

Donala Water and Sanitation District, Jan. 21

# Waste output, water input draw district's attention

By Jennifer Kaylor

Directors and staff of the Donala Water and Sanitation District discussed a new rule adopted by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Board of Health for the safe management of technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive materials (TENORM).

GMS engineer Roger Sams attended the meeting via GoToMeeting, and the remaining directors and staff attended in person.

The January board meeting packet is available on the district's website by accessing [https://www.donalawater.org/images/docs/packets/2021/January\\_2021\\_Board\\_Packet.pdf](https://www.donalawater.org/images/docs/packets/2021/January_2021_Board_Packet.pdf). A list of 2021 board meeting dates is provided on page 12 of the packet.

### Keeping a watchful eye

Donala General Manager Jeff Hodge provided a memo to the directors pertaining to a CDPHE Colorado Code of Regulations rule intended to regulate TENORM limits. The rule was adopted in November 2020, became effective Jan. 14, and will be enforceable as of July 14, 2022. Sams generated the memo to advise the board and suggest potential future steps.

Hodge explained that this rule was basically looking at the radionuclides being discharged from the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRW-WTF). He described the current disposal system of using the district's residuals management facility as effective in keeping Donala's TENORM below certain limits. This step serves as a pretreatment process that removes some of the TENORM constituents that are concentrated when radium is removed from drinking water. See <https://www.ocn.me/v20n6.htm#dwsd>. As the administrator of the wastewater treatment facility, Donala must collaborate on TENORM regulations with its partner-owners, Triview

Metropolitan District and Forest Lakes Metropolitan District. Hodge did not express concerns about the TENORM contributions made by Triview or Forest Lakes, however, he would continue to watch for increases.

Sams created a chart that demonstrated the partners' owned capacity and various volume measurements of wastewater treated by the UMCRWWTF. Treating more than 26 million gallons of wastewater in December, the facility possesses a daily capacity of 1.75 million gallons. Throughout 2020, Triview generally reached about 50% of its capacity, Forest Lakes fell well below capacity at about 13%, and Donala hovered around 60% capacity. Assuming that wastewater flows from the United Parcel Service plant, which is currently under construction on the west side of I-25, would come to the UMCRWWTF by way of Forest Lakes, Hodge did not expect a huge increase.

### District plans to participate in study

In his report concerning the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority, Hodge confirmed that Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) was moving forward with a regional study pertaining to the delivery of reusable water, or return flows, from CSU's system. The return flows have been a criterion for some water and wastewater districts to participate in the North Monument Creek Interceptor, a regional pipeline that would carry wastewater to a CSU treatment facility. Hodge confirmed that Donala would participate in the study and anticipated gaining clarity on return flow costs.

### Water main break reveals team readiness

During his status of operations report, Superintendent of Water Operations Mark Parker presented information about a Jan. 20 water main leak. The district's supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system for water delivery, which provides a high-level communications and

command interface with the infrastructure's various sensors, valves, and monitoring devices, sounded the alarm at 3:30 in the morning. The response team shut down the leak by 5 a.m. SCADA information indicated a water loss of 1,200 to 1,500 gallons per minute with a total water loss of roughly 110,000 to 140,000 gallons. An approximate 1,500-square-foot section of road near the leak site suffered damage and a small number of culverts filled with debris. Parker confirmed that he had surveyed the road damage with an El Paso County Department of Transportation representative, and they established a road replacement plan. Staff also planned to clean the affected culverts.

Parker acknowledged the water loss and road damage as significant but also recognized that the team's quick response prevented a much worse scenario. He said that he was "impressed" with how quickly people arrived at the scene, worked together to get the leak shut down, and restored water service.

### Additional updates

- Office Manager Tanja Smith reported that she and other personnel had begun training on new invoicing software. Billing transactions for the coming month would be generated by the old software, but the following month would reflect new software transactions.
- The district's end-of-year financial status reflected actual revenues and expenses that coincided

closely with budgeted estimates. Revenue for the water fund ended at almost 8% above budget and the total expenditures, including capital expenses, were .66% above budget. From the wastewater side, revenues fell behind by 12.62%, but expenses were also lower than budget expectations by 10.03%.

