

ciation to allow residents to make use of a portion of the district's property where Well 5 is located for access to the Cove's property and for parking,

The Cove is a multi-family housing complex at 1655 Deer Creek Road, just north of Woodmoor Lake.

Shaffer told the board that the easement would be revocable. The board voted unanimously to grant the easement.

**Highlights of operational reports**

- Assistant District Manager Randy Gillette reported that the work being done to armor the district's augmentation station on Fountain Creek had been successfully completed. The project was undertaken to protect the station from erosion to ensure the district can divert its share of water from Fountain Creek and deliver it as contracted to the shareholders of the Chilcott Ditch company.
- Gillette told the board that a new ditch rider had been hired. The ditch rider is responsible for maintaining the Chilcott Ditch in proper working order.

The district plans to hire an additional ditch rider, Gillette said.

- Gillette told the board that the Monument Creek exchange was once again pumping water from Monument Creek into Woodmoor Lake after a temporary shutdown required by low flows in the creek.
- Shaffer told the board the district had awarded a contract for \$738,000 to Velocity Constructors to complete all outstanding work on the district's newest well, Well 21. The pipeline and the landscaping were not included in this contract, Shaffer said. Well 21 is in the Misty Acres neighborhood.
- About 130 feet of sewer line remain to be completed on the Monument Hill Road project, according to Shaffer. Excavating had been more difficult

than expected near the box culvert adjacent to the weighing station, Shaffer said, due to groundwater issues. The project was expected to be completed before the end of March, according to Shaffer.

- The Beach at Woodmoor is resolving some issues with grading at the site that are delaying the project, Shaffer told the board.

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The next meeting is scheduled for April 8 at 1 p.m. Meetings are usually held at the district office at 1845 Woodmoor Drive on the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. See [www.woodmoorwater.com](http://www.woodmoorwater.com) or call 488-2525 to verify meeting times.

James Howald can be reached at [jameshowald@ocn.me](mailto:jameshowald@ocn.me).

**Forest Lakes Metropolitan District and Pinon Pines Metropolitan Districts 1, 2 and 3, March 12**

**Interceptor approved; water treatment plant up and running**

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Forest Lakes Metropolitan District (FLMD) and Pinon Pines Metropolitan Districts (PPMD) 1, 2 and 3 joint special board meeting on March 12, directors discussed future participation in the planned North Monument Creek Interceptor (NMCI) and regionalization of water and wastewater utilities. The directors also applauded the completion of the FLMD surface water treatment plant, which will provide drinking water from Bristlecone Lake for residents' use.

**North Monument Creek Interceptor resolution approved**

Ann Nichols, FLMD manager, gave a brief backstory to the board on the proposed NMCI pipeline for future regionalization of water and wastewater utilities using the J.D. Phillips Water Resource Recovery Facility at 4205 Mark Dabling Blvd., Colorado Springs. The facility was originally sized to handle 20 million gallons per day with a possible expansion to 50 million gallons per day if

needed. However, water use was not as high as anticipated over the past 20 years and the plant currently handles only 12 million gallons of wastewater per day. In comparison, Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRWTF) handles 1.75 million gallons per day for FLMD, Triview Metropolitan District, and Donala Water and Sanitation District customers.

The U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA), plans to construct a visitor center and hotel complex using the NMCI pipeline to enable the elimination of three costly lift stations in the process. Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) approached the northern entities six months ago with a view to extending the pipeline to the northern wastewater districts so they could take advantage of a more efficient unit cost for wastewater treatment, bypassing the UMCRWTF and Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) that serve Palmer Lake Sanitation District, Monument Sanitation District, and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District. Note: CSU is working to obtain all the legal permissions that would be required to work on Air Force Academy land.

Connecting to the JD Phillips Water Resource Recovery Facility is a good regional approach to prevent rates from escalating due to increased state-required nutrient compliance standards, Nichols said. The FLMD infrastructure cost share would be about \$750,000 with an estimated operating cost savings over 10-15 years of 20 percent. FLMD would then be out of the wastewater treatment business, avoiding required costly upgrades, liability issues, and restrictions, said Nichols.

Doug Stimple, FLMD assistant secretary and treasurer, and CEO of Classic Homes, stated:

- CSU already has the necessary upgrades in place to meet anticipated stricter standards, and future costs would be divided over 500,000 customers.
- In contrast, smaller sanitation districts are at greater capital risk because they would face increasing standards of treatment and have a much smaller customer base to pay for them.
- CSU has a 100-year track record of reliability and charging affordable rates to its customers.
- The long-term goal would be for CSU to return the valuable "return flow" water to the northern water districts who have water rights to it via a pipeline along Highway 83, Hodgen Road, and Baptist Road.

Nichols recommended the board accept the resolution to continue discussions and cooperate with CSU with

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