

asked the board to keep the trails on the west side of the lake accessible to residents, making the following points:

- The trails are a great resource for parents who want their children to have a place to exercise while COVID-19 restrictions are in place and are reducing the availability of sports programs.
- Local schools use the trail for cross-country practice.
- Access to the trails was used as a selling point in the promotional material for The Dunes at Woodmoor.
- Woodmoor has no sidewalks, so there are few places to walk that are safe from traffic.
- Some are reluctant to walk near Mountain Springs Recovery, a rehabilitation facility on Woodmoor Drive.
- The community should have a chance to discuss the future of the trails.
- Some residents moved to the community because of the access to the trails.
- Residents who walk on the trails provide some stewardship of the trails and the lake and help to enforce policies against fishing and swimming.

Bush said he had spoken with WWSD staff about the issue before the board meeting and had heard concerns from them about safety of district equipment, about the quality of the district's drinking water, and about liability. Some of the property owners on the east side had recently complained about people trespassing on their property to reach the lake, Bush said, adding that the district had agreed to post signs on the east side of the lake discouraging people from crossing private property to reach the lake.

Bush said the board was not ready to reach a final decision and that he would recommend the issue be on the agenda for the board's next meeting on Nov. 16. In the interim, Bush said, he would instruct the staff not to enforce any restrictions on use of the trails.

The discussion concluded with a statement from a homeowner on the east side of the lake, who said that short-term rental properties on the east side were contributing to the frustration of homeowners, because the renters frequently used the lake for recreation. In response to her concerns, Bush said that the Woodmoor Improvement Association was working with the owner of the rental property to address the behavior of the renters.

Key component of South Water Treatment Plant needs replacing

In what has become a regular feature of the district's meetings, Richard Hood of JVA Engineering reported to the board on recent developments with the projects on which the district is working, focusing on the need to replace the Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) in the South Water Treatment Plant (SWTP). Hood described the PLC as "the brains" of the plant, which interprets a flow signal and adjusts the plant's valves to accomplish the work of treating the water being processed at the plant.

Hood said the PLC currently in place is 20 years old and prone to failure. It is no longer manufactured and replacement parts are hard to obtain—in the past year the district has had to cannibalize PLC parts from other plants and use eBay to locate parts, according to Hood. Cost for the replacement parts is high, Hood said.

The scope of work to replace the PLC will involve replacing the PLC components with newer hardware

from ControlLogix, reconnecting and mapping the wires that connect the PLC to the other components of the plant, translating the programming of the current PLC to the language of the replacement hardware, and testing the new PLC before it goes into production. The Human Machine Interface (HMI) will also be upgraded, Hood said.

The cost estimate from Stanek Constructors is \$121,055, which includes a \$50,000 credit back to the district for not having to improve the existing PLC, Hood said. The estimate does not include necessary Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) programming, Hood said, because the company that does that work could not complete an estimate before the board's October meeting. Hood estimated the PLC replacement would be complete by April 2021.

Hood asked the board to authorize Shaffer to approve two change orders: the first of up to \$150,000 to complete the PLC replacement, and the second of \$42,000 to begin the acquisition process for WesTech filtration hardware needed at the Central Water Treatment Plant (CWTP).

The board voted unanimously to authorize Shaffer to approve the expenditures.

Draft budget for 2021 delivered Shaffer provided the board with a draft of the district's 2021 budget.

In brief remarks on the draft budget, Shaffer said the district's Renewable Water Investment Fee would likely be reduced by \$1 per month to \$39 per month per customer. He also pointed out that in 2021 some of the district's bonds would be eligible for a tax-exempt refunding, which would entail the payment of about \$300,000 in fees. Refinancing would lower the district's interest rates, Shaffer said.

The board scheduled a budget workshop for Oct. 26 at 3 p.m.

The board also decided to move its next board meeting from Nov. 9 to Nov. 16 at 1 p.m., and to schedule the public hearing on the budget at that meeting.

Highlights of operational reports

- Operations at the Woodmoor Ranch are winding down for the year.
- The Chilcote Ditch is scheduled for cleaning between Nov. 1 and Thanksgiving Day.
- The augmentation station on Fountain Creek has been shut down for the year.
- Demand for water is down from August due to cooler weather.
- There were two water service line failures.
- Backlot cleaning is expected to be complete by the end of October, with a total of 80,000 feet of sewer line cleaned.
- Mountain Springs Recovery has submitted plans to open its third building.
- Monument Commercial Storage, at Deer Creek Road and Monument Hill Road, is nearing completion.

