

ceed with the replacement, which is expected to cost \$100,000.

### New infrastructure required for Monument Junction

Shaffer said both Monument Junction developments would require the installation of pressure reducing valves along the border of the developments to isolate the development in its own pressure zone. Pressure reducing valves take a high upstream water pressure and reduce it, Shaffer explained. Five pressure valves would be required. The developer would pay for three and WWSD for two, Shaffer said.

The board voted unanimously to authorize Shaffer to proceed with the project.

### Highlights of operational reports

- The district's financial report showed that revenue from tap fees continues to be high due to the rapid pace of residential construction.
- Well 10 is back in production after maintenance, and Well 9 is due for maintenance.
- The district has begun replacing water meters with new more technically advanced meters that are easier for the district to read and better integrated with billing software.
- Well 22, a new well that the district plans to drill just south of County Line Road and east of I-25, has been permitted by El Paso County, and drilling is expected to begin soon.

### Executive session

The meeting ended with an executive session for discussions on buying or selling real property and on potential agreements with Colorado Springs Utilities, the Town of Monument, Donala Water and Sanitation District, Cherokee Metropolitan District and Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District.

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The next meeting is scheduled for July 11 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](http://www.woodmoorwater.com) or call 719-488-2525 to verify meeting times and locations.

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### Tri-Lakes Wastewater Facility Joint Use Committee, June 14

## Three districts leaning against wastewater regionalization

By Lisa Hatfield

The Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) Joint Use Committee (JUC) met on June 14. It discussed the status of its projected participation in the North Monument Creek Interceptor (NMCI), which is looking much less likely, and voted on new officers.

TLWWTF is owned in equal one-third shares by Monument Sanitation District (MSD), Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD), and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD).

The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts' boards. The JUC voted that starting in July, MSD Treasurer Laura Kronick will replace MSD Director John Howe as the JUC president; WWSD board Secretary William Clewe will be the new JUC vice president; and PLSD board member Reid Wiecks will be the JUC's secretary/treasurer. Wiecks ran the June meeting.

### NMCI opinions expressed

As a side note at the end of the meeting, WWSD Manager Jessie Shaffer expressed doubt on WWSD's participation in the NMCI wastewater project.

NMCI might have used a gravity-driven system to connect smaller northern El Paso County wastewater districts with Colorado Springs Utilities' more sophisticated and currently underutilized wastewater treatment facility, the J.D. Phillips Water Reclamation Facility.

Wiecks said PLSD will not participate for financial reasons, and Parker said MSD will not be participating in the project either.

Other northern El Paso County wastewater dis-

tricts—Triview Metropolitan District, Donala Water and Sanitation District, and Forest Lakes Metropolitan District (FLMD)—have also been considering participating in NMCI since 2018 when the idea first surfaced.

See related WWSD, MSD, Triview, and Donala articles between pages 20 and 22 in this issue. FLMD has not met since March 2022. See background at [www.ocn.me/v18n12.htm#msd](http://www.ocn.me/v18n12.htm#msd) and [www.ocn.me/v18n12.htm#tvmd](http://www.ocn.me/v18n12.htm#tvmd).

### 2021 audit not yet ready

Plant Manager Bill Burks said he has not yet received the final version of the 2021 audit from John Cutler & Associates for the JUC to review, but he expects to send it to the members soon so they can vote to approve it at the July meeting. It needs to be submitted to the state by end of July.

### Managers' reports

MSD District Manager Mark Parker said MSD just completed acoustics testing of its system, which is a new, more efficient way of checking the lines for blockages than using video camera scoping. PLSD District Manager Becky Orcutt said PLSD is now also using the same technology.

Burks reviewed the April Discharge Monitoring Report, flow and BOD (biological oxygen demand), metals, and nutrients testing for TLWWTF and had no concerns to report. TLWWTF continues to perform well above state-required parameters.

The facility has removed 197.35 dry tons of the 295 tons of biosolids budgeted for this year. Burks hoped to get it all done by end of June.

The facility master plan draft has been received from

Tetra Tech. Burks and the operators are reviewing it next to see if they have questions. He hopes to have that draft to the JUC soon for its review. The process for nitrogen removal is one of the topics that is still a question.

TLWWTF operator Doug Johnson passed his Class B state wastewater certification, and the JUC praised him for his accomplishment over a relatively short amount of time. Burks really appreciates his hard work.

For the Colorado Wastewater Utility Council (CW-WUC) update, MSD Environmental Compliance Coordinator Jim Kendrick could not attend the meeting but had concerns and asked Burks to share letters from the EPA for the JUC to review regarding accelerating nutrient pollution reductions in U.S. waters.

Burks told about topics discussed at the June 7 AF-CURE (Arkansas Fountain Coalition for Urban River Evaluation) meeting. This included the periphyton report from Otter Tail Environmental, applying for party status for antidegradation designations to regulatory review of streams in the South Platte, and 2023 draft budget timing. The Arkansas Basin Hearings will occur in 2023, and that might add to regular legal costs for AF-CURE.

