

treatment requirements.

The first meeting of the EPCRLWA is covered in a separate article on page 16 in this issue of *Our Community News*.

Woodmoor Lake refill timeline
Operations Superintendent Dan LaFontaine, in response to a question from Bush, told the board that the district's plan was to have Woodmoor Lake fully refilled by May 2024. Currently there is 28 feet of water in the lake, he said.

The construction of the new Lake Pump Station required the lake

to be completely drained, which is not typical during the annual cycle of filling the lake during the spring and emptying it during the high demand months in the summer. LaFontaine said water levels in the lake would rise during the spring of 2023 but not to the levels seen in a more usual year, due to the degree to which the lake was emptied to accommodate the upgrade to the pumping station. Then levels would fall again during the summer. By 2024, he said, levels would return to what they were previously.

Donala Water and Sanitation District, Jan. 19

Wastewater study funding disputed

By James Howald and
Jackie Burhans

At its first meeting of 2023, the Donala Water and Sanitation District (DWSD) board discussed how to respond to a request from two partnering metropolitan districts to fund a study of the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, which DWSD co-owns with those districts. The board passed two annual housekeeping measures and heard an update on radium testing. It also appointed a backup representative to the El Paso County Regional Loop Water Authority (EPCRLWA) and discussed the use of variable frequency drives in its wells.

Study begun without DWSD signature

District Manager Jeff Hodge told the board that Triview Metropolitan District (TMD) and Forest Lakes Metropolitan District (FLMD) had initiated a study of the wastewater treatment facility they share with DWSD in 2022 without including DWSD in the scope of work or in the selection of the engineering company that would perform the analysis. Hodge said the other two districts had signed a contract with Carollo Engineers Inc. to perform the study, but DWSD had not been asked to sign the contract and had not done so. Hodge said DWSD was now receiving invoices for the study which it had never agreed to have done. In response to a question from Director Kenneth Judd, Hodge said the invoices had not been paid.

The proposal for the study specifies that the cost of the engineering fees for the entire project will not exceed \$125,000.

Hodge said TMD and FLMD claim that the work is considered a capital project and since they voted

to sign the contract, it overrides DWSD's role as the operator of the facility. Hodge told the board that he and the district's lawyer did not agree with this position.

Board President Wayne Vanderschuere said DWSD would be discussing who will pay for the work performed in 2022.

Hodge said DWSD had included funds for the study in its 2023 budget, but not in its 2022 budget and the initial work for the study had been done in 2022. He asked the board for direction on how to continue the discussion with TMD and FLMD.

Vanderschuere said although DWSD had included \$100,000 to evaluate the treatment facility in its 2023 budget he did not believe paying for expenses incurred in 2022 with funds from the 2023 budget would be approved by DWSD's auditors.

Vanderschuere and Hodge agreed that the study was worthwhile, and Vanderschuere said DWSD was committed to paying expenses incurred in 2023.

Judd asked why DWSD should pay any invoices for the study since DWSD did not sign the contract with Carollo Engineers. He argued for starting the evaluation process over from the beginning. Vanderschuere agreed and said DWSD would not pay invoices from 2022, would start the process fresh and would start with a request for proposals to do a study. Judd pointed out that DWSD had already paid the entire cost of two previous studies.

Hodge said he was working with DWSD's lawyer on a letter to be sent to Jim McGrady, district general manager at TMD, and Ann Nichols, district manager at FLMD. Judd requested that the letter di-

- Highlights of operational reports**
- LaFontaine reported that there were five line breaks in December.
 - Shaffer reported that the district was replacing sewer saddles in the Woodmoor Forest neighborhood of the WWSD service area. Saddles are the connections between sewer main lines and residences.
 - Shaffer said he expected home construction in the Cloverleaf

development east of Lewis-Palmer High School would begin soon.

The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 13 at 1 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.

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

rectly say DWSD was declining to pay for the work done to date. The letter will also be sent to the board presidents of TMD and FLMD.

Housekeeping resolutions passed

The board voted unanimously to pass Annual Resolution 2023-1, which specifies operational details required for compliance with state and county rules and regulations. The resolution requires all legal notices to be published in the *Gazette* or the *Tri-Lakes Tribune* and all regular meetings to be posted on the district's webpage or at the district's offices, for example.

The district's web page is at <https://donalawater.org> and the offices are located at 15850 Holbein Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80921.

The board also approved a schedule for its regular meetings, which are typically held on the third Thursday of each month at the office.

Radium level monitoring continues

Hodge told the board that another round of radium tests from the Holbein plant had been sent to the state. The previous two tests showed undetectable levels of radium in the water processed at the Holbein plant, he said. Four sets of test results below the state's standard for radium are required to meet standards, he said.

Alternative representative to EPCRLWA named

The board appointed Water Operator Ross Robinson to act as an alternate for Hodge at EPCRLWA meetings when necessary. EPCRLWA is designing and building infrastructure needed to divert water from Fountain Creek, treat it, and convey it to customers in four participating districts in El Paso County: Chero-

kee Metropolitan District, DWSD, the Town of Monument and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District.

The first board meeting of EPCRLWA is covered in its own article on page 16 of this issue of OCN.

Variable frequency drives save on energy

Hodge updated the board on the effort to equip the district's wells with variable frequency drives (VFD), which allow the motors that power well pumps to vary their output to meet changes in demand. Wells without VFDs are either pumping at full volume or completely off. VFDs are controlled by the software that manages the district's treatment plants, storage tanks, and other infrastructure, and can save DWSD electricity costs, Hodge said.

VFDs allow the pumps to run continuously and thereby avoid the high energy costs incurred by starting the pumps. VFDs also extend the life of pumps, saving replacement costs, Hodge said. DWSD's electricity provider will also pay rebates for the installation of VFDs. Hodge explained DWSD is also working with Mountain View Electric Association on reducing use of power during peak periods to avoid demand charges.

The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 16 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.

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Monument Sanitation District, Jan. 18

Raspberry Lane repair launches

Raspberry Lane sewer line near failure

Parker said the sewer line on the west side of Raspberry Lane was clay pipe, and an inspection showed that failure was imminent. The repair would be done using a technique called sliplining that involves lining the clay pipe with a smaller carrier pipe without the need to disturb the asphalt by digging a trench to reach the line. The

sewer line on the east side of Raspberry Lane required other repairs before being sliplined, Parker said.

Parker told the board a preconstruction meeting would be held Jan. 20 and the work would begin on Jan. 23. Manhole repairs on Raspberry Lane have already begun.

Manager's report

Parker told the board that the lift station installed by the developer of the Willow Springs Ranch de-

velopment was working well and processing about 8,000 to 10,000 gallons of wastewater daily. Parker said an official acceptance of the gravity waste system and the lift station would be issued soon.

Parker said MSD was changing its policy on payment of late fees to allow for some discretionary waiving of fees, based on payment his-

By Jackie Burhans and
James Howald

In his Jan. 18 manager's report, Monument Sanitation District (MSD) General Manager Mark Parker told the board a project to repair the sewer line on Raspberry Lane would begin in January. Parker covered other projects, policy changes, and operational details in his report. The board also voted on a resolution on public notices for meetings.