

Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee, Oct. 11

Planning for permits; radium questions

By Lisa Hatfield

The Oct. 11 meeting of the members of the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) Joint Use Committee (JUC) included information about the continuing struggle to meet changing permit limits and questions about how treatment of radium in Monument's water could affect the facility.

TLWWTF operates as a separate joint venture public utility and is owned in equal one-third shares by Monument Sanitation District (MSD), Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD), and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSO).

The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts' boards: WWSO board Director at Large Rich Strom, president; MSD board Chairman Ed Delaney, vice president; and PLSD board and JUC Secretary/Treasurer Ken Smith. Other board and staff members of the three owner districts also attended, including MSD District Manager Mike Wicklund, PLSD District Manager Becky Orcutt, and WWSO District Manager Jessie Shaffer.

Governmental regulations are a moving target

MSD Environmental Compliance Coordinator Jim Kendrick summarized the results of several governmental regulatory meetings around the state.

Kendrick's summary of the Sept. 19 Water Quality Forum stated that the state

continues to set unnecessary and unattainable permit levels on water temperature and nutrient levels for discharger permit holders. And the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was not taking action to correct the situation.

For example, the EPA took no action on Reg. 31.17 TP or total nitrogen (TN) interim values that they did not agree with and could not scientifically defend but will still be enforced in 2022 when Reg. 31, The Basic Standards and Methodologies for Surface Water, takes effect.

Another example was that state Water Quality Control Division Project Engineer Jon Erickson said due to budget constraints, he was not able to provide detailed cost estimates for various technologies available in the future that dischargers might need to meet standards that have not yet been set. Kendrick quoted Erickson as saying, "Every facility will have to do their own studies and make their own decision on what discharger specific variances to ask for and what technologies they will choose. We did not get very far on this in our study."

However, the deadlines for the new temperature and nutrient limits are getting closer every day.

Relation of the Town of Monument's drinking water radium to TLWWTF

Wicklund said that the above confusing answers from state and federal officials on future regulations, which make it so dif-

ficult for discharge permit holders to plan for funding and make technology decisions, were another reason to work toward developing water reuse systems, with a goal of "zero discharge" of effluent back to the creek and more efficient use of water.

However, he brought up the fact that the town of Monument's public works water system west of I-25 now has two wells containing Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) in the form of radium (Well 9, and Well 6 that has been shut down, in the mobile home park). See two related Monument Board of Trustees articles on page 1 and 6.

He said that representatives from Forsgren Associates, the town's consult-

ing engineers who are helping the town make plans to remove radium from the drinking water, have called him twice asking permission to discharge into the MSD

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Teacher Spotlight: Dewayne Mayo

Dewayne Mayo has 300 grandchildren, by proxy. His students at Lewis-Palmer Middle School (LPMS) are pretty special to him. This LPMS technology teacher does more than introduce students to programs such as Photoshop, DreamWeaver, Maya, Flash, Pivot, and Google SketchUp in his Tech 4 Life, Multimedia and Design, Animation and Web Design, and Yearbook courses. He integrates discussions regarding the ethical use of technology into their studies. Good digital citizenship and appropriate use of technology are part of the learning process with his students.

Mayo's students' favorite projects include creating a virtual Halloween costume and creating a house with furniture in an alternate world (underwater, on Mars, hanging in air, etc.) The 3D printer comes in handy for these projects. He's also the sponsor for the Lego Robotics Team.

Mayo earned a BS in Business Engineering and an MBA in Marketing. His work with Hewlett Packard (HP)

exposed him to HP's afterschool program in District 3 for K-5 students. Dewayne's involvement with this program resulted in him trading his cubical for a classroom. He began his teaching career as a substitute in District 3 then moved on to do his student teaching at Mesa Ridge High School before coming to LPMS six years ago.

This Colorado "semi-native" donates his time with the Volunteer Fire Department of Security/Widefield, skis, plays the piano, learned to play the banjo because he likes Steve Martin, and played Groucho Marx in a charity Ice Capades show. He married his high school sweetheart, and they have two daughters. He loves traveling and visiting old ghost towns. Another of Dewayne's hobbies is geology. When he was a junior at Widefield High School, his class found the remains of an Ice Age sloth in an irrigation ditch near the Fountain Valley School. The sloth is still on display at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.



LPSD Upcoming Events

November 7:
pK-6 Grades – No Classes

November 9:
PLC Day/2-Hour Delayed Start
Wednesday

November 11:
Veteran's Day

November 17:
Monthly Board of Education Meeting,
6:00 p.m.

November 21-25:
Thanksgiving Break – District Closed

LPES STEAM Day

On October 6, Lewis-Palmer Elementary School (LPES) hosted a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) Day. Neva Nardone, 4th grade teacher and passionate science educator, organized this event for all pK - 6th grade LPES students. The day included a large variety of hands-on experiences for students including special presentations from the Colorado Springs Astronomical Society, Zoological Discovery Center, Air Force Academy (Physics is Fun), Winslow BMW of Colorado Springs (electric car technology), and Barnes and Noble (Ozobots and LittleBits). Numerous parent volunteers and teachers also provided presentations on forensics, STEM olympics, snap circuits, and STARLAB (portable planetarium). Spencer Hodson, 4th grade, liked the pendulum art the best sharing, "It's cool when art and science go together." Students, parents, and staff together shared many new experiences incorporating classroom knowledge with personal experiences that will long be remembered. According to Principal Jenny Day, "This is a really fun day for our students. The presentations promote learning through relevant and interesting activities. We are fortunate to be able to partner with our parents and our local community to make this day possible."

