

Although TLWWTF is owned in equal one-third shares, some costs are divided by current owned treatment capacity for treating hydraulic flows and removing biosolid wastes: WWSD-64.28 percent, MSD-19.79 percent, PLSD-15.93 percent. These are defined in the Joint Use of Facilities Agreement (JUA). See www.ocn.me/v15n5.htm#tlfjuc0414.

Burks and the JUC discussed how to adjust the excess use compensation formula in the JUA to properly account for cost-of-living changes since the document was last updated. In November, PLSD used 107 percent of its current owned BOD capacity and so will owe TLWWTF about \$15,000 for this exceedance.

The members directed Burks to notify any district that experiences a BOD spike two months in a row, since this could trigger the need for that district to lease or buy more capacity or request plant expansion. Also, if TLWWTF reaches 80 percent of its organic capacity, it would need to make big decisions too. See www.ocn.me/v18n7.htm#tlwtf.

Orcutt said she would have conversations with businesses within PLSD

and compare them to the sampling timeline to see if she could track down the source of the BOD spike the same way WWSD investigated this summer. See www.ocn.me/v18n9.htm#tlwtfjuc.

Wicklund also mentioned that PLSD's overall flow volume was up at a time when MSD and WWSD's were down. The group theorized that it might have something to do with the Town of Monument's new water treatment process for Wells 4/5 which was completed this year and discharges into PLSD's collection lines. Orcutt will also talk to the Town of Monument water supervisors to see if a slug of organic material might have been dislodged in PLSD's system. See www.ocn.me/v17n6.htm#mbot0515, www.ocn.me/v18n10.htm#mbot0917.

Plant manager's report

Burks presented the October Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) and the November Flow-BOD Report. He said the TLWWTF plant is operating at just 28 percent of its design flow capacity and at 62 percent of its organic BOD capacity, and there were no excursions in any of the sampling, which is normal for the plant.

Burks said that he had written to

the Water Quality Protection Section of the Water Quality Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) concerning the failed Whole Effluent Test (WET) from August. The WET effluent samples collected the week of Nov. 4 were split and sent to two laboratories, both of which yielded passing results. He said he informed CDPHE that he wanted to continue splitting future samples and sending them to two labs, since there was some question about whether TLWWTF's August failure might have been a false negative generated by one lab.

Regional stakeholders report

Burks' comments on the Dec. 4 Arkansas River/Fountain Creek Coalition for Urban/Rural River Evaluation (AF CURE) meeting included:

- Newly-elected officers: Andra Ahrens of City of Pueblo Wastewater – chair, Colorado Springs Utilities water attorney Mark Shea – vice chair, and Fountain Sanitation District Manager Jim Heckman – vice chair.
- Environmental engineers Brown & Caldwell (B&C) continue on contracts with AF CURE includ-

ing the watershed plan update, the nutrient modeling project, and the periphyton study.

- Andrew Neuhart of B&C outlined the 10-year road map on Regulation 22, including a 200-page document discussing possible changes to discharger regulations on stream temperature.

Wicklund said that at the November meeting of the Colorado Wastewater Utility Council, they said TLWWTF's environmental attorney Gabe Racz of Vranish & Raisch LLP is actively involved in rewriting Regulation 22, which controls all permitting for wastewater treatment facilities. A concern of stakeholders is that political changes in Denver might require treatment plants to refrigerate the treated effluent before discharging it to the stream.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. Jan. 8 at the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility, 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month and are open to the public. For information, call Bill Burks at 719-481-4053.

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

Triview Metropolitan District, Dec. 11

District commits to roads and North Monument Creek Interceptor

By Jennifer Kaylor

The Triview Metropolitan District Board of Directors conducted public hearings for the 2019 draft budget and the proposed water and wastewater rate increases at its Dec. 11 meeting. The board reviewed and approved multiple resolutions.

Director James Otis was able to participate for the first hour via conference call.

Triview is a Title 32 special district inside Monument that provides road, landscaping, and open space maintenance, and water and wastewater services to Jackson Creek, Promontory Pointe, Sanctuary Pointe, and several commercial areas. The Town of Monument provides land use planning, police, and general governance for Triview's property owners. Triview Metropolitan District is not to be confused with Triview No. 2, Triview No. 3, or Triview No. 4, which were created solely to pay for road bonds in Promontory Pointe, Home Place Ranch, and Sanctuary Pointe, respectively. The Dec. 11 board packet is available at <https://triviewmetro.com/boardDocuments>.

Review of budget generates tweaks, warnings

President Mark Melville opened the public hearing for the 2019 budget. District Manager Jim McGrady explained the estimated income and expense amounts assigned to the district fund and the enterprise fund, and the capital projects associated with each fund.

