

Contract awarded

District Administrator Joyce Levad confirmed after the executive session when the regular meeting resumed that the board had unanimously approved Kiewit Infrastructure Co. as the CMGC for the NDS pipeline project. See NEPCO article on page 22.

Northern Delivery System pipeline installation

District Manager James McGrady said the district would begin installing part of the NDS pipeline for Segment C (northern portion of the NDS pipeline/district) beginning in late September and lasting six weeks, and said:

- The pipeline and equipment will be bored under the protected Preble's meadow jumping mouse habitat and roads.
- K. R. Swerdfeger Construction and Flatirons Drilling Inc. will begin the project with a tap in Agate Creek Park.
- About 1,400 feet of 16-inch fusible PVC pipeline will extend north through Agate Creek Park, under Venison Creek Drive, through the walking trail that connects to Saber Creek Drive, and out to Homeplace Ranch.
- The pipeline will tie into the 16-inch and 12-inch pipeline that runs up the boundary between filing 5 and 6 in Home Place Ranch.
- That pipeline will tie into all the pipes in Jackson Creek filings 3-6 and enable the district to feed water through to the western side of the district.
- The park and walking path will be closed for the duration of the six-week project. For more information visit www.triviewmetro.com.

Funding finally received

McGrady thanked Mario DiPasquale of JDS-Hydro Consultants Inc. and said he had worked with DiPasquale to apply for funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to construct an additional water tank at the B plant, St. Lawrence Way, Promontory Pointe. The district finally received \$1 million from the ARPA funds on Aug. 24; the funding will provide 50% of the cost of a \$2 million storage tank. The tank will be used for water quality purposes, fire flow, and additional storage.

Director James Otis said the ARPA funding was implemented as far back as COVID-19 relief during the pandemic, and El Paso County is now distributing the funds.

Northern Monument Creek Interceptor (NMCI) update

McGrady said TMD and Forest Lakes Metropolitan District (FLMD) had both signed and delivered board approval for the design phase of the NMCI, and it is underway. He also said:

- Both districts believe it is extremely important to determine the cost of future operations for the Upper Monument Creek Waste Water Treatment Facility (UMCWTF) should the NMCI not occur.
- The districts need to know what the regulatory risk will be and if the districts can save money on the treatment of wastewater and avoid millions of dollars in plant expansions and rehabilitation.
- An evaluation of the UMCWTF could be joint-funded through the facilities budget, with TMD, FLMD, and Donala Water and Sanitation District (DWSD) participation. If that does not occur, TMD and FLMD will fund the evaluation.
- The findings of the evaluation will determine the future cost of expansion of the treatment plant. See FLMD article on page 17.

Note: UMCWTF is co-owned and operated by all three districts.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery study

McGrady said the district received a \$200,000 Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) grant and the district had to come up with \$50,000 matching that was split between DWSD and FLMD (\$25,000 each) for a study to discover if Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) is possible. The study of the wells will take one to two years, and although the district is not planning to start ASR anytime soon, it will reveal what is possible.

Pueblo Reservoir 1041 permit approval

District water attorney Chris Cummins of Monson, Cummins, Shohet & Farr LLC said it is a requirement for the board resolution in Pueblo that the TMD board approve resolution 2022-10 concerning acknowledgement and acceptance of the terms and conditions requirements and entitlements under the 1041 permit approved by the Pueblo Board of County Commissioners for the use of Pueblo Reservoir and the north outlet works.

The board unanimously approved the resolution.

Restoration of wetlands

Cummins said the district had received a letter a couple of months ago concerning its long-term role in managing the wetlands within the district, and said:

- In 2001 TMD received a 404 permit for wetlands mitigation projects, with the obligation to restore the wetlands destroyed during development.
- A few years later, Jackson Creek Land Co., the primary developer at the time and therefore jointly responsible, was added to the permit and since

then has taken the lead in doing the legwork.

- Once the last couple of projects are completed, the permit will be closed out and a new revised permit to cover the projects will be needed in late 2022.
- The Army Corps of Engineers has requested that as the perpetual municipal district, the district commit to the long-term management of the wetlands.
- Jackson Creek Land Co. estimated about \$20,000 per year to maintain the wetlands but with the staffing expertise that TMD has, the work could be completed for less.
- A letter outlining the long-term projects and the handover will be sent to the Jackson Creek Land Co.

Cummins recommended McGrady commit to the management of the wetlands.

Otis said we know about the Preble's meadow jumping mouse habitat, we have talked about it ad nauseum, but the board also has ideas for those wetlands, with the potential use of the addition of public walking trails while still preserving the habitat.

McGrady said all the capital work had been done, and the district needs to ensure the work continues.

The board unanimously approved the annual management of the wetlands.

Open records requests

District legal counsel George Rowley of White Bear Ankele Tanaka & Waldron Attorneys at Law, Centennial, said the statutory requirement under the Colorado Official Records Act allows the district to charge an hourly rate (currently set at \$33.58 per hour) for the district staff to retrieve large document requests. Rowley requested the board review and consider approval of Resolution 2022-11, amending and replacing the district's prior records request policy that was approved on Aug. 14, 2012.

