

He has volunteered in numerous capacities for the community for 38 years and counting. He began serving on the Monument Planning Commission in 1981, joined the Landscape Committee in 1985, and served on the Monument Board of Trustees from 1989 to 2010, where he was mayor pro-tem for

eight years. He took a year off and then returned to the Planning Commission until the end of 2018. He served on the MSD board since 1992 and has represented MSD on the JUC.

DeLaney told the JUC, "I appreciate and enjoyed my time here. Thank you very much. With that, we are ad-

journed."

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The next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. June 9 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 own-

er-districts. For information on virtual meeting access, call Bill Burks at 719-481-4053.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at [lisahatfield@ocn.me](mailto:lisahatfield@ocn.me).

Donala Water and Sanitation District, May 14

# Wells disappoint as summer approaches

By Jennifer Kaylor

At the May 14 Donala Water and Sanitation District's Board of Directors meeting, General Manager Kip Petersen presented his last manager's report before his May 29 retirement. He outlined the spate of challenges facing the district's management of summer water demand coupled with wastewater compliance. Donala's new general manager, Jeff Hodge, attended the in-person meeting for staff and directors. Members of the public were eligible to connect as online participants.

### Juggling water needs and wastewater compliance

Petersen explained that balancing the district's upcoming summer water season with strict wastewater arsenic disposal regulations presented challenges because of coronavirus-related delays to the currently under-construction residual management facility. A key piece of equipment, a press, at the facility may not arrive until mid-July or August. The delayed functionality of the residual management facility postpones the district's landfill alternative for disposing of arsenic, which is naturally present in groundwater. Currently, arsenic,

and other substances such as iron and manganese, are removed in the process of "finishing" drinking water by Donala's groundwater treatment plant. The treatment's resulting waste is diverted to a wastewater collection system and then sent to the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRWWTF), which discharges into Monument Creek. For more information, see <https://www.ocn.me/v20n5.htm#dwsd>.

By constructing the residual management facility, Donala would comfortably fall well below the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) regulations—effective as of October 2019—which strictly limit the amount of arsenic that can be discharged by wastewater treatment facilities. The facility is intended to act as a pretreatment process that removes arsenic for landfill disposal before the water heads to the finishing process. This means that most, if not all, of the groundwater's arsenic would be captured and delivered to a landfill and not directed for discharge by the wastewater treatment facility. This pretreatment step would ease Donala's CDPHE compliance concerns over the

amount of arsenic-containing groundwater that is pumped from wells during the high-water-demand summer irrigation season. It also allows Donala to rely less heavily on its more expensive surface, or renewable, water from Willow Creek Ranch.

In response to these challenges, Petersen presented three options:

- Lease an additional 125 acre-feet

of water from the Pueblo Board of Water Works (PBWW). This water would be arsenic-free since it would pass through Colorado Springs Utilities' (CSU) treatment process.

- Rent a steel "Baker" tank to store waste from finished water until the residual management facility is operational.

Trina Shook, RN  
Aesthetic Nurse Consultant

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