The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 16 at 1 p.m. Meetings are usually held on the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m., but the November meeting was scheduled for a week later to allow the board to prepare for the budget hearing. Meetings are currently held at the Woodmoor Barn Community Center rather than the district office; please see www.woodmoorwater.com or call 488-2525 to verify meeting times and locations.

James Howald can be reached at jameshowald@ocn.me.

Tri-Lakes Wastewater Facility Joint Use Committee, Oct. 13

Dealing with issues one at a time

By Lisa Hatfield

The Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) Joint Use Commit-

tee (JUC) met on Oct. 13 to review facility operations.

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: WWSD board Director Lee Hanson, JUC president; PLSD board member Reid Wiecks, JUC vice president; and MSD Treasurer John Howe, JUC secretary/treasurer. The meeting was held at TLWWTF, with several in attendance in person while others attended via Zoom.

District managers' reports

Howe said that he had expected MSD Board President Dan Hamilton to also attend this meeting, and he reported that MSD is without a manager since Interim Manager Erin Krueger has been gone. GMS Inc. consulting engineers is helping MSD operate the district, do engineering and utility locates, and continue operations. See www.ocn.me/v20n10.htm#msd.

Howe said as board treasurer he was working with MSD board member Laura Kronick to create a district budget for 2021. He said he hoped that MSD will have hired an Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC) by its meeting Oct. 21. See related MSD article on page 16.

WWSD Manager Jessie Shaffer stated that MSD is contracting ORC services through GMS for the moment.

Neither Shaffer nor PLSD District Manager Becky Orcutt had anything else to report about their districts. Later in the meeting, Facility Manager Bill Burks said that a flume used to mea-

sure influent flows from PLSD to TLWWTF had been malfunctioning. Flows from PLSD had to be estimated for a few days. He and his staff had solved the miscalculations by removing debris that was wedged in the PLSD flume.

Financial report and 2021 budget

Burks told WWSD and MSD that they needed to "move a little faster" getting monthly invoice checks to him, because TLWWTF's checking account was running low. He emailed invoices on Sept. 30, but he had not received checks from either district as of the morning of Oct. 13. "I expect it sooner," he said.

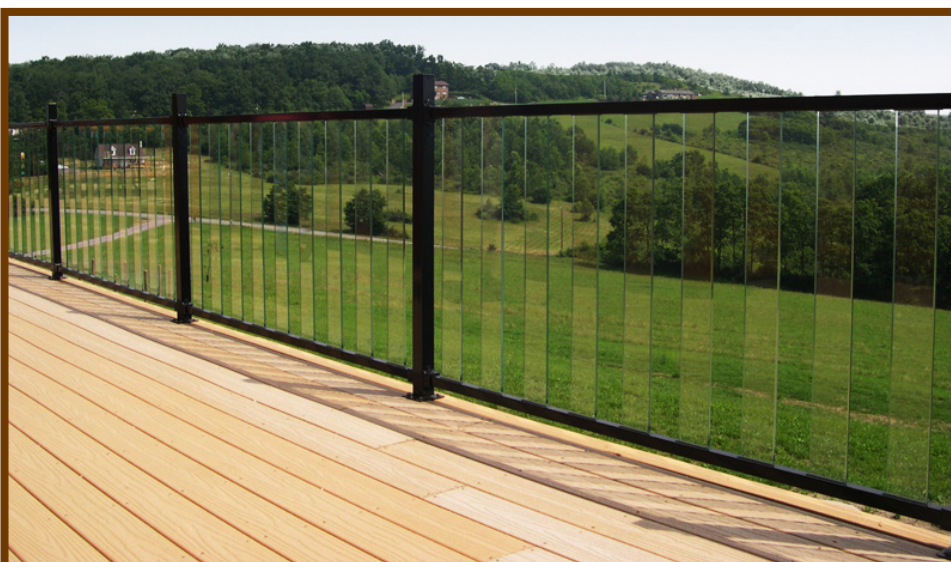
Regarding the 2021 draft TLWWTF budget, none of the three owner district boards or two current district managers had any comments or questions about Burks' proposed budget. The public hearing on the TLWWTF budget will be Nov. 10.

Plant manager's report

Burks reviewed the continued good results of regular required and voluntary AF CURE baseline sampling. He said he would investigate one surprising baseline sample showing a spike in total recoverable iron at one location upstream of TLWWTF in August to see if it correlated with non-point source runoff from a rain event.

MSD's Environmental Compliance Coordinator Jim Kendrick conveyed good news from this morning's Water Quality Control Commission information hearing and administrative action

JUC (Cont. on 16)



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