
 PPMD 1 meetings, followed by joint meetings of FLMD and PPMD 2 AND 3, have typically been scheduled once a quarter

at 4 p.m. when all four boards were made up of the same people. The next scheduled special meeting for PPMD 1 is July 13 at 4 p.m. Please check

the website for the location and/or joining instructions for all of these four meetings, which may or may not be held on the same day. Official

meeting notices are posted on the district website at www.forestlakesmetrodistrict.com. For general questions, contact Ann Nichols at (719) 327-5810

or at anicholsduffy@aol.com.
 Natalie Barszcz can be reached at nataliebarszcz@ocn.me.

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Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee, May 12

Smooth operations continue

By Lisa Hatfield

The Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) Joint Use Committee (JUC) met on May 12. The only people present were the three JUC members, Facility Manager Bill Burks, and JUC Recorder Susanne Wielgopalan. The April 14 meeting was canceled.

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 member Reid Wiecks, JUC vice president, and WWSD board Director Lee Hanson, JUC secretary/treasurer.

COVID-19 topics

Burks described some issues related to COVID-19 pandemic, including:

- A TLWWTF employee was exposed to someone who may have had COVID-19. Burks' opinion, and JUC consensus, was to send him home for up to 14 days of quarantine with pay until the results were known.
- He instituted special scheduling from March 23 to April 27 so fewer staff members would be on site at the same time.

Wiecks said a local co-op has helped make 10,000 fabric face masks. Burks' wife made NFL-themed cloth masks for the TLWWTF staff.

The members discussed how to conduct future JUC

meetings so that district managers, other district board members, and members of the public could attend.

Hanson suggested that since WWSD has a Zoom video conference account, they could offer that as an option. The three voting JUC members will attend the meetings in person, and the public would be welcome to attend either way.

Wiecks and Burks mentioned a story on National Public Radio about wastewater plants' ability to track concentrations of COVID-19. *All Things Considered* featured, "How What You Flush is Helping Track the Coronavirus." In wastewater, non-infective remains of viruses can be measured. This real-time measurement could help cities in the future detect new waves of infections, even before the medical community can identify them. Similar testing has been used to identify polio outbreaks worldwide.

This testing is not being performed at TLWWTF. See www.npr.org/2020/05/07/852155076/how-what-you-flush-is-helping-track-coronavirus. "It was fascinating," Wiecks said.

Plant manager's report

Burks presented the February and March Discharge Monitoring Reports and details on the continued smooth operation of the facility. His comments included:

- Trash cans are where to put so-called "flushable" wipes. Do not put them in the toilet, since they clog the pumps in the wastewater system.
- The state-required chemical total phosphorus re-

moval tertiary clarifier system continued to give the unexpected benefit of significantly reducing levels of metals and E. coli in the effluent.

- TLWWTF pays \$4,000 a month for phosphorus treatment chemicals, and Colorado Springs Utilities noticed a positive difference in the water quality in Monument Creek.

Radium plan for Woodmoor Water

Hanson mentioned that one sample of WWSD's new Well 21 recently tested at 6 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) of radium, when the maximum contaminant level allowed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CD-PHE) is 5 pCi/L.


He said WWSD now plans to upgrade the central water plant and deal with the radium using a process of blending that water with water from other wells, but they will also need to add a special filtration process. This will allow WWSD to create finished water that can be distributed to customers.

Hanson asked Burks if the filter flushing would send "a bunch of radium" into the wastewater system and cause problems for TLWWTF, but Burks said no. Hanson said JVA Consulting Engineers also thought the effect on the wastewater system would be negligible.

Note: Well 21 was already tested and found high in radium last year. See www.ocn.me/v19n9.htm#tlwtff, www.ocn.me/v19n10.htm#wwsd. The Town of Monument water service area is also dealing with radium. See www.ocn.me/v20n5.htm#mbot0406.

Goodbye and thank you
 Hanson told the JUC members that WWSD Assistant Manager Randy Gillette has retired from the district.

This was President Ed DeLaney's last JUC meeting. Due to term limitations, he must leave the MSD board.



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