

and if you have good leadership, you have good outcomes. Leadership is a constant perishable skill, and the staff are getting leadership training all the time.

Wildland FEMA deployments

Langmaid said the district is receiving ongoing requests from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for staff to administer COVID-19 vaccinations and numerous requests for wildland firefighting assistance, but no heavy burden will be placed on our firefighters with deployments that create the need for backfill.

The district will likely send individuals with other departments to gain experience, but it will not bring additional revenue, only reimbursements for expenditures. Dunn will probably deploy again because she is a huge commodity for Type 2 teams across the region, said Langmaid.

Note: Dunn joined the district at the beginning of June and has recently returned from a wildland deployment commitment made before accepting the administrative officer position.

"Thank you" received

Nearhoof said the district received a note from Woodmen Valley Chapel thanking the chief and the staff for allowing church members to make a short film at Station 1 to help deliver a message about preparation. The note read: "The video reached thousands of people with a message of hope and compassion and the department's hard work, courage and vigilant care for the people in the community inspires us all."

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday every month at Station 1, 11445 Teachout Road, Colorado Springs. The next regular meeting, preceded by a pension board meeting, is scheduled for Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. For updates, agendas, and minutes, visit www.bffire.org or contact the district Administrative Officer Rachel Dunn at admin@bffire.org or call 719-495-4300.

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El Paso County Planning Commission, Aug. 19

Black Forest minor subdivision recommended for approval

By Helen Walklett

At its Aug. 19 meeting, the El Paso County Planning Commission heard an application for approval of a minor subdivision request for a Black Forest property. The commissioners also confirmed changes to the time and location of future meetings.

Black Forest minor subdivision

The Planning Commission heard an application from the Andres Daniel B Trust for approval of a minor subdivision to divide a 14.87-acre property into three residential lots. It is located on the west side

of Goshawk Road, about half a mile to the north of Hodgen Road and is zoned RR-5 (rural residential).

Each proposed lot would be just under 5 acres. The Board of Adjustment approved a variance to allow the lots to be less than the 5-acre zoning designation in May 2020. An existing house on the property is expected to remain on Lot 1. Two of the lots would have direct access onto Goshawk Road; the third would have access to Goshawk via an easement.

The commissioners voted unanimously to recommend the application,

known as Circle A Filing No.1, for approval. It was heard as a consent item.

The application was scheduled to be heard at the El Paso Board of County Commissioners on Aug. 24. See *BOCC article below*.

Meeting location and time changes

Planning Commission meetings will return to the Pikes Peak Regional Development Center (RDC) in September and will revert to the earlier time of 9 a.m. The meetings were moved to Centennial Hall on South Cascade Avenue at the begin-

ning of the COVID-19 pandemic because this location has a live stream capability. The RDC is now also able to live stream meetings.

Meetings are held the first and third Thursday of the month (if required). The first meeting at the RDC will be on Sept. 2 at 9 a.m., 2880 International Circle, Colorado Springs. Meetings are live streamed on the El Paso County News & Information Channel at www.elpasoco.com/news-information-channel.

Helen Walklett can be reached at helenwalklett@ocn.me.

El Paso Board of County Commissioners, July 27, Aug. 10 and 24

\$134 million renewable water project proposed for county

By Helen Walklett

During August, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) received a presentation on a proposed renewable water system for the county. The commissioners also made decisions on a number of planned developments.

The Loop renewable water project

At a water workshop held Aug. 10, the commissioners heard a proposal from local water representatives for a regional renewable water system for the county which would enable water providers to access their distant renewable surface water supplies. The Loop Project would use its members' water rights to divert renewable water from Fountain Creek via the Chilcott Ditch to Calhan Reservoir where it would be treated to near-potable water standards and then pumped north via several pump stations.

This would replace a significant amount of water currently being drawn from the non-renewable Denver Basin wells. Water would be delivered to users along the pipeline, and it would receive a final treatment to ensure it met all standards before delivery to customers. Recycled water would then be carried back through the loop system. It is estimated it could serve up to 29% of the county's population with the possibility of this rising to 58% if providers in the southern part of the county were to join.

Kevin Brown, water resource engineer, Cherokee Metropolitan District, told the commissioners that the Denver Basin water has been tapped into for 30 or 40 years and that the yield has declined over time. He said, "We are not in a crisis today and there is still a massive amount of water underground. The problem is it costs more and more money to extract the same volume of water." He continued, "It's an economic question of how much money are you willing to sink into drilling well after well after well to get the same amount of water you had in the past."

Jessie Shaffer, district manager, Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, said, "We don't have a water supply issue in El Paso County. We've got an extraction problem." He continued, "The costs are going to surmount to such high levels in the future with the rate of extraction and the growth that we're seeing and the demand for water up and down the

Front Range that, quite honestly, even as staggering as the numbers may be to convert over to a renewable water supply, that's really going to be the only answer in terms of long-term sustainability in the region."

