

The next Triview Metro board meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. Feb. 13 at the Fairfield Inn, Mt. Herman Conference Room, 15275 Struthers Road, Colorado Springs. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month. Information: 488-6868 or see [www.colorado.gov/triviewmetro](http://www.colorado.gov/triviewmetro). Triview is also on

Facebook.

- Triview official posting locations are:
- El Paso County Clerk and Recorder's Office
  - Park at intersection of Venison Creek and Kitchener Way
  - Park on Gold Creek and Creekside Drive

- Mailboxes at Burke Hollow and Talus Road
- Park on Old Creek Drive and Toreva Drive
- Triview office: 16055 Old Forest Pt., Suite 300, Monument.

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**Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Jan. 11**

## Board prepares for election; candidates sought

By James Howald

The Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District board met Jan. 11 to discuss the upcoming election of new board members, the district's plan to use available funds to pay off district debt ahead of schedule, and to resolve some issues relative to water augmentation plans.

### Election resolution to be presented at February meeting

In her report, Attorney Erin Smith said she was drafting a resolution concerning the March 8 board election and would present it at the February meeting. The resolution will designate the election polling place and other details, she said. Smith said the Woodmoor Improvement Association's Barn served as the polling place for the previous board election, and that location had worked well. The board does have the option to hold the election using mail-in ballots, Smith said.

She asked the board to consider how they wanted to advertise the election to the public. State law requires a minimum of one notice, she said.

There will be three seats open, Smith said, adding that the election would be held only if there were more candidates than open seats.

According to Smith, anyone interested in running for an open seat can nominate themselves by submitting a form. Forms must be received by March 2, and can be obtained through Wynter B. Wells, the designated election official, by calling (303) 292-6400.

### New tax law derails district's debt management analysis

For several months, the board has been debating how best to use additional revenue resulting from the high level of residential development in the district. Working with Raftelis Financial Consultants and other financial consultants, the board had designed a plan to pay off some debt ahead of schedule, with the intent of saving the district money over the long run. However, the tax legislation recently signed by President Trump made changes to the tax status of some advance payments and requires bondholders to pay taxes not anticipated in the district's plan. As a result, interest rates would need to be lower for the district's advance payment strategy to save the district money.

District Manager Jessie Shaffer told the board he was working with Raftelis to develop a financial strategy focused on 2021 that would determine if the district's funds can be used to retire debt then, and how many dollars should be allocated to that effort.

Richard D. Giardina and Rob Wadsworth, of Raftelis, told the board that the district was "in a very good position from a cash standpoint." Giardina and Wadsworth said the board might want to consider using dollars from the water fund, or from both the water and sewer fund, in 2021 to retire debt, and added this could be done without raising rates or issuing new debt.

The water fund is projected to have \$15 million above the amount needed to provide service to the district's customers, Wadsworth said, and that

amount could be applied to the district's debt, leaving about \$5 million in debt to be paid by 2036. The district would save \$6.7 million in interest using this approach, Wadsworth said, but would forgo the interest the district would earn if the funds were not spent. The net benefit to the district would be \$4.76 million, according to Wadsworth.

Giardina said dollars in the sewer fund could be applied to the remaining \$5 million of debt, yielding additional savings on interest paid.

In response to a question from Director at Large Brian Bush, Shaffer said these strategies might make it possible to eliminate the Renewable Water Investment Fund (RWIF).

The board decided to revisit these issues in a year.

### Fee for water augmentation plan reduced

Shaffer recommended that the board reduce the fee the district charges to process requests to augment water service from \$1,500 to \$500. President Jim Taylor approved the reduction. No vote was taken.

The board also agreed to pay for augmented water to address evaporation from the Augusta pit, since the district uses that water to serve its non-potable water customers.

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The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 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, Jan. 18**

## May 8 polling place director election approved

By Jim Kendrick

On Jan. 18, the Donala Water and Sanitation District board unanimously approved holding a polling place election for three of its five director positions on May 8 and adopted a continuation of its traditional annual meeting schedule of holding board meetings at 1:30 p.m. in the district offices at 15850 Holbein Drive in northeast Gleneagle on the third Thursday of the month with two exceptions (June 28 and Dec. 6.) Donala's posting locations for meeting notices will also remain unchanged.

### Financial reports

District General Manager Kip Petersen gave a "95 percent" preliminary annual budget report for 2017. He said total 2017 operating revenues were down roughly 16.5 percent, from about \$8.65 million budgeted to about \$7.23 million. This was due primarily to using only about \$568,000 of \$2.46 million in available low-interest state capital construction loans because of very low water sales for the "wet" first half of 2017. Water sales revenues ended up matching the budget with a dry fall.

Some planned expensive 2017 capital improvement projects were postponed until 2018 and their completion this year should use up the rest of the available low-interest state loans. Planned construction within Donala has taken longer than expected to receive land use and site plan approvals. This has delayed Donala's receipt of new construction tap fees, but builders' existing plans to start these administratively delayed commercial construction projects in early 2018 are moving forward now. About half of Donala's 2017 budgeted total capital expenditures of \$3.1 million were postponed to 2018 to provide a \$1.6 million reduction in spending to offset these reduced 2017 revenues.

Overall, about 5 percent of the district's 2017 invoices and payments were still outstanding on Jan. 18. Petersen said 2017 expenditures will ultimately match but not exceed 2017 revenues.

### Manager's report

Petersen noted that board President Dave Powell will be completing eight years of board service and is term limited. Director Bob Denny is completing his first four-year term and will run for re-election. Director Dennis Snyder is completing a brief appointment to

fill in the seat of a director who passed away, and he will be running for his first four-year term. A polling place election is considerably cheaper than a mail-in-ballot election in terms of printing costs.

Self-nomination forms for running for election for a board seat are available at the district office. A candidate must be a property owner or resident of the district and must have completed and submitted a nomination form to the district by March 2. If the designated election official (DEO) does not receive more nominations than the number of elected positions available, currently three, the DEO will cancel the election by the end of March. The DEO for this biennial special district election is Betsy Bray, now a part-time Donala consultant.

In other election news, Petersen reported that he had been re-elected to a second one-year term as president of the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority (PPRWA). The authority's long-standing legislative consultant Dick Brown had advised him that there are not yet any bills being proposed during the current 120-day 2018 Colorado State Legislature Session that would have a large impact on Donala. Petersen reviewed Brown's initial in-depth biweekly state Legislature activity updates to PPRWA for the directors.

Petersen also reported that a Colorado State Supreme Court decision that Colorado had overcharged the state oil and gas industry for many years will force the state to refund these large cash amounts. State money for state grants and loans will dry up considerably during the multi-year repayment process. All state water roundtables, including the Arkansas River Basin Roundtable, will have much less funding for implementing the new Colorado State Water Plan.

### Short-term Pueblo Reservoir storage contract renewed again

Petersen reported that Donala would be using another one-year temporary water storage contract between Donala and the federal Bureau of Reclamation for up to 250 acre-feet of renewable surface storage of Donala's Willow Creek Ranch renewable water in the bureau's Pueblo Reservoir. Donala's negotiations for long-term agreements with the bureau and Pueblo County will continue.

**Note:** Willow Creek Ranch is near Leadville, and Donala's snow-melt surface water is delivered to the

Pueblo Reservoir by the Arkansas River.

Petersen also reported that no decision has been made by Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) on a similar Donala request for a long-term contract for transport of Donala's Willow Creek Ranch surface water from the Pueblo Reservoir in CSU's Southern Delivery Sys-

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