

Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee, Nov. 12

Residents must allow utility easement access

By Lisa Hatfield

The Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLW-WTF) Joint Use Committee (JUC) met on November 12 to discuss infrastructure maintenance that must be done within utility easements on private property, plant operations which were negatively affected by possible chemical dumping, and the 2020 budget.

TLWWTF is owned in equal one-third shares by Monument Sanitation District (MSD), Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD), and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD).

The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts' boards: MSD board Chairman Ed DeLaney, JUC president; PLSD board Chairman Mark Bruce took the place of JUC and PLSD Vice Chairman Patricia Smith, who has resigned; and WWSD board President Jim Taylor substituted for WWSD board Director Lee Hanson, JUC secretary/treasurer. Other board and staff members of the three owner districts also attended, including MSD District Manager Mike Wicklund, PLSD District Manager Becky Orcutt, and WWSD Assistant District Manager Randy Gillette.

Member districts need easement access to keep things running

The JUC and these owner districts want their property owner customers to understand that the easements that are owned by these three wastewater districts for repair and maintenance must be immediately available to district personnel and contractors to access manholes or buried sewer collection lines inside their property owner customers' boundaries.

MSD, PLSD, and WWSD all perform regular inspections and maintenance on their sewer lines, and in an emergency would need access to these lines to prevent or contain a hazardous materials spill, using their rights-of-way within these legally defined easements.

Facility Manager Bill Burks said that he has had some stressful, negative interactions with certain resi-

dents when maintenance crews needed access to the collection line and manhole easements, which are documented on property plat maps filed with El Paso County. Utilities are not required to provide advance notification to property owners that have easements through their properties, but the managers do try to work with residents, Orcutt and Wicklund said.

Orcutt mentioned that her district is working near Mount Herman Road and Cloven Hoof Drive on the first phase of upgrades to its sewer lines to increase the flow capacity of certain collection lines that are nearing their limit. See www.ocn.me/v19n6.htm#plsd.

Dumping solvents disrupts the treatment process

Burks said the JUC and the owner districts want their customers to know the serious hazards of disposing volatile organic compounds and solvents into the MSD, PLSD, and WWSD sanitary sewer collection systems because they can kill the aerobic and anaerobic bacteria in the TLWWTF aeration basins and sludge lagoon. The bacteria must be able to treat the waste so it can be disposed of safely and healthfully.

In the TLWWTF September Discharge Monitoring Report submitted to the state and the EPA, Burks said he is still investigating facility nitrification issues that began in August and could be related to solvents being dumped into the owner districts' collection systems instead of being disposed of separately as hazardous waste. The outcome is an increase in the ammonia level in the facility's effluent discharged to Monument Creek and the facility's sludge lagoon.

Residential hazardous waste can be disposed of safely; see communityservices.elpasoco.com/environmental-division/household-hazardous-waste/. Commercial businesses with hazardous waste disposal questions should contact their sanitation district.

Stakeholder meeting updates

Burks reported that the Arkansas River/ Fountain Creek Coalition for Urban/Rural River Evaluation (AF CURE) and the TLWWTF environmental attorney

Gabe Racz of Vranesh & Raisch LLP are continuing to monitor developments with the Water Quality Control Division's decision-making processes on a variety of new treatment issues and regulations that are currently being modified.

MSD Environmental Compliance Coordinator Jim Kendrick reported on the Colorado Wastewater Utility Council October meeting. He said stakeholders such as TLWWTF and AF CURE are frustrated with the lack of transparency and the inability to give substantive input on scientific decision-making to the regulators at the state level. He said the stakeholder process is too limited, too hurried, too undefined, and too impracticable. New rules will likely be added to TLWWTF discharge permits even though no treatment technologies are available to achieve the new tighter discharge limits. And, Racz said, "There is nothing we can do about it." Racz commented that no informational handouts for agenda items are available at the state meetings for members of the regulated community to read ahead of stakeholder meetings in order to provide useful comments to the state before the stakeholder meetings.

Kendrick summarized, "The stakeholder process is going to be blown up."

