

ranch is fully developed, WWSD will have no need to drill additional wells.

The goal of the asset management plan is to replace and rehabilitate existing infrastructure over a 20-year timeline, Hood said.

Capital improvement planning assumes 2 percent growth in water demand and anticipates the WWSD service area will be completely built out in 2037. Adding an additional storage tank is the first capital improvement project to consider, Hood said.

IGA for water re-use approved

The board voted to approve an IGA between Cherokee Metropolitan District, Donala Water and Sanitation District, the Town

of Monument, and WWSD that creates a water authority allowing the districts to work together on the Loop Project, which will divert water from Fountain Creek and transport it to customers in northern El Paso County.

The Loop Project, when complete, will provide a way for WWSD to bring water from Woodmoor Ranch to its customers.

The IGA will facilitate the construction of water pipelines and storage facilities and will allow the development and implementation of financing options for those purposes. The IGA is required for the participating districts to be able to accept \$4 million in American Recovery Program Act funding from the county.

The vote to approve was unanimous.

2023 budget delivered

District Manager Jessie Shaffer gave the board copies of a draft budget for 2023. The board scheduled a workshop to discuss it for Oct. 19 at 1 p.m.

New auditor considered

Shaffer presented the board a proposal from Prospective Business Solutions LLC to provide audit services to the district. Managing Partner Uli Keeley, who would be handling WWSD's audits, is familiar with the district, Shaffer said, since she has worked for John Cutler and Associates, the district's current auditor. Shaffer asked the board to provide direction on this decision at the next meeting.

FAMLI opt out complete

Shaffer notified the board that the

necessary steps had been taken to opt the district out of the FAMLI program.

Two board meetings rescheduled

The board rescheduled its next two meetings. The November meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov. 17 at 1 p.m., and the December meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 19 at 1 p.m.

Woodmoor Lake on comeback trail

Operations Superintendent Dan LaFontaine updated the board on the status of Woodmoor Lake. In a typical year, the water level in the lake rises during the months when demand for water is low and declines during the warmer drier months when irrigation

uses peak. The construction of the new Lake Pump Station, however, required that Woodmoor Lake be entirely drained. LaFontaine pointed out that the lake is once again refilling, and he estimated it would be refilled before summer 2024.

The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 17 at 1:00 p.m. Meetings are usually held on the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. at the district office at 1845 Woodmoor Drive; please see www.woodmoorwater.com or call 719-488-2525 to verify meeting times and locations.

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Monument Sanitation District, Oct. 19

Sewer overflow contained

By Jackie Burhans and James Howald

At its October meeting, the Monument Sanitation District (MSD) heard from District Manager Mark Parker about a sewer overflow. The board reviewed the MSD budget and heard a report on the Joint Use Committee's (JUC) budget. In his Manager's Report, Parker discussed a lift station failure. The board also voted to opt out of the FAMLI act.

Sewer overflow kept out of Monument Creek

In his Manager's Report, Parker told the board that a sewer overflow occurred in the Willow Springs Ranch (WSR) neighborhood when the temporary seal between the sewer line serving 20 occupied homes and an unused segment of the sewer lines failed. The developer, who is responsible for maintaining the unused portion of the sewer infrastructure,

responded slowly to the overflow, Parker said, and MSD handled the initial response. The wastewater was dammed, bleached, and vacuumed up by GDM Environmental before it could drain into Monument Creek. Parker said all required reports have been filed and the developer would reimburse MSD for all costs related to the cleanup.

Two budgets reviewed

Parker presented a draft of the 2023 budget to the board. He drew the board's attention to the portion detailing the recently received \$684,000 American Recovery Plan Act grant funds that will be used to repair the sewer line between the Synthes Commercial area and the WSR neighborhood.

Parker pointed out the draft budget showed a \$488,375 increase in the district's net position compared with a year ago.

The board scheduled a work-

shop meeting, open to the public, for Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 9 a.m. at the district headquarters at 130 Second St., Monument.

Parker also presented the draft 2023 budget for the JUC, which oversees the Tri-Lakes Waste Water Treatment Facility, which serves the towns of Monument and Palmer Lake as well as the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District. MSD is a one-third partner in the JUC.

Parker noted that sludge hauling costs doubled in the budget due to the need to empty the sludge pond.

The board voted unanimously to approve the draft JUC budget.

