

DONALA (Cont. from 14)**“Flushable” wipes headache intensifies, neighborly collaboration gains momentum**

Petersen revisited the terrible circumstances that arise when people flush so-called “flushable” wipes down the toilet. Expressing fear that some residents have substituted wipes for toilet paper, Petersen recounted occasions in the past month when district staff had to unclog several pumps at the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRWWTF) that were jammed with “flushable” wipes. He expressed a wish for everyone who flushes a toilet to experience the conditions that Donala operators face when disentangling not just the wipes but the entire collection of debris and waste matter that becomes a clog in the pump. Petersen advised directors to emphasize the message with friends, family, and strangers alike that only human waste and toilet paper should ever be flushed.

While tackling clogs in the wastewater system, the district also coped with a decreased workforce. Former Chief Waste Plant Operator Terri Ladouceur and her replacement Aaron Tolman vacated their positions on Feb. 28 and March 27, respectively. See <https://ocn.me/v20n4.htm#dwsd>. As of the board meeting, Superintendent Robert Hull was serving as an interim chief waste plant operator. Petersen expressed praise for the commitment, focus, and positive attitudes of Donala’s staff whose round-the-clock efforts to maintain safe drinking water and wastewater discharge standards made him extremely proud.

Petersen informed the board that managers and chief operators from the Town of Monument, Triview Metropolitan District, Woodmoor Water and Sanitation, and Palmer Lake Sanitation District were teleconferencing each Tuesday to discuss their various needs. The districts have provided support to one another by sharing water and wastewater treatment

chemicals, personal protective equipment such as sanitizer, gloves, and masks, and even personnel hours. The statewide cooperation is also quite impressive, he added.

Donala staff would continue to uphold Gov. Polis’ April 26 stay-at-home order, stated Petersen, and would follow recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) through the effective date or later if extended. Donala’s office will remain closed to the public until the stay-at-home order is lifted.

Coronavirus-related disappointments

Donala’s arsenic disposal alternative, the residual management facility (previously referenced as the Water Treatment Plant Residuals Dewatering Facility or RDF), is no longer expected to meet its May operational deadline. The project’s general contractor and press manufacturer informed Petersen that they expected delays in their deliveries as part of the ripple effect of the coronavirus restrictions.

The residual management facility creates a solid waste/landfill option for the district to dispose of arsenic. Arsenic and other substances such as iron and manganese occur naturally in groundwater from wells but are removed in the process of “finishing” drinking water for homes and businesses. Arsenic waste removed by Donala’s groundwater treatment plant goes to a wastewater collection system and is then sent to the UMCRWWTF.

In October 2019, new CDPHE regulations strictly tightened the amount of arsenic that the wastewater facility could discharge into Monument Creek. The residual management facility, intended to serve as a potable water pretreatment process, will capture most of the groundwater’s arsenic in a manner appropriate for landfill disposal and dramatically decrease the disposal into Monument Creek. Although Donala is currently in full compliance with its potable water

and discharged wastewater arsenic levels, completion of the residual management facility means that the district can rely less on its arsenic-free renewable water from Willow Creek Ranch during the higher-water-demand summer months and draw from its groundwater wells. *For more information see www.ocn.me/v19n3.htm#dwsd.*

Additional updates

- Eastern El Paso County was classified as “abnormally dry.”
- As part of his outreach efforts, Petersen confirmed that he scheduled a May 19 meeting with Colorado Springs at-large City Council Member Wayne Williams. City Council members serve as the governing board of Colorado Springs Utilities.
- Petersen asserted that the district’s water main replacement program should proceed without interruption. The economic downturn due to the coronavirus has caused other construction projects to be cancelled, therefore, Donala’s project received several bid responses from contractors. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Board meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month. The next board meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. May 14. The meeting may be held as a conference call or online video meeting depending on the status of stay-at-home restrictions; call (719)488-3603 or access www.donalawater.org to receive up-to-date meeting information. The district office is located at 15850 Holbein Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80921. When the directors meet in person, meetings are held in the district office conference room. See https://www.donalawater.org/images/docs/PUBLIC_NOTICE_2020.pdf for the meeting schedule.