- One wastewater plant staff member tested positive for COVID-19 that was determined to be an exposure from home. The district's infection safety protocol of alternating staff prevented further spread to other personnel.
- Hodge announced that Christina Hawker, accounts payable, was accepted to the Special District Association's Leadership Academy, which provides training and other learning opportunities for personal and professional development. The Academy offers a minimum of four events or training modules throughout the year.
- Design renderings and approvals for the 2021 water main replacement project were 90% to 95% complete. Parker planned to present information to and conduct a "walk-through" with representatives of Club Villa Townhomes, a community that will be affected by the project. He confirmed an estimated project start date of late April or early May.
- Reporting on December's

12.4 million-gallon water production, Parker confirmed a typical seasonal drop in demand. The district realized a decrease of 3.78% from November to December with 65.6% of the water being sourced from Donala's wells and 34.4% coming from its Pueblo Board of Water Works water lease.

- Colorado's drought conditions continued as shown by a Jan. 12 report. See <https://www.drought.gov/drought/states/colorado> for current and county-specific information. Hodge commented that the West Coast appeared to be experiencing some drought relief and expressed hope that the trend would move toward Colorado.

At 2:23 p.m., directors moved to executive session per C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(h). OCN later confirmed that the board did not make reportable decisions following the executive session.

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The next board meeting is scheduled for Feb. 18 at 1:30. Generally, board meetings are held the third Thursday of the month and are likely to be conducted online 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, CO, 80921. See <https://www.donalawater.org> for more information about the district.

Jennifer Kaylor may be reached at [jenniferkaylor@ocn.me](mailto:jenniferkaylor@ocn.me).

### District 38 District Accountability Advisory Committee, Jan. 12

# LPES presentation, safety and security update, budget review

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer District 38 District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) received reports on safety and security and budget updates during its Jan 12 meeting. All DAAC meetings during the 2020-21 school year are held virtually.

Principal Jenny Day of Lewis-Palmer Elementary presented a video made by fifth-graders at the school and introduced features of the school and its curriculum. The student body consists of 420 students in person and 36 online. All have art, music, and physical education daily. The school has received

the John Irwin Award of Excellence two years in a row.

The theme of the school is "all are welcome" and students are welcomed as they arrive each morning and greet one another.

The school has a full-time counselor and a full-time Gifted/Talented teacher on staff.

An active Parent Teacher Organization has supported the school through funding of technology, supplies, and a recent remodeling of the library.

An outdoor classroom was opened in October. The school also maintains a relationship with a senior center in Palmer

  


## Now Open!

# MVEA BOARD NOMINATIONS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ One Member. One Vote. Your Voice Matters. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

During the Annual Meeting on June 3, 2021, at Falcon High School in Falcon, three directors will be elected to the Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. Board of Directors from the following districts:

District 1: Limon, Karval, Genoa and surrounding areas (*incumbent Joseph D. Martin*)  
 District 4: Calhan, Peyton, a portion of Black Forest and surrounding areas (*incumbent Milton L. Mathis*)  
 District 6: Falcon, Cimarron Hills, a portion of Black Forest and surrounding areas (*incumbent Barry R. Springer*)

The "Procedure for Director Elections and Member Voting" is available on MVEA's website at [www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting](http://www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting).  
 To view a territory map with districts, visit [www.mvea.coop/territory-map](http://www.mvea.coop/territory-map).

Are you interested in being an MVEA Board of Directors candidate? A candidate must be an MVEA member and reside in the district where there is a vacancy. Visit MVEA's Annual Meeting web page at [www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting](http://www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting) for additional candidate requirements. Click on "By-laws" and go to Article III, Section 2. A member interested in nomination should contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line at (719) 494-2528 and leave a message. You will be contacted to verify your membership, district, and to begin the nomination process. A member may seek election by nomination by the nominating committee or nomination by petition.

- To be nominated by the nominating committee, please contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line at (719) 494-2528. If seeking election by nomination through the nominating committee, a candidate questionnaire must be received by MVEA to be submitted to the committee by 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 25, 2021.
- To be nominated by petition, you must have the petition signed by 15 MVEA members. Petitions and procedures will be made available by contacting the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line at (719) 494-2528. The petition, along with a completed candidate questionnaire, must be received by MVEA by 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 19, 2021.

A candidate questionnaire must be completed for either nomination by the committee or nomination by petition. If you have questions, please contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line.

**Nominating Committee**

District 1: Steve Burgess • District 4: Ed Kovitz • District 6: Lavern Kauffman

MVEA Board Nomination Information Line  
 Tel: (719) 494-2528  
 Email: [candidate@mvea.coop](mailto:candidate@mvea.coop)



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