Although the project would use some existing infrastructure, a capital investment estimated at \$134 million would be needed to construct the pipeline running north, associated pumping stations, and an extension to Calhan Reservoir. The commissioners heard that raising the funds for the project through its participants alone would result in large rate increases.

Amy Lathen, general manager, Cherokee Metropolitan District, told the commissioners, "We know that there is federal money in El Paso County. We know that you are looking at a lot of significant resources that have come into the county." She continued, "We are not going to stand here and say would you please provide this much funding to complete the loop. What we are asking you to do is look at the big picture. Look at the number of people, human beings, that could be served with renewable sources and take the pressure off the Denver Basin and maintain sustainability in their faucets and homes in perpetuity with this kind of a system." Annual costs to treat the water at the reservoir and before delivery to customers would be about \$6 million.

Mike Foreman, Monument town manager, said, "We are here to ask you to join us as partners. We've all joined together; we're all working together to make sure that we try to save our customers as much money as possible and we know that's what you're elected to do. That's why you sit in those seats, is you're trying to save your customers as much money as possible. You try to provide them as many services as possible for the right cost and that's what we're here asking you to do today."

Commissioner Holly Williams said she was "just really excited about the project" and referred to the \$140 million of federal funding coming for water, sewer, and infrastructure. She said, "This [project] not only benefits unincorporated El Paso County but I think it provides relief to our municipal water systems." BOCC Chair Stan VanderWerf said, "I think water reuse is not a question of if,

it's a question of when."

The group is currently carrying out a cost study and will continue to look for regional and governmental partners to share the upfront project costs while developing a final list of founding members.

Cloverleaf replat

At the Aug. 10 meeting, the BOCC approved a replat application by PT Cloverleaf LLC for two parcels of its Cloverleaf development to create three single-family lots. The request was approved as a consent item, meaning there was no discussion.

The parcels in question are not part of the land that was rezoned from RS 20000 (residential suburban) to RS 5000 (residential suburban) by the BOCC in April but are the isolated parcels zoned RS 20000 and totalling 1.5 acres that will be developed as lots 142, 143, and 144. Two of the lots are located off Bowstring Road and one off Leggins Way. These three lots will form part of Cloverleaf Filing No. 1. The remaining 37.22-acre portion of the development will be considered under a separate final plat application.

The Cloverleaf development is northeast of the intersection of Jackson Creek Parkway and Higby Road and will see 144 single-family homes constructed. This development is adjacent to nearly 100 acres of space now called South Woodmoor Preserve that will remain open in perpetuity with the developer's support.

Black Forest business event center approved

On Aug. 10, the BOCC approved an application from Deborah and Edward Ritchy for a variance of use to allow a business event center to operate on their 20-acre property north of the intersection of Goshawk Road and Hodgen Road. Access will be from Goshawk Road.

The proposed Black Forest Meadows center would be used primarily for weddings and small family gatherings with a maximum of 75 guests. To mitigate traffic concerns, only members of the wedding party themselves will park onsite; other members of the wedding will be shuttled to and from the site from individual locations.

The Ritchys plan to hold events from June through September or October and anticipate about 20 events per year.

The El Paso County Planning Commission recommended the application

for approval at its July 15 meeting.

Johnson minor subdivision

The commissioners unanimously approved a minor subdivision application by Delroy and Janet Johnson to create four single-family residential lots on their 28.62-acre property at their Aug. 10 meeting. The property, zoned RR-5 (residential rural), is located on the west side of Highway 83, half a mile north of its intersection with Old North Gate Road. The Planning Commission recommended the application for approval at its July 15 meeting.

The lots will range from 5 to 13 acres. The one home currently on the property will remain on lot 1.

Black Forest minor subdivision approved

At their Aug. 24 meeting, the commissioners approved an application from the Andres Daniel B Trust for approval of a minor subdivision to divide a 14.87-acre property into three residential lots. Located on the west side of Goshawk Road, about half a mile to the north of Hodgen Road, the development is to be known as Circle A Filing No.1.

Each lot will be just under 5 acres. The Board of Adjustment approved a variance to allow the lots to be less than the 5-acre zoning designation in May 2020. The Planning Commission recommended the application for approval at its Aug. 19 hearing.

Approval for a nine-lot residential development in Black Forest

At its July 27 meeting, the BOCC approved a rezoning request and a preliminary plan for nine single-family residential lots at a 44-acre property on the north side of Shoup Road, about half a mile south of Herring Road. The development will be known as Eagle Forest.

The commissioners approved the request as a consent item, meaning there was no discussion. The approval with a finding for water sufficiency authorizes the executive director, Department of Planning and Community Development, to administratively approve future final plat applications.

Grandwood Ranch, school resource

officers, and open space

• Aug. 10—the commissioners ap-