

Piepenburg said the following:

- The district completed about 1,510 training hours, so 20.8% of the time staff are on shift they are training.
- The district held Trench Awareness Training for the whole north group.
- New Training Division Officer Capt. Jason Morrison and Fine completed Colorado Springs Fire Department Rescue School training.
- Several practical tests were completed for Driver Operator Utility and Firefighter 2, allowing staff to get certified.
- The district firefighters rescued a trapped dog from a 5-foot-deep culvert filled with dirt alongside Egerton Road.

Wildland operations and planning

Piepenburg said the Type 6 brush truck returned from Texas and the Type 3 wildland engine returned from California and has been made ready to deploy again. He described the different types of trucks used in wildland deployments: A Type 3 is similar to an everyday fire engine but can carry more water, with a 750-gallon tank, and is designed to be taken off-road and lay long hoses. A Type 3 is heavily requested in the West, especially in California. Other states such as Texas often request a Type 6 truck, a smaller water-carrying vehicle ideal for quick attacks and off-road.

Piepenburg also said one of the wildland technicians did not work out, but a new recruit took prior wildland classes to facilitate his hiring. He is "knocking it out of the park."

Langmaid said the district envisions taking the wildland team model to help the department grow in experience and generate some revenue with deployments. The district needs to replace two brush trucks, and the design process has begun to build a wildland brush truck. Due to supply chain challenges, the ordering window will be limited to four days for Ford Super Duty Crew Cabs this year. The district will build the brush trucks and initial

approval of them will be requested later in the year.

Dowden requested an update on the wildland pre-plans.

Piepenburg said the developer of the plans, Dave Reid, has almost completed the north district wildland pre-plans and will then work on the south district plans to be completed by the end of the year. The cost is anticipated to be much less than originally projected, but Reid is a one-man show due to wildland deployments, said Piepenburg.

Board member comment

Behnken said about two weeks ago he had ridden around the district with Langmaid and heard about the challenges. The tour was cut short due to a vehicle collision into a home. Kudos to Langmaid and Piepenburg for their calm nature and level of professionalism. Behnken said he could not have been prouder of the district as a homeowner and board member. The executive staff and the team you have built around you completed the mission extremely well, said Behnken.

Kudos received

A thank you note was received from Riley stating appreciation for the gracious hospitality shown by Piepenburg, Trotter, Ore, and Patterson.

Donation received

Dowden said the district received a note of thanks and a donation of \$1,100 to be used at the discretion of BFFRPD, from Monica Davis of the Social Committee of the High Forest Ranch Homeowners Association (HOA).

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month at Station 1, 11445 Teachout Road, Colorado Springs. Meetings are open to the public in person or via Zoom. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. For joining instructions, updates, agendas, and minutes, visit www.bffire.org or contact the Administrative Officer Rachel Dunn at admin@bffire.org or call 719-495-4300.

Monument Fire District, Sept. 28

Board meeting held after publication

By Natalie Barszcz

The Monument Fire District (MFD) board held its meeting on Sept. 28 after this issue of *Our Community News* had been printed. Coverage will be included in our Nov. 5 issue. For district information, see the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District article on page 13.

Meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of

the month. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 6:30 p.m. at MFD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For Zoom meeting instructions, agendas, minutes, and updates, visit www.tlmfire.org or contact Director of Administration Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011.

Natalie Barszcz can be reached at nataliebarszcz@ocn.me.

Forest Lakes Metropolitan District & Pinon Pines Metropolitan Districts 1, 2 & 3, Sept. 12

Northern Monument Creek Interceptor design phase moves forward

By Natalie Barszcz

Forest Lakes Metropolitan District (FLMD) and Pinon Pines Metropolitan Districts (PPMD) 1, 2, and 3, held a "special meeting" via teleconference on Sept. 12, to approve funding for the design phase for the proposed Northern Monument Creek Interceptor (NMCI) project.

Treasurer Douglas Stimple was excused.

District Manager Ann Nichols requested the board approve \$90,000 (to be included in the 2023 budget) to fund the design phase of the NMCI project and said the district had been working on the NMCI project for a couple of years with Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU).

Background: The NMCI "pipeline" project was originally proposed as a regional wastewater project in an effort to comply with state and federal recommendations by consolidating regional wastewater treatment facilities. The wastewater from the various water districts in Northern El Paso County would be transferred via the NMCI pipeline for processing at the J. D. Phillips Water Resource Recovery Facility on Mark Dabling Boulevard, Colorado Springs. The CSU plant is already in compliance with some of the costly new regulatory state requirements for treating nutrients in wastewater. The plant has the capacity to handle the additional wastewater.

Nichols said the following:

- Originally the project included a cast of other interested water districts that use the Tri-Lakes Waste Water Treatment Facility (TWWTF) until the commitment deadline occurred in July.
- At that time the three districts that use TWWTF: Monument Sanitation District, Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, and Palmer Lake Sanitation District all bowed out of the NMCI project. See JUC article on page 18.
- The neighboring Donala Water and Sanitation District (DWSD) board has repeatedly indicated they want nothing to do with the project.
- Triview Metropolitan District (TMD) and FLMD

have decided to proceed with the design phase of the NMCI project due to the economics of keeping the Upper Monument Creek Regional Waste Water Treatment Facility (UMCWTF) in compliance with regulatory requirements. See TMD article on page 18.

- When the pipeline is completed, the district will use CSU to process wastewater and, hopefully, DWSD will eventually see the economic benefit of sending the wastewater downstream.
- TMD and FLMD are sharing the cost of the design phase for the northern entities.
- The total cost for the NMCI project is anticipated to be in the \$1.2 million range.

A letter of intent was sent to DWSD on July 5, informing the board of the decision to proceed with the NMCI project and bow out of operating the UMCWTF. DWSD would have to buy out FLMD and TMD, but a decision has yet to be made, said Nichols. See www.ocn.me/v22n8.htm#dwsd.

Note: The UMCWTF is jointly owned and operated by DWSD, TMD and FLMD. Each district has an equal share of board member votes.

Nichols said the UMCWTF license is due for renewal with the state this decade, and as indicated by Roger Sams, an engineer with GMS Inc. Consulting Engineers, the regulatory mandated nutrient treatment compliance may not be required until the early 2030s.

District counsel Russell W. Dykstra of Spencer Fane LLP asked Nichols if an agreement had been discussed with CSU for a reimbursement obligation for the expenditures undertaken should other districts join the NMCI project later in the project.

Nichols said:

- A reimbursement plan is not in the current agreement, but if participation increases, a discussion with CSU would happen.
- CSU would prefer to have the UMCWTF out of ser-

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