

Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee, Nov. 8

2017 budget approved; Monument’s radium still a concern

By Lisa Hatfield

On Nov. 8, the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) Joint Use Committee (JUC) approved its 2017 budget, wondered aloud when the current total phosphorous (TP) clarifier construction project would really be completed, and heard another great report on the overall efficiency of the treatment plant in meeting its discharge permit standards by removing a wide variety of pollutants.

The JUC directors also made recommendations about action to find out more about the town of Monument’s plans for treating radium in its water supply and its effects on TLWWTF and learned that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently “took no action” on some potentially overreaching nutrients interim values and other regulations approved by the Colorado Water Quality Control Division in 2012.

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, was excused and was represented by WWSO board President Jim Taylor; 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 Assistant District Manager Randy Gillette.

2017 budget and appropriations approved

The JUC members have been working on the 2017 draft budget for the last few months. After a bit more discussion and a public hearing at which no member of the public spoke, the JUC unanimously approved the 2017 TLWWTF budget as well as the companion resolution to appropriate the funds for the 2017 budget.

Plant manager’s report

Facility manager Bill Burks said that the facility passed its third-quarter Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) test without any problems.

The monthly discharge monitoring report (DMR) to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) showed the members that the sampling results were well within the required parameters of the effluent discharge permit as usual.

Burks also said that he had missed collecting and submitting the third-quarter nonylphenol sample and discussed the letter he sent to CDPHE that explained how he would prevent this

mistake from recurring in future. The facility’s nonylphenol tests normally have

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Graduation Requirement Changes

According to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), local school boards establish high school graduation requirements that meet or exceed the Colorado Graduation Guidelines. Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, graduation requirements will be updated from current requirements.

Lewis-Palmer School District (LPSD) will continue to require twenty-five credits for graduation. One credit is earned for a curriculum subject for an entire school year. Half credits are given for each semester subject. All students must meet or exceed the district’s academic standards prior to becoming eligible to graduate or complete the requirements and goals as listed on a student’s Individual Education Program (IEP), which may include modified academic standards. All graduation credit requirements shall be completed in order to receive a diploma.

Six changes to the LPSD graduation requirements will be implemented for graduates beginning with the class of 2021. These changes are 1) three math credits instead of the current two math credits; 2) one world language/culture credit; 3) one-half credit earned through a technology course; 4) demonstration of proficiency in Personal Financial Literacy either through a proficiency demonstration or a course equivalent; demonstration of proficiency in 5) English and 6) math per the State Board of Education approved menu of college and career readiness demonstrations.

Additional information will be provided to students and families during the spring semester prior to registration for high school coursework.

LPSD Upcoming Events

December 15:
Monthly Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

December 21- January 6:
Winter Break – No Classes

December 23-26:
District Closed

Staff Spotlight: AJ Freeman

AJ Freeman is one of many Lewis-Palmer School District (LPSD) Transitions Program success stories. This program helps students and families prepare for work and life after high school and establish connections with adult agencies and services.

AJ attended Creekside Middle School, Palmer Ridge High School, and the LPSD Transitions program. Following graduation, he attained a job with LPSD Transportation as a bus monitor. He arrives at 6 a.m. every day, grabs the bus binder, cell phone, and emergency medications for the students he and the bus driver will pick up, and by 6:15 they are on the road. They pick up and deliver special needs students.

He finishes the morning routes by 9:30 a.m. and then heads to Pikes Peak Community College where he takes classes. He plans to earn his associates degree and then transfer to UCCS to get a degree in elementary education.

AJ hopes to teach first grade. He originally wanted to be a paramedic but wasn’t sure that he wanted to be around for the “worst day in a person’s life.” When he considered the assistance of Bobbie and Robert in the Transitions Program, he decided to become a teacher.

AJ collects all kinds of calendars – as long as they have mountains or modes of transportation on them. AJ loves Colorado and can name all 54 of the fourteeners and knows all the local mountains also. He is an Eagle Scout (his project was repairing the 6 wooden benches by the Palmer Lake Library). AJ has traveled to Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons, and as far away as Florida. Visiting Serbia and Germany are on his bucket list. He plans on learning German (he took two years in high school) and enjoying the Alps, good German food, and the culture. First, he hopes to visit all 50 states.

