

cent; in 2017 that growth rate has doubled to 4 percent.

There was a consensus on the board that future planning should be based on conservative water demand estimates, and on growth projections of 3 percent. The board also expressed a willingness to consider adding indirect potable reuse technology to the district's infrastructure.

Board re-approves water lease agreement

The board considered the execution of a water lease agreement for 2017 with Colorado Water Protective and Development Association (CWPDA). The association works to protect and develop water

resources in the Arkansas River basin. The agreement between CWPDA and WWSD must be renegotiated annually.

According to Shaffer, the 2017 agreement contains few changes to previous versions. The agreement says CWPDA will pay the district \$70 per acre-foot of water for up to 500 acre-feet of water that the district provides as return flows to Monument Creek, but does not obligate the district to provide any water.

Shaffer added that, historically, the district has provided between 200 and 450 acre-feet of water to CWPDA.

The board voted unanimously to approve the 2017 agreement.

Operational report highlights

- The financial report showed the district continued to collect tap fees at a historically high rate in April.
- The district's audit will be presented at the July board meeting.
- Changes to PERA requirements have increased the unfunded liability portion of the Joint Use Committee's audit by about \$60,000.
- Repair work on the siphon at the JV Ranch has been slowed by excess ground water, but should be complete by the end of May.
- The district continues to isolate some portions of its pipeline infra-

structure near Highway 105 in an attempt to identify potential leaks.

- Work is being done to remedy the metering for well 17.
- Work is progressing on the ozone pilot project, and the equipment should be online in July.

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The next meeting is scheduled for June 8 at 1 p.m. Meetings are usually held at the district office at 1845 Woodmoor Drive on the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. See [www.woodmoorwater.com](http://www.woodmoorwater.com) or call 488-2525 to verify meeting times.

James Howald can be reached at [jameshowald@ocn.me](mailto:jameshowald@ocn.me).

Donala Water and Sanitation District, May 18

No cut expected in 2018 special district residential property tax revenue

By Jim Kendrick

On May 18, District General Manager Kip Petersen reported to the Donala Water and Sanitation District board that he had expected the revision of the state's residential assessment rate after the recent updates to property appraisals would result in a reduction from the current 7.96 percent to 6.56. However, the Special District Association had just reported on May 12 that the Legislature only reduced the state residential assessment rate to 7.20 percent just before it adjourned for the year on May 10. He now expects Donala will receive the same amount for residential property tax revenue in 2018 as in 2017.

Petersen also reported that Donala would close on its purchase of the Laughlin water right on May 23 for 324 acre-feet per year of Fountain Creek renewable surface water. This purchase increases Donala's surface water right portfolio up to roughly 70 percent of Donala's potable water demand at build-out. For more information, see [www.ocn.me/v17n5.htm#dwds](http://www.ocn.me/v17n5.htm#dwds)

The absences of President Dave Powell and Director Ed Houle were excused. Vice President Ken Judd chaired the meeting.

No cut in 2018 special district tax revenue after all

Petersen also reviewed the status of some 2017 bills that the state Legislature considered and passed.

House Bill 17-1349 was passed at the end of the session. This is an El Paso County assessor reappraisal year, and appraisals have been generally higher. Although it was expected that the residential assessment rate on the increased reappraisals would be 6.56 percent, Petersen said the Special District Association reported that the Legislature only reduced the state residential assessment rate down to 7.20 percent just before final adjournment for 2017. He now expects Donala will receive the same amount for residential property tax revenue in 2018 as in 2017, rather than the 17 percent reduction he had forecast that a residential assessment rate of only 6.56 percent would

have produced.

**Note:** The widely reported increase in county appraisals this year has been roughly 10 percent. However, this zero net effect on Donala property tax revenues in 2018 should apply to the other special districts in the OCN coverage area—no net decrease in 2018 residential property tax revenues.

House Bill 17-1297 was approved and passed to the governor for his signature. This bill allows special districts to pay a total of \$2,400 per year, up from \$1,600, to their directors who are elected or appointed after Jan. 1, 2018. The maximum individual meeting payment remains at \$100 per meeting.

House Bill 17-1198 was approved and passed. It allows special district boards to vote to expand their board size from five members to seven members. No election is required for this expansion. Once a board decides to expand its board to seven seats and attempts to fill the two new empty director seats, this action is irrevocable.

Manager's report

Petersen also discussed his participation, as president of Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority, in hosting the April joint Arkansas Basin Roundtable and Arkansas River Forum meetings. He noted the growth in the county's stormwater control program staff (28 people in 2016 and 52 people now) and the amount the county is now spending on stormwater infrastructure (\$25.6 million in 2016.) The Upper Arkansas Voluntary Flow Program is now helping ensure that Arkansas River flows are sustained after the spring snow-melt flows dry up to provide for longer rafting and fishing seasons. These longer sustained flow periods help preserve the aquatic life in the Arkansas River basin ecosystem as well.

Petersen noted that Will Koger of the Forsgren Associates engineering firm was not available to make a presentation on the state's Area 3 Infrastructure report at this meeting as planned, but is scheduled to give this presentation at the June 22 regular board meeting

Petersen also noted that Roger Sams

of the GMS Inc. engineering firm is scheduled to brief the Donala board on arsenic removal plans on June 22. For more information, see [www.ocn.me/v17n5.htm#dwds](http://www.ocn.me/v17n5.htm#dwds)

The preliminary project concept cost for additional treatment equipment for removing groundwater arsenic from Donala and Triview Metropolitan District by the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRWWTF) would be about \$2.1 million, which would be paid for

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June Music Schedule

June 8 (Thu): Mark's Midnight Carnival  
June 9 (Fri): Playing with Smoke  
June 10 (Sat): Boyd Sweeney Jazz Quartet  
June 15 (Thu): Ashley Swendsen and Friends  
June 16 (Fri): Matt Bloom Band  
June 17 (Sat): Jesse Cotton Stone  
June 22 (Thu): Pint and a Half  
June 23 (Fri): Grant Sabin  
June 24 (Sat): Joe Johnson  
June 29 (Thu): TBD  
June 30 (Fri): Jeremy Facknitz  
July 1 (Sat): Curtis Boucher  
July 4 Celebration (Tue): Playing with Smoke + The ETs + Mark's Midnight Carnival!  
\*\*\*\*\*

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