

initiated steps for the district to prepare for a regular election of directors on May 3, 2022.

- Water Superintendent Shawn Sexton reported that Triview's fourth quarter radium testing result was 3.2 picocuries per liter (pCi/L), well below the maximum of 5 pCi/L. Sexton noted that the recent result lowered the district's average to 3.9 pCi/L.

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Although Triview board meetings are generally held on the third Thursday of the month, the next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 14, and will conduct hearings on and approvals of the 2022 budgets (including subdistricts A and B), rates, and fees and certification of the mill levy. The district office is located at 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 302.

Check the district's website, <https://triviewmetro.com/>, or call (719) 488-6868 for meeting updates. See also "Triview Metropolitan District" on Facebook or [Twitter.com/@TriviewMetro](https://twitter.com/TriviewMetro).

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*Donala Water and Sanitation District, Nov. 18*

## Personnel and customer policies updated

*By James Howald and Jackie Burhans*

On Nov. 18, the Donala Water and Sanitation District (DWSD) board amended personnel and customer payment policies. They extended the district's short-term water service contract with Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU). The board also heard a report from General Manager Jeff Hodge and other operational reports.

### Updated policy addresses on-call compensation, paid time off

Office Manager Tanja Smith presented Resolution 2021-6, which, for the first time, compensates district staff when they are on-call after hours even if they are not called to report for work. Under the previous policy they were compensated only if they received a call from the district. Smith said on-call staff deserved compensation since they needed to be available for work and were required to plan accordingly. If an on-call employee is called, they will also be paid for the time they work to complete the task, Smith said. The policy also simplifies time off by providing paid time off (PTO) that can be used for vacation, sick leave, or personal time. New employees will have two weeks of PTO and after ten years they will have four weeks. The policy caps the amount of unused PTO that will carry over to the next year, Smith said. The amended policy also added Juneteenth as a holiday.

The board voted unanimously to approve the new policy.

### Customer payment policies updated

Resolution 2021-7 changes the user fee due date from the 20th of each month to the 24th. Hodge said electronic billing allowed the district to give customers more time to pay the fee. Resolution 2021-8 makes credit card fees payable by the district not by the customer. Hodge said this change would help the district reach the goal of having 60 percent of payments made electronically, which will cut the district's staffing costs. Smith said the change would encourage customers to use the auto-pay feature of their credit cards.

The board voted unanimously to approve both resolutions.

### Contract with CSU extended

On Jan. 1, 2019, DWSD contracted to purchase 1,000 acre-feet of treated water annually from CSU. The initial contract provided water for 2019 and 2020 and allowed for two one-year renewals. The contract was renewed to cover 2021, and on Nov. 18 the board considered renewing the contract for a fourth and final year, which would provide DWSD customers water through Dec. 31, 2022.

Hodge asked the board to renew the contract, adding that he would open negotiations with CSU for a long-term contract. Hodge said he wanted to start the re-negotiation as quickly as possible.

Board President Ed Houle said a vote was not needed and he signed the agreement to renew the contract for its final period.

### Manager's report discusses radium, Holbein plant, water re-use

In his report, Hodge told the board samples of filter media and water are being tested for radium and staff is awaiting results. Houle asked about the response to the district's second letter on the subject sent to customers and Smith said fewer calls were being received and customers seemed more receptive to the district's approach to lowering radium levels.

Hodge said staff is working with vendors on upgrades to the Holbein water treatment plant, which is currently out of service. Tanks are having maintenance work done, and upgrades are being made to automatically pull more data into the operations management software.

Hodge reviewed two proposed water re-use projects, the first led by CSU, and the second by Tri-Lakes area water districts, including DWSD, Woodmoor Water and Sanitation and the Town of Monument. Hodge said DWSD's work on the CSU-led re-use project was complete. About the second project Hodge said the members were working with El Paso County to get funding for the effort and he had discussed

with legal counsel how to draft an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the participating water districts. An IGA would help the water districts work together with less apprehension about losing power, and would give them more credibility with the county, Hodge said.

### Highlights of operational reports

- The district's financial report showed revenue is on track with expectations and laboratory costs are a bit higher due to expanded radium testing.
- DWSD has just over \$11 million in cash reserves.
- DWSD produced just over 22 million gallons of water in October, 16.3 million gallons from aquifers and 5.7 million gallons of surface water from the Willow Springs Ranch.
- Wells 2A and 2D are out of production; the district has a quote from Hydro Resources to do the work needed to bring them back online.
- Planning for a new well is under way with Leonard Rice Engineering, Inc. (LRE)
- LRE engineer Brett Gracely told the board that funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act would soon become available for water projects.
- Water meters needed for DWSD's meter replacement project have shipped.

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The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 13 at 1:30 p.m. Generally, board meetings are held the third Thursday of the month and include online access due to coronavirus restrictions; call (719) 488-3603 or access [www.donalawater.org](http://www.donalawater.org) to receive up-to-date meeting information. The district office is located at 15850 Holbein Drive, Colorado Springs. See [www.donalawater.org](http://www.donalawater.org) for more information about the district.

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*El Paso County Planning Commission, Nov. 2 and 18*

## WMMI variance of use recommended for approval

*By Helen Walklett*

The El Paso County Planning Commission met twice during November, voting to recommend for approval a variance of use for the Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) and a replat request for a Black Forest property.

### Commission recommends approval of WMMI variance of use request

The planning commission voted unanimously at its Nov. 2 meeting to recommend for approval a variance of use request by the WMMI. The variance would allow the museum to continue to hold events such as

outdoor concerts and agricultural entertainment activities without being in breach of its RR-5 zoning. Such activities are an important source of revenue for the museum.

The application was heard at the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting on Nov. 16. (See BOCC article)

### Mountain Shadow Ranch subdivision

At its Nov. 18 meeting the planning commission recommended for approval a request by Dale and Stephanie McGehee for a vacation and replat of lot 3 in the Mountain Shadow Ranch subdivision to create

two single-family residential lots. The 10.5-acre property is zoned RR-5 (residential rural) and is located about a quarter mile north of the Hodgen Road and Thompson Road intersection to the west of Black Forest Road.

It was approved as a request item, meaning there was no discussion, and is now scheduled to be heard at the BOCC land use meeting on Dec. 7.

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*El Paso Board of County Commissioners, Nov. 2, 9, and 16*

## More road funds allocated in proposed 2022 budget; WMMI variance of use approved

*By Helen Walklett*

During November, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) gave final direction on the proposed 2022 county budget, allocating more funds to roads. The commissioners also approved a variance of use for the Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI). That decision was made at the Nov. 16 land use meeting, the first time that the BOCC had followed its new schedule of holding a land use meeting in the afternoon, separate from the regular morning BOCC meeting.

### 2022 proposed budget

At the regular BOCC Nov. 16 meeting, the commis-

sioners gave their final direction on the 2022 budget, which totals about \$512 million. They agreed to allocate a further \$3 million for high-priority road improvements, increasing road funding by \$14 million compared to 2021. Thirteen million dollars of this is one-off funding; the remaining \$1 million is ongoing for road maintenance. In addition, \$100,000 was added as ongoing funding for fire mitigation in county parks and \$75,000 as ongoing for deferred park maintenance.

The funding to do this came largely from the reallocation of funds assigned to the Business Revolving Loan Fund and the Housing Authority Corpus. The

Business Revolving Loan Fund's proposed funding of \$1.5 million has been eliminated and funding for

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