

Donala Water and Sanitation District, Nov. 17

Holbein plant radium below detectable levels

By James Howald and
Jackie Burhans

At the November meeting of the Donala Water and Sanitation District (DWSD), the board was updated on radium levels, celebrated the tenure of its former president, and appointed its managing director to the new Loop Water Authority. It also briefly touched on its upcoming draft budget and rate-setting approval.

Radium levels undetectable

Jeff Hodge, district manager, reported that the second round of testing for the Holbein plant was below detectable levels for radium. This makes two quarters of good results from a certified laboratory. He thanked the board for its approval of the work needed at the plant and noted that it would take some time for the state to approve notifying the public.

Hodge said DWSD would continue using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to implement the use of hydrogen manganese oxide (HMO)

to control radium in the future. DWSD will take samples twice a year from its wells to stay on top of any potentially increasing radium issues.

Past President Houle honored

Ed Houle, past president and member of the DWSD board since 2000, attended the meeting with his wife Nancy and was honored for his years of service. Houle served DWSD from May 2000 to May 2008 as a board member and again from May 2020 to July 2022 as president. DWSD serves 2,800 single-family equivalent customers, providing over 160 million gallons of potable water and treating over 155 million gallons of wastewater while managing over \$55 million in capital assets. Resolution 2022-3 expresses DWSD's appreciation to Houle for his exceptional performance as a board member and president, including his leadership during the district's COVID-19 pandemic, its response to high radium levels, and its selection of a new general manager,



Above: Donala Board Past President Ed Houle was presented by current President Wayne Vanderschuere with a waterdrop-shaped trophy recognizing Houle's years of service to the Donala Water and Sanitation District board. Vanderschuere also thanked Ed's wife, Nancy, for her patience with the hours of work required. Photo by Jackie Burhans.

among other accomplishments.

Board President Wayne

Vanderschuere also thanked Nancy for her patience and support during Houle's service.

Hodge appointed to Loop Water Authority

Hodge asked for a formal motion from the board to appoint him to the newly formed Loop Water Authority (LWA). The LWA is composed of the Town of Monument, Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Cherokee Metropolitan District, and DWSD. The LWA was formed via an inter-governmental agreement between the participating entities as part of the Loop Project, which will divert water from Fountain Creek and transport it to customers in northern El Paso County. Monument Town Manager Mike Forman said his staff would obtain the required Employer Identification Numbers (EIN) and System for Award Management (SAM) numbers and then set up the account at FirstBank to deposit monies that will be reimbursable through the ARPA grant.

Draft 2023 budget and rates discussed

DWSD held a workshop on the morning of Nov. 17 ahead of the board meeting to review the 2023 draft budget and provide guidance. The budget will be brought to the board for approval on Dec. 8, along with the rate settings. Hodge noted that DWSD would have a solid budget to hit its revenue and expense targets while allowing it to maintain the level of service it committed to for its customers.

The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 8 at 1:30 p.m. Generally, board meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. and include online access; call (719) 488-3603 or access www.donalawater.org to receive up-to-date meeting information. The district office is located at 15850 Holbein Drive, Colorado Springs.

James Howald can be reached at jameshowald@ocn.me.

Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me

Triview Metropolitan District, Nov. 17

Colorado Springs Utilities contract awaiting approval

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Triview Metropolitan District (TMD) meeting on Nov. 17, the board heard about Colorado Springs Utilities' (CSU) timeline to approve the contract to convey, treat, and deliver water through the Northern Delivery System (NDS) pipeline; and the board debated over pre-purchasing project materials for the NDS project and pump house equipment.

Northern Delivery System (NDS) pipeline project update

District Manager James McGrady said the district had met with CSU to discuss the Convey Treat and Deliver water contract, and the review stage is being finalized. CSU will present the contract to the utility board for approval in February and seek final approval from Colorado Springs City Council in March. The contract will be presented

before the board changes in April. The timing sits well with the Northern Delivery System (NDS) pipeline installation, he said.

Water Attorney Chris Cummins of Monson Cummins & Shotet LLC said the Colorado Springs City Council will have an election in April and the current board members are educated in the difference between full-service delivery and convey, treat, and deliver (transportation of another district's water without losing any of their own water). CSU receives revenue by using existing infrastructure and that helps Colorado Springs residents, he said.