Notable differences between the 2018 budget and the proposed 2019 budget lie chiefly in capital projects. District capital expenses included:

- Road rehabilitation for the remaining residential streets in Jackson Creek and the proposed project to widen Jackson Creek Parkway effected \$1.7 million and \$4.5 million estimates, respectively. The directors and McGrady confirmed the two projects as high priorities.
- \$250,000 for the purchase of a steel building to store and maintain equipment and create office space

at the district's A-yard located on Jackson Creek Parkway to extend the life of the stored equipment.

- \$500,000—earmarked for streetscape improvements to boost the visual appeal along Leather Chaps, Lyons Tail, and Kitchener—which drew cautionary responses from Directors Anthony Sexton and Marco Fiorito. They expressed discomfort with spending a large sum on a secondary priority before having bids for the multi-million-dollar road projects. McGrady and the board reached a consensus to reassess the district's ability to fund streetscape improvements once bids for the Jackson Creek Parkway widening project had been received.

The primary enterprise fund capital expenses included:

- \$416,000 for the purchase of 32 renewable water shares from the Fountain Mutual Irrigation Company (FMIC) that were approved in October and will close in January (see www.ocn.me/v18n11.htm#tvmtd)
- \$400,000 for regional water and wastewater design and permitting for the district's connection to the Colorado Springs Utilities' (CSU) North Monument Creek Interceptor (NMCI)
- \$400,000 for preliminary wastewater infrastructure—preparatory steps that must be taken prior to connecting to the NMCI (see next section).
- McGrady also proposed capital purchases to mitigate some of the district's contracted services such as snow removal, materials hauling, and welding repairs.

In conclusion to McGrady's budget overview, the directors credited the district's strong financial position to the sound judgment and financial planning of previous boards.

Resident and former Director Steve Remington, the only person to comment during either public hearing, emphatically repeated his warning that

the district must develop a long-term financial plan and admonished the board noting that he did not see Preble's mouse habitat fees incorporated into the Jackson Creek Parkway widening project.

After the public hearing was closed, the directors approved the resolution that adopted the 2019 budget, certified the 2019 mill levy at 35 mills, and appropriated the 2019 expenditures.

Future looks bright for North Monument Creek Interceptor

Among the several resolutions considered, the directors approved resolution 2018-07 in which the district agreed to cooperate and participate with CSU and other entities to create and use the NMCI as one complete project from the J. D. Phillips Water Reclamation Facility to the outfall lines of the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRWWTF) and the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF). Triview is a partner-owner of UMCRWWTF with Donala Water and Sanitation District and Forest Lakes Metro District (FLMD). Monument Sanitation District (MSD)—part owner of TLWWTF—approved a similar resolution in November. See www.ocn.me/v18n12.htm#msd.

If the remaining northern El Paso County sanitation districts—Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD), Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD), Donala, and FLMD—participate in the NMCI, the districts involved could reap promising financial benefits. In the current NMCI design plans, wastewater would be moved by gravity, potentially eliminating the need for expensive electrically powered lift stations. "This is a big deal," stated McGrady. Participating districts would also share the associated costs of constructing the pipeline, thus, as the number of participants increases, the cost per district decreases. Expanded collaboration could also augment possible solutions to the current dilemma of delivering return flows of reusable water.

Enterprise revenue, water shares, professional services established

The public hearing for the 2019 water and wastewater rates immediately followed the budget hearing. McGrady acknowledged that although regionalization with CSU would be substantially cheaper than upgrading and expanding the district's share of the UMCRWWTF, he recommended that some of the cost of pipeline participation be incorporated into the utility costs and proposed 5 and 9 percent increases in water and wastewater rates, respectively. Directors endorsed the 2019 rate increases but stipulated that future increases be postponed until CSU pipeline obligations come into focus.

Remington denounced the rate increase and recalled his fervent complaints from the July 10 board meeting. See www.ocn.me/v18n8.htm#tvmtd.

In a separate but related topic, McGrady confirmed that the district's \$11.16 million in revenue bonds sold on Nov. 19 at an interest rate of 4.03 percent. The bond sale refinanced former loans and eliminated a \$3.4 million balloon payment due in 2031 which "saved" the district about \$300,000 annually in immediate cashflow.

Remington objected to McGrady's use of the term "savings" in reference to the bond sale. Agreeing that cashflow improved for a few years, Remington reminded the board that the bond term had been extended, resulting in an increase in the net cost of the original loans. McGrady acknowledged the extra expense of extending the term but added, "We got a very good interest rate ... we avoided the balloon payment which would have been substantial for the district to meet.... The bond refinancing was all about mitigating [water and wastewater] rate increases."

The board approved additional resolutions including:

- The purchase of 10 FMIC renewable water shares for \$13,000 per share.
- A professional services agreement with the Law Offices of Gary Shupp, P.C. for the district's 2019