

TRIVIEW (Cont. from 14)

fully realized and may provide relief to the diminishing funds. McGrady confirmed that he continues to communicate with the Town of Monument regarding online sales tax revenue.

Superintendents provide updates

Parks and Open Space Superintendent Jay Bateman reported on the removal of several dead ponderosa pines in Sanc-

tuary Pointe. Many of the trees died due to improper planting, and Bateman expressed concern over the hazards of falling trees. Public Works crews also worked to correct weak spots in the irrigation system and winterize it, seek additional water conservation methods, assess winter watering needs, and complete work on Sanctuary Pointe's swing park. Bateman confirmed that Kiewit also provided milled asphalt to be repurposed as traction material on the trails.

Water Operations staff member Rob Lewis worked continuously to update the backflow prevention (BFP) commercial inspection program and bring the district into 100% FOG (fats, oils, and grease) compliance, reported district Water Superintendent Shawn Sexton. This was the first time he had seen the district reach the 100% BFP standard, Sexton remarked. Lewis' son, Dean, completed the GPS mapping of valves and sewer lids that will be overlaid into

a multi-layered electronic map to enhance infrastructure maintenance and repair.

At 6:32 p.m., the board entered executive session §24-6-402(4)(b)(e) legal advice, negotiations. OCN confirmed that no actions were taken nor decisions made following the executive session.

The next Triview board meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20. The December meeting has been changed to Wednesday, Dec.

11 to accommodate the state budget submission deadline of Dec. 15. Check the district's event calendar at www.triviewmetro.com/home or call 488-6868 for meeting schedule updates. Board meetings are held at the district office, 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 300, Monument. See also "Triview Metropolitan District" on Facebook, or Twitter.com/@TriviewMetro.

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Donala Water and Sanitation District, Sept. 19 and Oct. 17**Green dye, other culprits plague wastewater system**

By Jennifer Kaylor

The Donala Water and Sanitation District Board of Directors met to receive operational status reports and to consider adoption of Supplemental Budget Resolution 2019-03 at its Sept. 19 meeting. At the following meeting on Oct. 17, District Manager Kip Petersen provided a detailed line-item review of the district's preliminary 2020 budget.

Mystery dye inspires waste education

The Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRWWTF) has been operating within permitted parameters, but the plant had been receiving a large amount of green dye in September, reported District Manager Kip Petersen. The dye was water-based and would therefore "dilute out" as it was processed by the wastewater treatment facility. Donala asked its UMCRWWTF partners—Triview Metropolitan District and Forest Lakes Metro District—to research potential sources of the dye within their boundaries.

The presence of the dye, despite its relative harmlessness, reflected the ongoing struggle that the district faces due to inappropriate materials being flushed down toilets or the wastewater system be-

ing used as general disposal for materials it was never intended to process. So-called flushable wipes, for instance, should never be flushed down toilets. They attach to impellers, blades, and other equipment resulting in clogs and subsequent equipment repairs that are costly and time-consuming. "Something as innocuous as dental floss can build up into a major clog in the system. Even facial tissue should not be disposed of in the toilet as it is manufactured not to break down when wet or damp," Petersen emphasized.

At the October meeting, Petersen referenced the added concern of FOG (fats, oil, and grease) with the advent of the holiday season and its accompanying fat-laden cooking. The district will be working to educate customers on what not to put down their garbage disposals. "Oils and grease should never be put down the drain but should be placed in a container, or combined with kitty litter, and placed in the trash," he said.

Arsenic levels plummet

In reference to other permit parameters, Petersen stated that the arsenic levels discharged from the UMCRWWTF into the environment had fallen to 4.6 µg/L in July and, most recently in Sep-

tember, to 2.5 µg/L. Arsenic, one of several naturally occurring contaminants found in groundwater, is removed by a treatment process before water is sent to customers for consumption. The contaminants are then sent to the wastewater treatment facility for disposal. Effective Oct. 1, the permit compliance standard that wastewater districts must fall under is 8.7 µg/L.

