



**Above:** NEPCO Vice President Tom Vierzba elaborates on the condition of roads in the Tri-Lakes area and proposes that NEPCO initiate research for a plan to establish a Tri-Lakes Regional Transportation Authority. *Photo by Jennifer Kaylor*

drivers turning north into Gleneagle. The question arose, “Does this mean that in the northeast area of El Paso County, that’s all we’re going to deal with in the future, is roundabouts instead of intersections?” Irvine assured her audience that each situation needs to be evaluated carefully and that roundabouts are not a “one-size-fits-all” solution.

Irvine encouraged residents to look for the new smart-phone-friendly Customer Engagement System that should be unveiled by the county sometime this quarter. For the current system of reporting transportation-related problems such as potholes, signs/signals, grader work, drainage, dead animals, etc., go to [http://adm2.elpasoco.com/transprt/service\\_request.asp](http://adm2.elpasoco.com/transprt/service_request.asp), email [dotweb@elpasoco.com](mailto:dotweb@elpasoco.com) or call (719) 520-6460.

**Manager explains the process of forming an RTA**

With PPRTA’s history as a backdrop, Sonnenburg reviewed basic guidelines for creating an RTA that included:

- Form a “combination” of governments to comprise the RTA. A minimum combination is a mix of two or more municipalities and/or counties. A special district may join if the county/municipalities limit is met. The state may also join via the Transportation Commission. Five local governments—Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Manitou Springs, Green Mountain Falls, and Ramah—combined to form PPRTA.
- Define the RTA’s precise eligible activities and the types of transportation improvements it will fund. PPRTA solely funds capital, maintenance, and transit.
- Determine how the RTA will be funded, which can be any combination of a sales/use tax (up to 1 percent), property tax (up to five mills), visitors benefit tax (up to 2 percent), or vehicle registration fee (up to \$10 per vehicle annually). PPRTA is funded by a 1 percent sales tax.
- Establish financial guidelines

such as revenue shares, expenditure sub-categories, maximum administrative expense (if any), whether or not to de-TABOR revenue limits, if any funding or sub-category will be subject to sunset, if projects will be listed on the ballot measure, etc.

- Determine how the RTA will be governed, i.e., one of the member governments or a non-member agency or company. PPRTA is administered by the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG).
- Decide board representation and whether or not to commit to a citizens’ advisor committee.

Sonnenburg reminded NEPCO members that the steps presented are not all-inclusive and that the process is lengthy—the PPRTA member governments worked for more than two years to get established and receive voter approval. For more information about PPRTA, see <http://pprta.com/>.

**Town and district perspectives provided**

NEPCO Vice President Tom Vierzba spoke on behalf of Triview Metropolitan District’s Interim District Manager Jim McGrady and Monument Public Works Director Tom Tharnish, who were unable to attend. Vierzba stated that Triview expects to spend about \$1.6 million on road repairs in 2018, and those repairs will focus primarily on the east side, near the King Soopers plaza and Bear Creek Elementary School. He added that Jackson Creek Parkway falls under the responsibility of several governing bodies, which complicates maintenance, repair, and expansion efforts.

Representing Tharnish, Vierzba reported that the Town of Monument possesses 26.2 lane miles of road with a comparatively small budget of \$250,000 committed to maintenance. Projects for 2018 will most likely include chip-sealing roads and filling potholes.

**Representatives invited to explore RTA possibilities**

After highlighting the road repair and maintenance challenges in the area, Vierzba acknowledged having spoken “briefly” with representatives of the Town of Monument, Triview Metro-

politan District, and Palmer Lake, as well as El Paso County commissioners, to gauge the support and/or interest in establishing a Tri-Lakes RTA. Vierzba called for a show of hands of people interested in pursuing more information. Six or more individuals expressed interest.

**Business items addressed**

Some of the board positions changed since the December 2017 election. Members-at-large Mike Aspenson and Donna Dee agreed to fill the director of membership and director of community outreach positions, respectively. Chet Sawyer volunteered for the board observer position, and Duane Fitch was approved “on the spot” to fill the member-at-large position.