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Triview Metropolitan District, April 22**Resolutions mark significant changes**

By Jennifer Kaylor

The Triview Metropolitan District Board of Directors met via conference call on April 22. President Mark Melville sustained a roll call system for votes. District Manager Jim McGrady presented four resolutions for directors to review and consider for approval.

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. See <https://triviewmetro.com/districtMap> for a map of district boundaries.

The April board packet is separated into three parts and may be accessed via www.triviewmetro.com/boardDocuments.

Bonds sought to acquire water assets

McGrady introduced Resolution 2020-02, which authorizes the issuance and sale of water and wastewater enterprise revenue bonds and provides sources of payment of the bonds as well as other details. McGrady stated that Triview is acquiring assets that will enhance the district’s ability to provide renewable water. The purpose of the bonds is to establish financing for the purchase, and the purpose of the resolution is to set the parameters on the amount, interest rate, and duration of the bonds. By setting pre-established limits on the bonds, the board authorizes the district manager or the board president to make final pricing

determinations subject to those maximums.

The resolution also stipulates that revenue generated from water operations, known as enterprise revenue, will be used to pay back the bonds and, therefore, does not require an election. If for some unknown reason the annual payment exceeds the district’s ability to pay, the resolution supports the district in exploring water service rate increases.

Bond counsel Kim Crawford from Butler Snow reviewed Section 213 of the resolution and confirmed that it authorizes the district manager or board president to make final pricing determinations subject to the maximums, which include: a net effective interest rate not to exceed 4.5%; if the bonds are callable, a redemption provision of not more than 103% (or a prepayment penalty of not more than 3%); a purchase price of 98% or more of the aggregate principal amount; and a principal not to exceed \$18 million. The maximum annual bond payment is set at \$1.5 million with a maximum total of \$32.5 million and a maturity date not later than Dec. 31, 2051. The resolution also authorizes bond insurance if it is cost effective to the district. See pdf page 35 of Board Packet, Regular Meeting, 4/22/20, Part 1 https://triviewmetro.com/assets/documents/board/agenda/2020/BoardPacket_2020-04-22_p1.pdf.

Nate Eckloff from underwriter Piper Sandler and Co. anticipated that Triview would be able to secure an effective interest rate of about 3.5%, a redemp-

tion provision of 100%, and a purchase price closer to 99.5%.

After their questions were addressed, Triview directors approved the resolution.

Service plan amendments create potential for a subdistrict

Three additional resolutions were brought before the board. Resolution 2020-03 recognized Gov. Polis’ state of emergency declaration due to the threat presented by COVID-19 and authorized the district’s board to teleconference for regular and special meetings.

The remaining two resolutions worked in tandem to enable the district to create a subdistrict.

Resolution 2020-04 amended and restated the Triview service plan to update financial plans, development assumptions, and cost estimates; reflect current conditions; and allow for future flexibility. Currently, the district provides water and wastewater services, street and drainage improvements, traffic safety protections, parks and open space maintenance, and mosquito control. The restated service plan empowers the district to amend the service plan as needed according to appropriate statutory procedures, to modify implementation of the financing plan and public infrastructure and create subdistricts to provide public improvements for new developments. The resolution and following service plan begin on page 8, Board Packet, Regular Meeting, 4/22/20, Part 2, https://triviewmetro.com/assets/documents/board/agenda/2020/BoardPacket_2020-04-22_p2.pdf

The fourth resolution, 2020-05, authorizes the formation of a subdistrict in Triview. The Creekside subdivision—bordered on the north by Higby Road, on the west by Jackson Creek Parkway, and on the east by the planned Home Place Ranch development—anticipates 611 homes and 480 multi-family units. McGrady explained that designating the area as a subdistrict opens the opportunity for the developer to issue bonds to construct infrastructure such as utilities and parks. It also allows for a 10-mill operations and maintenance levy, which prevents current Triview rate payers from shouldering the burden of additional operations and maintenance costs. Resolution 2020-05 begins on pdf page 72 of Board Packet, Regular Meeting, 4/22/20, Part 2, https://triviewmetro.com/assets/documents/board/agenda/2020/BoardPacket_2020-04-22_p2.pdf

For information about the proposed Triview



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