NDS project material purchase

McGrady gave the board a construction schedule for the NDS pipeline project that is expected to commence from Northgate Road, Colorado Springs, travel north along Roller Coaster Road and east

down Baptist Road to Sanctuary Rim Drive in April 2023. The board discussed the pre-purchasing of materials for about \$80,000 in December. The project requires about \$4.5 million in materials and will be completed by Kiewit Infrastructure for an estimated cost of about \$20 million. See www.ocn.v22n11.htm#tmd.

Vice President Anthony Sexton asked Cummins if the district took out a long-term loan for the NDS enterprise, could the future income from water storage leasing be used to pay off the loan.

Cummins confirmed that eventually water storage leasing could be used to pay off the loan for the NDS project, but the district will not have water storage leasing from third parties before 2024-25. Once the reservoir is built in Pueblo County, the interest will be high for third parties to lease water storage, he said.

McGrady said last month

the board had asked for a term sheet for a long-term fixed interest loan for the NDS project, but that had given him pause for thought on whether another loan was necessary. The TMD Enterprise Fund holds about \$20 million, and the General Fund holds about \$6 million to \$7 million, and he recommended the district fund the NDS project with a loan from the General Fund to the Enterprise Fund with a 3% to 4% interest rate, and forget about a short-term loan from another entity, he said.

Jamie Harvey of Kiewit said the design for the pumphouse was not finished, but the site development will not begin until late 2023 after the NDS pipeline is installed, and the pumphouse construction will likely begin in early 2024.

Director James Otis said that even though the lead time is 14 months for the pumphouse, procuring materials could take 12 months on some items, particularly pumphouse equipment.

McGrady agreed with Otis and said he intends to have the pumphouse design completed in December in time for the next meeting.

President Mark Melville and Sexton agreed that materials with long lead times should be ordered in December to avoid any project delays.

Escrow extension agreement

Cummins said the district has about \$300,000 in an escrow account left over from the Stonewall Springs reservoir closing. The escrow was left in the account to acquire an easement for the outlet works

at the east reservoir, but there is no way the easement will cost that much. He recommended releasing \$150,000 of the escrow funds to Stonewall Springs quarry in exchange for another extension until December 2023, and take the time to acquire the easement, he said.

The board directed McGrady to sign the release of funds.

Financial review

The board unanimously accepted checks over \$5,000.

Treasurer James Barnhart requested an update on tap fees for 2023.

McGrady said there are five or six homebuilders in the area, and 2023 may not be as bleak as previously anticipated for tap fees.

The board unanimously approved the financial report as presented.

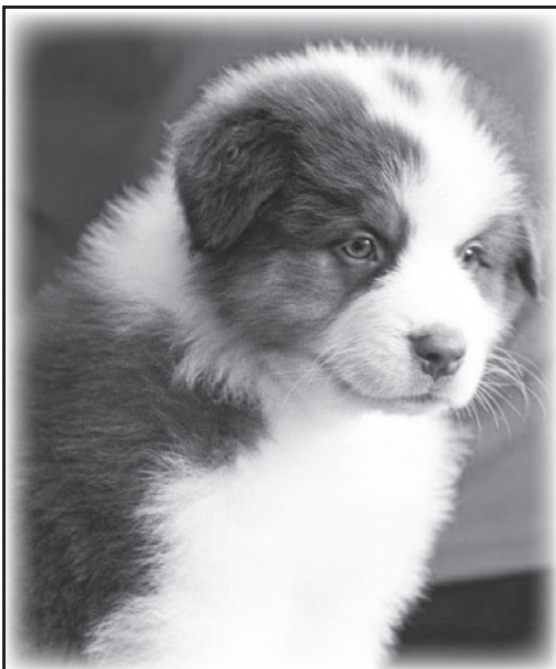
2022 audit

The board unanimously approved an engagement letter for Haynie and Co. to conduct the district's 2022 Financial Audit for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

Public Works and Parks and Open Space update

Superintendent Matt Rayno said:

- The snowflakes are beginning to fly and the team is keeping on top of things and ready to move snow.
- A crack and seal asphalt application will be made on Jackson Creek Parkway and Leather Chaps Drive, weather permitting.
- The district is winterized and ready for next season.



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