The board unanimously approved the new policy.

Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Rowley said the state-managed program called FAMLI was adopted after the Colorado voters approved Proposition 118 in November 2020, and said:

- The state-run paid FAMLI program provides up to 12 weeks paid leave, with both employers and employees contributing premiums to the program. See www.famli.colorado.gov.
- Local government entities can opt out, but the district has three options: provide the program, or provide the option to employees on an individual basis, or completely opt out of the program.
- Direction from the board would be needed at the October meeting, and a final decision would be needed before the December board meeting.

McGrady said the district provides a comprehensive program paying short-term disability, long-term disability, a separate sick leave policy, and generous vacation time. FAMLI is designed to help small entities such as restaurants, not local government entities that already have a robust benefit program, said McGrady.

Otis recommended the district provide cost comparisons to employees and convey their input to the board before a decision is made.

President Mark Melville suggested some of the employees attend the next board meeting.

Directors attend conference

Director Marco Fiorito said that he and Otis had attended the Special Districts Association (SDA) annual conference in September, and discussions regarding state revolving funds and the Gallagher amendment were the main focus. The SDA is working with the state on a ballot initiative to prevent the state mandating any future mill levy tax decreases for local municipalities. The SDA is "hot and heavy" on it, said Fiorito.

Otis said that for example, any home worth \$28,000 or less will not be taxed, but a revenue problem would exist if any district consisted mainly of mobile homes. Many valuable connections were made at the conference, said Otis.

Public works, parks, and open spaces update

Superintendent Matt Rayno said the following:

- The district is in the middle of sidewalk concrete repairs. The root damage from large cottonwoods caused the shifting of the sidewalks in Jackson Creek neighborhoods.
- The district playgrounds are being assessed and quotes for "wants and needs" will be addressed with the contractor.
- Fall preparation for the winter months is underway with overseeding, fertilization and aeration. The trees will be injected with fertilizer after seeing a good response from the last application.
- The irrigation system is being prepped for winterization and will be shut down, drained and blown out by a technician by the end of September. If the district experiences a warm spell, even in the winter, the district can quickly turn on the system for a brief period, then shut it down promptly.

Otis said there had been a traffic light control issue at the Higby Road and Jackson Creek Parkway intersection.

Rayno said "dirty power" was running at outrageously high megahertz, causing the traffic lights to

change every five seconds at the Leather Chaps Parkway and Jackson Creek Parkway intersection, but technicians got them back into sequence.

The board's directors thanked Rayno and his crew.

Resident communications

McGrady said residents would receive a "top notch" extensive newsletter with in-depth updates on all the district projects in their mailboxes by the end of September. **Note:** The district has only about one-third of the residents' email addresses. Increasing that number would provide better communication. The district will never sell or share your email address, but when there is timely or urgent information to communicate, it would be useful. To subscribe, send an email to: info@triviewmetro.com.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

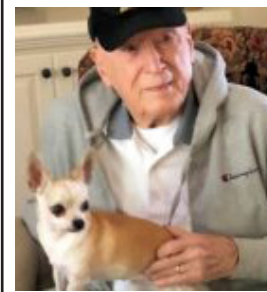
Correction

In the September article, Marco Fiorito was referred to as vice president and Anthony Sexton was referred to as director. Levad confirmed upon request that Fiorito and Sexton swapped positions last month. Sexton is vice president and Fiorito a director. Levad confirmed before the meeting that the district website would reflect the position changes.

Meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of every month at the district office located at 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 302. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Oct. 20 at 5:30 p.m. For meeting agendas, minutes, and updates, visit <https://triviewmetro.com>.

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

Bernard L. Minetti
1931-2022



Commander Bernard L. Minetti USN, Ret., of Peachtree City, Georgia died September 10, 2022, in Sharpsburg, Georgia at the age of 91. He was born July 15, 1931, in Brooklyn,

New York to Bernard J. and Ettorina Minetti.

Bernard was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He entered the Navy in 1951 and became a Commissioned Naval Officer in 1954. He was a Naval Aviator and retired as a Commander in 1977 after 25 years of service. As an ordained Deacon in the Catholic Church, he served God his entire life.

For over a decade before moving out of the area, Bernard was an avid OCN volunteer who contributed many articles and photos to the paper including coverage of the TLMFPD, Palmer Lake Historical Society, NEPCO, and VFW events. He was a steadfast volunteer at numerous OCN mailing days.

Bernard was a devoted husband, father, and Godfather. Though we know he is in the Hands of God, his absence on earth leaves a great sadness behind. He will be forever missed.

Commander Minetti is survived by his daughter, Bernadette Timm; son, Michael Minetti; sister, Marilyn Barletta; and brother, Richard Minetti. He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Patricia A. Minetti.

A visitation will be held from 6 pm to 9 pm Monday, October 3 at Thompson Funeral Chapel in Goodyear, Arizona. A Mass will be held at 10:30 am, Tuesday, October 4 at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Avondale, Arizona. Interment will take place at 12:30 pm, Friday, October 7 at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix, Arizona.