**Membership updated on local development**

Vierzba highlighted NEPCO’s involvement in some of the area’s building proposals that included:

- Working to influence the developer of Sanctuary Pointe regarding a safe juncture of Sanctuary Rim Drive and Higby Road.
- Communicating concerns that The Retreat at Timber Ridge will place undue infrastructure stresses on the neighboring Sterling Ranch development.
- Urging landscaping compliance from builders of Monument Hill Business Park.
- Arranged a compromise with a Jackson Creek developer to change the 2.5-acre lots to 5-acre lots or 2.5-acre lots that are adjacent to green space.
- Working cooperatively with the Trails and Open Space Coalition to propose installation of passive sensors along Santa Fe Trail to alleviate concerns of blind spots and visual distractions created by new development.

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The remaining 2018 meeting dates are March 10, May 12, July 14, Sept. 15, and Nov. 10. The meetings are held from 10 a.m. to noon at Monument Town Hall conference room, located at 645 Beacon Lite Rd, off Highway 105.

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**Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, Jan. 24**

**Board discusses water augmentation plan, reviews finances**

*By Jackie Burhans*

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board met on Jan. 24 to discuss a required water augmentation plan, review finances for 2017, and provide director highlights.

**Water augmentation requirement**

Vice President Brian Bush noted that, as part of a revision of Colorado water law, anyone who detains water that would flow into the Arkansas River must account for the evaporation of that detained water, otherwise they would be depriving senior water rights holders of their water. WIA received a letter from Doug Hollister, District 10 water commissioner for the Colorado Division of Water Resources, in mid-December inquiring about an augmentation plan for the six ponds owned by WIA. Bush, who also is director at large on the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board, noted that WWSD had an augmentation plan that could easily be amended and that the response would be complete by March. Board Director of Common Areas Rich Wretschko had noted in his report that only Wild Duck pond and Lower Twin pond retain water.

**Finance overview**

The board noted that income had exceeded expenses in 2017, and the association is well funded. This supports the board’s earlier decision not to raise dues for 2018. Reserves are well funded for future projects. Income from new construction fees were more than anticipated, and the board credited the WIA staff for controlling expenses. The surplus money is used for participating in the Safe Routes to School grant in cooperation with the Lewis-Palmer School District (LPSD), improving common areas, and making the chipping events free to residents. The board is considering funding a new Woodmoor Public Safety station to alleviate crowding, paying for the upkeep of amenities, and future projects—all without raising the dues.

**Board report highlights**

- President Peter Bille was glad to see some snow and moisture as a reprieve from immediate fire danger but noted that taller grass and weeds in the summer can be expected.
- Bush reiterated that El Paso County is responsible for maintenance and snow plowing of the roads in

Woodmoor. He said residents can fill out a form online for a service request and get a response. The form can be found at <http://bit.ly/epco-service>.

- Outgoing Secretary and Community Outreach Director Jennifer Cunningham noted the Feb. 5 facilitated community engagement event by LPSD to facility collaborative decision-making on how to address growth and school capacity needs. The event will be at the district administration building “Big Red” at 165 N. Jefferson St. in Monument on Feb. 5 from 6 to 7:30pm.
- Cunningham also said the Colorado Department of Transportation will hold a series of listening

events in the community starting on Feb. 8 at the Monument Library and Feb. 13 at Natural Grocers. More information can be found at <http://bit.ly/cdot-gap>.

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The WIA Board of Directors usually meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Barn at 1691 Woodmoor Drive, Monument. The next regular meeting will be on Feb. 28.

The WIA calendar can be found at <https://www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/>. WIA board meeting minutes can be found at <https://www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/> once approved and posted.

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**January Weather Wrap**

*By Bill Kappel*

Unfortunately, the year has started off the same way we ended last year, generally dry and mild. Although we did finally get a real taste of winter on the 21st. Overall, temperatures were well above normal for the month, with only

one morning experiencing widespread below-zero readings, and several afternoons flirting with daily record highs. The one snowstorm helped to bring total monthly precipitation to about normal levels, but it would have been nice to see that spread out over the month