Petersen attributed the much lower arsenic levels to Donala's increased use of renewable water from its Willow Creek Ranch resource near Leadville. This drinking water passes through the Colorado Springs Utilities Southern Delivery System (SDS), which removes contaminants before sending the water to Donala's treatment process. Donala's screening also removes arsenic and other contaminants and disposes of them through the UMCRWWTF. CSU's pre-screening consequently reduces the amounts removed and discharged by the partner-owned Donala-Triview-Forest Lakes facility.

Donala pays 1.5 times the rate that CSU's in-district customers pay, making the Willow Creek Ranch solution to arsenic discharge compliance an expensive one. Petersen estimated it costs an average

of \$304,000 per month for the district to buy its water back from CSU.

In the next several weeks, Donala plans to have an automatic composite sampler operational to individually monitor the arsenic levels coming from Triview and Forest Lakes.

Donala and Triview may also continue to pursue an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) that was halted in the fall of 2018 due to Donala's 1041 permit application that met several postponements (see <https://www.ocn.me/v18n12.htm#tvmd>). The IGA would establish legal and cost parameters between Donala and Triview to transport, or "wheel," Triview-owned renewable water through Donala's infrastructure based upon the available capacity of Donala's system.

As previously noted, renewable water naturally contains less arsenic than well water and Triview's Fountain Mutual Irrigation Company Inc. (FMIC) shares would also be subject to treatment by CSU, which in turn would lower arsenic levels in Triview's wastewater flows to the UMCRWWTF. This arrangement is now possible because of Donala's recently approved 1041 permit (See <https://www.ocn.me/v19n8.htm#dwsd> and <https://www.ocn.me/v19n9.htm#dwsd>).

2020 budget explained and available for public review

In presenting the district's preliminary 2020 budget, Petersen explained that he had incorporated the cost of service analysis recommendations provided by civil engineering firm GMS Inc. Budget numbers in the draft included a 2.4% water rate increase across all tiers, a \$1 addition to the current monthly water service charge, and a 5% wastewater rate charge that would increase the monthly sewer service payment from \$35 to \$36.75.

Weather affects both consumer water consumption and the district's management of water resources, which in turn makes estimating the budget very challenging, stated Petersen. Consequently, conservative forecasts for the budget included a decrease in operating revenue by 3.9%, a decrease in operating ex-

penses by 10%, and a general fund capital projects increase of 62.3%. The primary capital projects focused on continuing or completing arsenic mitigation through the residuals management building at the R. Hull water plant and water main replacement along Huntington Beach, Candlewood, and Westchester Drive.

The Donala Board of Directors and staff are scheduled to discuss the tiered rate structure and the 2020 budget in greater detail at a workshop on Nov. 21. Final consideration will be made at the regular board meeting on Dec. 12. This meeting falls earlier in the month than typical so that the district may submit its budget according to state requirements.

2019 budget amended to reflect delayed expenses

At the September meeting, Petersen presented the Resolution for Supplemental Budget and Appropriation 2019-3 to the directors. This resolution accounted for two capital projects, a screen unit and railing around equalization bins. The projects were expected to be completed in 2018 but met extensive material and equipment delays and, consequently, were pushed into 2019. Because most of the projects' expenses were incurred in 2019 instead of 2018, the 2019 budget needed to more accurately reflect the projects' funding.

Petersen explained that the project costs remained the same. The resolution was simply shifting money from 2018 to 2019, added Vice President Ed Houle. The board unanimously approved the appropriation of the Operations and Management Capital Projects fund from \$240,000 to \$410,307.

The next board meeting will function as a budget workshop and begin 9 a.m. Nov. 21 at the district office located at 15850 Holbein Drive, Colorado Springs. The directors meet in the district office conference room. Board meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month. More information is available by calling (719)488-3603 or accessing www.donalawater.org.

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BREWERY

Winter Welcome
Wed. Nov 13. 6p

AdAmAn Holiday Ale Release
Made with Cinnamon, Ginger, Orange Peel, And Honey

New Winter Food Menu

New Winter Merchandise

1756 Lake Woodmoor Dr., Monument, CO 80132