

ing and making changes to alignments and the structure of the project. He said he hoped to come back to the board at the next meeting in executive session to talk about costs and contract negotiations. He hoped to have a final meeting with the public toward the end of March or early April to discuss the final plan. It could be a virtual meeting or an in-person meeting if he could find the right venue.

The board went into executive session to discuss the district manager's contract, revisions to the personnel policy and procedure manual regarding vacation carryover, and negotiations regarding the NDS.

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Triview board meetings are generally held on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Mar. 17. The

district office is located at 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 302. Check the district's website, <https://triviewmetro.com>, or call 719-488-6868 for meeting updates. See also "Triview Metropolitan District" on Facebook or [Twitter.com/@TriviewMetro](https://twitter.com/TriviewMetro).

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Donala Water and Sanitation District, Feb. 17

## Board moves forward with water reuse project

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans

At its February meeting, the Donala Water and Sanitation District (DWSD) board approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with three other water districts authorizing DWSD to proceed with a water reuse project. The board approved a bid to drill a new well. The board heard operational reports and the meeting ended with an executive session.

**MOU signed to move water north to DWSD**  
General Manager Jeff Hodge told the board that the project informally known as the "County Loop" would divert water from Fountain Creek and convey it north, through a pipeline yet to be constructed, to customers in four water districts: Cherokee Metro District (CMD), DWSD, Woodmoor Water and Sanitation (WWSD) and the Town of Monument (TOM). The project is still in the planning stages, he said, and different routes for the pipeline and different storage locations are being studied. The MOU allows the four water districts to seek funding together, and to jointly engage consultants, engineers, grant writers, land acquisition counsel, and attorneys.

Hodge said that the MOU was a first step that could lead to an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), which would be required to obtain funding from the American Recovery Plan Act. Board President Ed Houle pointed out that the MOU does not commit the district to proceed with the project after engineering studies are complete.

Hodge told the board he had proposed to Triview Metro District that it join the County Loop project, but he thought it was committed to a wa-

ter reuse project of its own, known as the Northern Delivery System.

Materials in the packet presented to the board, from Forsgren Associates Inc., outlined two paths for the largest portion of the pipeline: Both are adjacent to Marksheffel Road, but differ in the point of diversion of water from Fountain Creek. Beginning just south of Stetson Hills Boulevard, the pipeline would continue north adjacent to Vollmer Road. The final portion of the pipeline would run west adjacent to Hodgen Road and then to Higby Road.

Hodge said the WWSD board had already signed the MOU and he expected CMD and TOM to sign by March 7.

The board voted unanimously to authorize Hodge to sign the MOU.

### Bid accepted to drill new well

Hodge told the board DWSD had received two bids to drill a new well into the Arapahoe aquifer. The well will supply the R. Hull treatment plant. The bids, from Hydro Resources and Layne Christensen Co. (LCC), were both very close to \$1.3 million.

Leonard Rice Engineering Inc. (LRE) a consulting firm that frequently advises DWSD, recommended the bid from LCC, arguing that the schedule of completion proposed by LCC was more realistic and that DWSD is currently working with LCC on maintaining some of the district's other wells. Hodge said he agreed with LRE's opinion and expected the new well to be completed by August or September and to deliver 400 gallons per minute when in production.

The board voted unanimously to accept LCC's bid.

### Highlights of operational reports

- Hodge told the board that financial reports showed the district was on track and had \$11 million in cash on hand.
- Waste Plant Operator Aaron Tolman told the board that semi-trailer trucks were leaving the Pilot Travel Center and parking in front of the entrance to the DWSD's waste treatment plant, blocking access to the plant, in some cases overnight. The treatment plant gate had been damaged by a truck. Chief Waste Plant Operator Boyett said the trucks were causing safety issues, since emergency vehicles could not reach the treatment plant in case of an injury. He said Monument Police Department needed to address this situation.

### Executive session

An executive session was held to discuss the district's negotiations with Colorado Springs Utilities for long-term water supply and to receive legal advice on two legal cases.

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The next meeting is scheduled for March 17 at 1:30 p.m. Generally, board meetings are held the third Thursday of the month and include online access; call (719) 488-3603 or access [www.donalawater.org](http://www.donalawater.org) to receive up-to-date meeting information. The district office is located at 15850 Holbein Drive, Colorado Springs.

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## Free "Neighborhood Ambassador" Wildland Fire Risk Reduction Training Program continues March 8

By John Rickman

The Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Emergency Preparedness Group (TLUMC EPG) is a 2020 national award winner in the wildfire mitigation arena and has conducted numerous risk reduction projects. Following up on last year's successful program that trained 45 personnel in 16 neighborhoods in Colorado, Montana, and Oregon, the EPG is once again presenting the free course to share their experiences gained through training Neighborhood Ambassadors. What is a Neighborhood Ambassador? It is simply someone who desires to organize their neighbors to implement risk reduction projects in their own neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Ambassador training started with a virtual kick-off meeting on Feb. 26 and then an Organizing a Neighborhood Project meeting on March 1. (Recordings of those meetings are available.)

The program consists of a Zoom training module each week for eight weeks in March and April and two on-site modules to train group members to perform Wildfire Risk Assessments and train as chipper operators. The virtual modules will cover:

- Tuesday, March 8 (6-7:30 p.m.): Module 2 - Wildfire Assessment Program, How to Protect Your Home's "Ignition Zone" Against Flying Embers
- March 15 (6-7:30 p.m.): Module 3 - Wildfire Assessment Program, "Home Hardening" Against Flying Embers
- March 29 (4-6 p.m.): Module 4 - Wildfire Assessment Program, Home Assessment Exercise in person
- April 5 (6-7:30 p.m.): Module 5 - Hazards and



**Above:** After several months of online training, these local residents were ready to learn how to give a stern safety briefing and run a slash chipper in May 2021. They're ready to help reduce "ladder fuel" on their private property and around their neighborhood to reduce wildfire risk. A similar free class series has just started for 2022, organized by Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Emergency Preparedness Group and taught by TLUMC EPG with support from local forestry and fire professionals. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

### Connect with Fire/Forestry Professionals

- April 12 (6-7:30 p.m.): Module 6 - Fire Risk Reduction Project Planning Techniques
- April 19 (6-7:30 p.m.): Module 7 - Neighborhood Prep, Rolling Chipping Days
- April 26 (6-7:30 p.m.): Module 8 - Firewise Vegetation: What can I plant?
- May 3 (6-7:30 p.m.): Module 9 - Wildfire Emergency Preparedness: Ready, Set, Go! and connect with Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management
- Saturday, May 7 (9 a.m.-noon): Chipper Operations Leader Training in person
- Dates TBD on Saturdays May through September: Neighborhood-led Rolling Chipping

### Day Projects with EPG Guidance, in person

- Tuesday, Oct. 4 (6-7:30 p.m.): End of Season Review

This training program is being presented in association with the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management and Colorado State Forest Service. Instruction adheres to guidelines from the National Firewise program.

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Email [epg@tlumc.org](mailto:epg@tlumc.org) to sign up or get links to recorded sessions. Go to [www.tlumc.org/outreach/epg](http://www.tlumc.org/outreach/epg) or our Facebook page Wildfire Neighborhood Ambassadors. Call Lisa 719-339-7831 with questions or email [lisahatfield@ocn.me](mailto:lisahatfield@ocn.me).