Problems persist with lift station

Parker said a lift station serving a dozen houses in Wakonda Hills had failed due to its pump being jammed with a knotted shopping bag and a flushable wipe. This

lift station has failed in the past, he said, for similar reasons. The pump needed to be replaced in this instance.

Parker said a flier detailing items that should not be flushed had been sent to the homes served by the lift station. He said a future communication to the homeowners would include pictures of what had been cleared from the lift station.

Board takes

final vote on FAMLI

At its September meeting, the board asked its legal firm to draft a resolution opting out of Colorado's Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program, which provides paid leave for employees that meet the qualifications.

Before taking a vote on that resolution at the October meeting, Parker asked the board to have the district's payroll team handle the reporting required for any em-

ployees that make a personal decision to opt into the program.

Board President Dan Hamilton said as the program becomes better defined, the board will be inclined to opt in at a future point.

The board voted unanimously to approve Resolution 10192022-1, which declines participation in the FAMLI program.

Monument Sanitation District meetings are normally held at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month in the district conference room at 130 Second St., Monument. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Nov. 16. See <https://colorado.gov/msd>. For a district service map, see <https://colorado.gov/pacific/msd/district-map-0>. Information: 719-481-4886.

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Donala Water and Sanitation District, Oct. 13

Draft budget includes increases in charges

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans

At the September meeting of the Donala Water and Sanitation District (DWSD), the board discussed a draft of the 2023 budget. The board also considered the Intergovernmental Agree-

ment (IGA) required by the Loop water re-use project. General Manager Jeff Hodge updated the board on his negotiation to send WWSD's wastewater to the Tri-Lakes Waste Water Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) rather than to the Upper Monument Creek

Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRWTF) that DWSD is currently using. The board took a final vote on the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program. El Paso County Commissioner Holly Williams paid a courtesy visit to the board.

2023 budget considered

The discussion of the proposed 2023 budget included a cost-of-service analysis by Roger Sams of GMS Inc. Consulting Engineers. Sams reviewed water and sewer costs. He proposed an increase in water service rates for 2023

and presented a new approach to pricing the district's wastewater service that is volume-based rather than the flat-fee approach the district currently uses. His analysis also covered the costs of future capital improvement projects, such as additional pump stations and improved software that controls treatment plants and acquires data from wells and other infrastructure components.

Sams' analysis accounted for inflation by assuming salaries and labor increase by 3%, energy costs by 6%, and insurance costs by 5%.

Sams said DWSD was presently delivering 860 acre-feet of water to customers annually and processing 300 million gallons of wastewater.

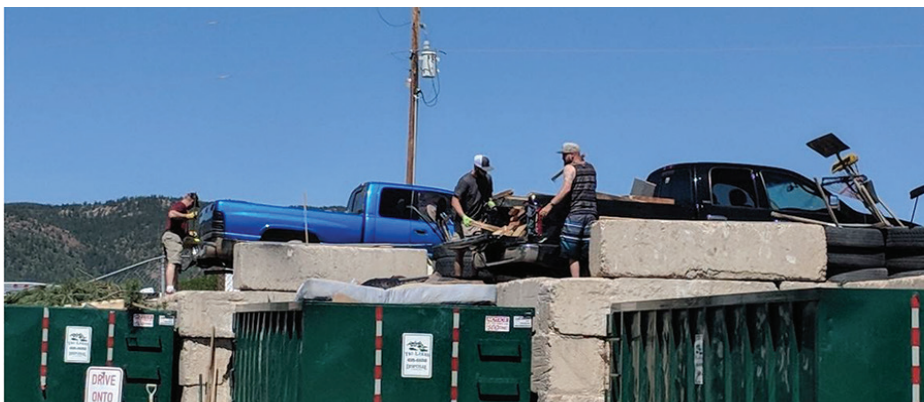
To cover the costs of water service, Sams proposed increasing the customer service charge in 2023 by 4.85% per month, raising it from \$29.06 to \$30.37. In addition, the Tier 1 volume charge should increase by 6.10%, raising the cost of 1,000 gallons of water from \$7.54 to \$8, he said.

Sams suggested the board should consider changing its billing for wastewater service from the flat fee of \$39.55 per residence currently in place to a volume-based fee that would increase as wastewater production increases. Sams explained that wastewater production would be calculated by using the metered water delivered to a residence during December, January, and February, months when no outside irrigation is done so all the water



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