

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, May 11 and June 10

Board addresses COVID-19 concerns, plans Central Water Treatment Plant upgrade

By James Howald

In May and June, the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board held its monthly meetings online to accommodate concerns about the COVID-19 virus. Future meetings may also be held online; the link to the online meetings can be found on the district's webpage here: https://www.woodmoorwater.com/images/docs/notices/2020_Meeting_Notice/2020_6_10_B_Notice_Virtual.pdf.

At the May meeting, new and re-elected board members were announced, the board heard a presentation from its engineering company that addressed radium levels in Well 21 and the plans to upgrade the Central Water Treatment Plant (CWTP) to process surface water, an update from District Manager Jessie Shaffer concerning policy changes to mitigate the risks of COVID-19, an announcement of the retirement of Assistant District Manager Randy Gillette, and an update on the status of the pipeline connecting Well 21 to the CWTP.

At the June meeting, the district's auditor gave the board the results of the 2019 audit, and the board heard operational reports.

New and re-elected board members announced

At the May 11 meeting, the board was notified that the new and re-elected board members had taken their oaths of office on May 8 and 9. Bill Clewe joined the board, and the other board members retained their seats.

Brian Bush was elected president of the board, replacing Jim Taylor. Jim Wyss was re-elected treasurer, having held that position previously. Clewe was elected secretary and was added as a signatory for the district's bank accounts.

Board member Lee Hanson will continue to represent the district on the Joint Use Committee.

Engineering company addresses Well 21 radium and CWTP plans

At the May meeting, John McGibbon and Richard Hood of JVA Consulting Engineers told the board that an initial test of water from Well 21 showed that the radium level exceeds the legal limit, and that JVA is working with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to resolve the issue and get final approval to put the well into production.

McGibbon and Hood told the board that water from Well 21 would be treated at CWTP using a method that typically removes 35 percent of the radium present. The water currently exceeds the limit by a small amount, they said, and they predicted the processed water would meet the regulations requirement for radium.

Hood reviewed the plan to upgrade CWTP. The

goal of the upgrade is to allow the facility to treat surface water as well as well water. The project will make changes in three areas:

- Pre-treatment, in which surface water will be blended with water from other sources.
- Upgrading Trident Treatment units that provide filtration and clarification.
- Improving chemical systems.

Board President Brian Bush added that these improvements would also assist with the removal of radium.

Hood presented three potential approaches:

- Installation of a below-grade storage tank for surface water and construction of an additional building at the CWTP.
- Construction of a building and a tank on Deer Creek Road adjacent to Lewis-Palmer Middle School.
- Construction of an above-grade tank next to CWTP.

Hood said JVA recommended option 2 to the board, because it is a gravity flow design that would not require pumps and power and therefore has lower capital and operating costs.

Shaffer mentioned that option 2 would require the use of land that currently belongs to Lewis-Palmer School District 38. Shaffer said discussions were underway with the district to find a way for WWSD to use or purchase the land, and that the upgraded CWTP would no longer use chlorine gas, and so would be safer for the school district.

The board unanimously voted to pursue option 2.

At the June meeting, the board elected to use the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) methodology to manage the CWTP upgrade effort and two other projects the district is planning. CMAR emphasizes getting contractors involved in a project from the very beginning, earlier than the design-bid-build approach that the district has used in the past.

Board passes resolution to address COVID-19 concerns

Shaffer told the board that Resolution 20-03 contained a number of policy changes intended to minimize the possible impacts of COVID-19 on the district. The resolution:

- Authorizes online meetings.
- Continues the closure of the district office to the public.
- Removes on June 4, 2020 the four-day-on four-day-off schedule that district employees have been using.
- Implements some emergency personnel policies requiring social distancing and specifying how symptomatic employees will be handled.
- Waives disconnections and late fees for April and

May of 2020.

The board voted unanimously at the May meeting to pass the resolution.

At the June meeting, Shaffer provided additional details about the changes to the work schedules and social distancing. He told the board the employees would return to the work schedule in use before the transition to the current schedule, which requires staff to work Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. To improve social distancing, staff will be divided into four groups, and each group will use a different district location as an operational base. Groups will meet at CWTP, the South Filter Plant (SFP), the office, and some will work from home.

Assistant district manager retires

Shaffer told the board that Randy Gillette will retire at the end of May. His replacement will be Gary Potter.

Well 21 pipeline to be completed in June

At the May meeting, Shaffer told the board that the pipeline connecting Well 21 to the CWTP will be complete in June, and that the well will be in production for the peak demand period of 2020.

At the June meeting, Shaffer announced the pipeline was substantially complete, with only a handful of punch list items remaining.

District financial audit finds no issues

John Cutler of Cutler and Associates, the district's financial auditor, summarized the results of the 2019 audit for the board. Cutler said the audit included an unmodified report and no audit adjustments, and he said there were no disagreements with management.

Shaffer congratulated the board on another clean audit.

Board makes operational decisions

The board made the following operational decision at the May and June meetings:

- To update its paperwork with the Integrity Bank.
- To put in place an agreement with the Colorado Water and Wastewater Response Network that will enable the district to request emergency resources from that group and optionally provide help to other water districts.
- To consider a request from resident John Mills to include a portion of his property in the district for tax purposes (part of the land in question is already within WWSD boundaries).

The next meeting is scheduled for July 13 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 or call 488-2525 to verify meeting times.

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Triview Metropolitan District, June 16 and 17

District responds to social media commentary

By Jennifer Kaylor

The Triview Metropolitan District met for a special meeting on June 16 in addition to its regular monthly Board of Directors meeting. Primary concerns for the

meetings revolved around possible resident confusion as evidenced through recent social media posts.

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 June board packet may be accessed via https://triviewmetro.com/assets/documents/board/agenda/2020/BoardPacket_2020-06-17.pdf

District plunges into water consumption and rates discussion

Some Triview residents expressed grievances regarding their water bills on the social media forum Nextdoor. The district held a special meeting to discuss its response to the possible confusion and misunderstanding reflected in the comments. The board and District Manager Jim McGrady committed to addressing specific questions and complaints directly as well as providing expanded billing information in future newsletters. When discussion turned to water conservation ideas, directors considered possible alternatives to the district's current watering schedule as well as potential incentives such as rebates for lawn irrigation rain sensors and smart clocks.

At the regular board meeting, McGrady furnished data that explained possible reasons for increased wa-

ter consumption. May 2020 water use totaled 35 million gallons—a significant increase compared to 20 million gallons in May 2019. Data showed a 13-degree higher temperature in May 2020 from the previous year. The average annual May precipitation for the area is generally 1.8 inches, but the month's 2020 precipitation registered .96 inches. McGrady surmised that warmer temperatures coupled with less spring precipitation increased lawn watering needs.

The district also passed a resolution at its Dec. 11, 2019 board meeting to increase rates. See <https://www.ocn.me/v20n1.htm#tvmd>. McGrady listed some of the increases: Tier I rates increased from \$4.00 to \$5.25, and Tier II rates increased by about \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons. With the dual impact of increased rates along with increased consumption, one would expect some residents to experience significantly higher water bills, he said. However, McGrady later pointed out that a 20,000-gallon water purchase, a typical amount in a summer month for the district's residents, would still cost less from Triview than from three other local water providers.

In answer to the question, "How's the district going to address this issue?", McGrady outlined Triview's efforts:

- The district began installing new smart technology cellular water meters that provide real-time information and take readings every 15 minutes.

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