2020 budget approved

After a brief discussion about the final 2020 TLWWTF budget draft, the JUC voted unanimously to adopt the 2020 budget and appropriate the \$1,297,834 in funds required.

Burks later said it was possible that TLWWTF would "come in below" the \$1,131,916 it had budgeted for 2019 expenditures.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. Dec. 10 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 from all three owner-districts. For information, call Bill Burks at 719-481-4053.

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Triview Metropolitan District, Nov. 20

October's record snowfall and cold temperatures stall Jackson Creek Parkway progress

By Jennifer Kaylor

At the Nov. 20 board meeting, Kiewit Project Manager Joe Houtz gave the Triview Metropolitan District directors options for managing weather-related setbacks on the Jackson Creek Parkway (JCP) widening project. District Manager Jim McGrady reviewed the proposed 2020 budget.

Triview is a Title 32 special district within 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 Nov. 20 board packet may be accessed via www.triviewmetro.com/boardDocuments.

Quality a top priority for Kiewit and Triview
Houtz confirmed that the October 2019 snowfall and temperatures—the 5th coldest and snowiest on record for southeast Colorado—not only stalled Kiewit's advanced schedule but created delays that may last into the spring. He proposed two options for completing what remains of the final stage of the project which is the mill and overlay of the northbound and southbound lanes from Leather Chaps Drive to Higby Road. Option one is to finish the work during the characteristically sporadic and short warmer days in December and January. Option two is to postpone the work until spring when temperatures that reach or rise above 40 degrees are more likely to be consistent. Emphasizing concerns for quality, Houtz recommended the spring postponement. In December and January, sufficiently warm temperatures generally last from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. With this final mill and overlay requiring about seven consistently warm days for completion, the shorter windows of opportunity have the potential to create patchy asphalt quality as well as increased traffic disruption, he explained.

Postponement obviously translates to a longer wait for the parkway to be completed. It may also mean that expanding from the current single-open lane in each direction to double-open lanes (the

lanes would be unfinished and therefore rough and uneven) would be weather-dependent. The board agreed to tentatively plan on a spring completion with a caveat; if a promising seven-day weather forecast came earlier, overlay work would begin. McGrady later confirmed the following timeline: four-lane traffic from Leather Chaps to Higby Road about the first week of January; substantial completion May 22; and final completion May 29.

Houtz discussed other work such as supplemental change orders, wiring for the 34 additional lights along the parkway, fortification of the right-turn lane at JCP and Higby Road, and an additional left-turn lane. After the executive session, McGrady confirmed the board's vote to approve an amendment to the Kiewit contract authorizing the addition of a three-quarter left-turn lane from northbound JCP into the northern section of Monument Market Place. This lane will allow a left turn into the shopping plaza but not a left turn coming out of the plaza onto JCP. Triview will incur \$50,000 of the estimated \$163,000 cost to add the turn lane.

Budget reviewed

McGrady reviewed the district's proposed 2020 budget which assumed a property tax levy of 35 mills and residential growth of 150 new homes. The district operates on two separate funds: a general fund which is divided into the Public Works/Streets Department and Parks and Open Space Department. The second fund, known as the enterprise fund, is likewise divided into a Water Department and Wastewater Department.

Because the property tax revenue must be used to pay principal and interest on debt service only, McGrady discussed the need for the general fund's income stream to match increased expenses resulting from growth. Currently, various sales taxes and impact fees are the source of revenue for the general fund. Expressing a goal to use impact fees strictly for expansion and improvements, the district may need

to consider alternate sources of income if sales tax revenue trends downward.

He emphasized the need for the water and wastewater service rates that are charged to customers to fully support daily operations and for the respective enterprise fees—paid by developers—to pay for major projects. The proposed budget now incorporates these fees into the capital projects fund.

Ultimately, the proposed 2020 budget reflects a philosophical move for the district to function primarily on a cash basis.

The Triview 2020 budget draft may be accessed at <https://bit.ly/2OqCsVk>

Water and wastewater rates and budget hearing scheduled for December meeting

McGrady confirmed the next meeting, which will serve as the public hearing for a water and wastewater



Wishing everyone a warm and healthy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year! Thank you so much for the referrals!

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