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The next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. July 12 at the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility, 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month and are open to the public from all three owner-districts. For information on virtual meeting access, call Bill Burks at 719-481-4053.

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### Monument Sanitation District, June 15

## Monument proposes water and sanitation consolidation

By Jackie Burhans and James Howald

The Monument Sanitation District (MSD) board met twice in June: It held its regular board meeting on June 15 at which it scheduled a workshop meeting for the next evening. Monument Mayor Don Wilson and Monument Town Manager Mike Foreman attended the board meeting to propose that MSD be combined with Monument's Water Department to form a consolidated organization with its own board. The MSD board heard a draft audit presentation and voted on two resolutions.

### Consolidated water and wastewater

Since 1963, MSD has provided wastewater service to its customers, some but not all of whom live in the town of Monument. MSD's service area runs from County Line Road to Baptist Road. A map of MSD's service area can be found here: <https://monumentsd.colorado.gov/about-us/district-map>.

Wilson said he wanted to start a discussion about combining MSD, which provides only wastewater service, with Monument's Water Department to form an organization providing both services governed by its own board. Wilson said he was always looking for ways to increase efficiency and save money. Consolidating water and wastewater services had been discussed with an MSD board member in the past who is no longer on the board, he said.

Foreman said he is always looking for ideas about how to improve the town. He envisions customers serving on the consolidated board. He pointed out that currently some customers receive two bills, one for water and one for sewer. He argued two separate bills meant some customers were paying twice for administrative costs and went on to detail how the town had improved its billing services, including increasing the collection rate. Foreman suggested that a first step could be having Monument's billing and customer support staff take over those functions for MSD.

If the transition to consolidated billing goes well, Foreman suggested two more steps: MSD using Monument's sewer operator staff in place of its own and then forming a single water and wastewater district with its

own board. Foreman also suggested that MSD could move to office space provided by the town and rent its offices to another business.

Both Wilson and Foreman pointed out that some Monument Board of Trustees (MBOT) members who live east of I-25 vote on issues that don't affect them but do impact residents west of I-25. They thought that was an impediment to good decision-making. Foreman suggested forming a committee with two MBOT members who live west of I-25 and two members of the MSD board.

Following Wilson and Foreman's presentation, the board voted to hold a workshop meeting the next evening to discuss how to proceed.

### Board workshop consolidation

At the June 16 workshop, MSD board members gathered to discuss the proposed merger with the Monument Water District. Board member Skip Morgan said that the town had made a similar suggestion about 15 years ago, which was declined. Dan Hamilton, board president, said he had attended two other events after the board meeting with Foreman, who emphasized the town just wanted to start the conversation. Director Laura Kronick offered to take notes so that MSD had something in writing to document its discussion and questions. Hamilton said that the workshop shows that MSD is giving the proposal honest consideration and that the town wants to know if MSD is interested and will bring a serious proposal.

Morgan said that there could not be a joint water and sanitation district because of differing coverage areas, which was why the state has 500 special districts. Director John Howe noted that the Wakonda Hills area, which represents 15% to 20% of MSD's customer base, is not in the town and has its own wells.

The board discussed the possibility of consolidated billing, explaining the current processes, costs, and customer satisfaction. Board members wondered if there was a tangible benefit to MSD customers in terms of cost savings and convenience and asked if there would be a charge to MSD for the town to do the billing.

The board reviewed the suggestion of MSD moving its offices to town office space and renting its office to another building. Hamilton noted that the town felt this would support economic development by opening the space to a retail business that generated more tax dollars. Parker said the proposed space was in the Code 1 building the town acquired, and the MSD staff would go from offices to cubicles. He also expressed concern about board meetings and community rental space. Board Director Marylee Reisig asked if MSD would be charged rent in the town's office space and whether it would retain ownership and continue receiving rent from its current building.

The board questioned the makeup of a consolidated district. They also discussed if the new organization would report to the Monument Board of Trustees or operate autonomously. The board wondered who would be eligible to be on the board and who would have the controlling authority. Kronick said in theory if Monument passes the proposed home rule charter, it creates districts from which to choose board members.

Kronick said the workshop was worthwhile, bringing up some good questions. Morgan said that MSD needed to know the bottom line of the town's vision over the next five years.

### Audit shows good financial health

Derek Watada of Olson, Reyes, & Sauerwein LLC, the district's auditing company, presented a draft of the results of the district's financial audit for 2021. Watada said the audit process went well and found no major issues. He did see instances where more separation of duties would improve the district's processes but acknowledged that small organizations often struggled with this. Watada said overall the audit report was clean.

The board voted unanimously to approve the draft report as presented.

### Resolutions passed

The board voted to approve Resolution 06152022-1, which designates the district manager as the custodian of records and as the person responsible for handling