

Resident Steve Remington, who is a past Triview board member, expressed his fury with the district over its whole line of thinking about debt, lack of wastewater facility planning, decisions about and how to use savings in the general fund and enterprise funds, the assumptions Raftelis had made regarding

possible water vs. wastewater regionalization, and how tap fees ought to be used. McGrady responded, in part, that TABOR (Taxpayers Bill of Rights Amendment) restricts the use of general fund revenue for enterprise fund expenses.

The Triview board unanimously approved a resolution establishing a new rate schedule, including a 10 percent increase in wastewater rates and a 5 percent increase in water rates that become effective on Sept. 1.

Besides these initial increases that the board approved, Raftelis recommended a series of increases in both water and wastewater rates every year for the next 10 years. If wastewater regionalization with CSU at the JD Phillips WWTF does not occur, all 10 years of Raftelis' suggested rate increases could be enacted in the future, doubling the average water and WW monthly rates by 2028. Over the next few years, the board will determine the size of future rate increases depending on the final decisions made by CSU, which will affect Triview's capital plans so dramatically.

2017 audit accepted

Steve Hochstetter, partner, and accountant Courtney Vance of Stockman Kast Ryan & Company presented a summary of Triview's 2017 audit and gave it a clean, unmodified opinion. Hochstetter said no adjustments were necessary, which spoke to the quality of the accounting process throughout 2017.

District manager's report

McGrady said discussions with Donala Water and Sanitation District were moving ahead regarding the possibility of a more permanent "wheeling agreement" for non-emergency interconnections for water. Note: Currently, there is water interconnection between the two districts, but the intergovernmental agreement is only for emergencies such as the 20- to 30-million-gallon leak Triview experienced in 2016. See www.ocn.me/v16n8.htm#tvm0712.

The consensus was that Triview's board should meet soon with Donala's board for a feasibility workshop. Other discussions might occur with Woodmoor Water and Sanitation and the Town of Monument, President Mark Melville said.

McGrady said the loan refunding plan would make borrowing additional money easier should opportunities present themselves to the district and would also eliminate a \$3.4 million balloon payment on the Key Bank loan. The district is working with investment firm D.A. Davidson to get a good interest rate on the bonds issued, and the refinancing is tentatively scheduled for an Oct. 4 closing. McGrady and the board agree this is necessary.

During public comments, Remington voiced his

opposition to the district refinancing debt to increase its debt capacity. He was opposed to spending more money long-term on interest and refinancing fees.

McGrady and Water Superintendent Shawn Sexton presented monthly updates regarding progress on the west interceptor line construction this year and plans for 2019 road rehabilitation, mowing and weed control, upgrades to district irrigation systems, water production, and leak detection.

Town of Monument Planning Director Larry Manning said the town wouldn't team up with Triview on the cost of engineering design work on the widening of Jackson Creek Parkway from The Vistas at Jackson Creek apartments to just north of Higby Road, McGrady said. The town owns JCP north of Higby Road and would be responsible for widening that short section.

McGrady and Sexton introduced Gary Harrison, who will now be directly supervising Triview's parks, open space and streets crews. He can be reached at gharrison@triviewmetro.com.

McGrady said that TABOR requires all the revenue from Triview's 35 property tax mill levy to go toward general fund district debt payments, but "it would really help" if residents would vote to allow excess revenues to go toward capital projects, he said. The board voted unanimously to approve a letter of engagement with attorney Kim Crawford of Butler Snow LLP to advise Triview about this potential ballot issue.

Remington asked if a ballot measure were agreed upon if the ballot question could also ask voters about moving some of the \$16 million savings from the general fund to the enterprise fund.

The board went into executive session at 8:21 p.m. to receive legal advice relating to negotiations. McGrady told OCN that no announcements or votes were made when the meeting returned to public session.

The next Triview meeting will be held Aug. 14 at 5 p.m. 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.triviewmetro.com. The board meeting packet is now posted each month on the district's website at <https://triviewmetro.com/boardDocuments>. See also "Triview Metropolitan District" on Facebook, or [Twitter.com/@TriviewMetro](https://twitter.com/TriviewMetro).

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use meeting, July 10

Love and Skrdlant earn certifications



Above: Kevin Love, left, Facility Manager William Burks, and Brian Skrdlant are part of the operations team at the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) that serves Monument, Palmer Lake, and Woodmoor. On July 10, Burks told the TLWWTF Joint Use Committee that Skrdlant had just achieved his Class B certification, Love had achieved his Class C, and they have already begun working on their A and B licenses, respectively. The JUC cheered for the accomplishments of this new generation of workers. Nationwide, the wastewater industry is experiencing a shortage of new applicants; skills that are required in new trainees include good record keeping and documentation, data collection, understanding of state regulations, and mechanical/equipment maintenance interest and abilities, Burks says. He can be reached at williamsb@tlwastewater.com. Photo by Jim Kendrick.

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