand the impact of nutrients on recreation.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be held Oct. 11 at 10 a.m. at the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility, 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meetings throughout 2016 will normally be held on the second Tuesday of the month and are open to the public. For information, call Bill Burks at 719-481-4053.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority, Sept. 16

BRRTA to remain active into 2017

By Jim Kendrick

On Sept. 16, Senior Assistant County Attorney Lori Seago, a member of the new county Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority (BRRTA) transitional shutdown staff, told the BRRTA Board of Directors

that BRRTA must remain in operation past the end of 2016 in order to complete a full 2016 audit that would include the early redemption of all the remaining BRRTA bond debt that allowed an early end to the temporary BRRTA one-cent sales tax on June 30, 2016.

County Engineer Jennifer Irvine announced that the Colorado chapter of the American Public Works Association had selected BRRTA's new roundabout at Baptist and Old Denver Roads as its Project of the Year with a presentation at the awards banquet of the Nov. 7 association conference. She noted that county Transportation Department Project Manager Dennis Barron had prepared the successful award submittal. (See colorado.apwa.net/Event-Details/9768/)

The BRRTA board consists of two Town of Monument elected officials and three elected El Paso County officials. The current members are County Assessor Steve Schleiker (president), Monument Mayor Jeff Kaiser (vice president), County Commissioner Darryl Glenn (secretary/treasurer), Monument Mayor Pro Tem Don Wilson, and County Commissioner Dennis Hisey.

Glenn's absence from the meeting was unanimously excused.

Note: BRRTA's remaining outstanding 2007 privately held road construction rev-

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