

Monument Sanitation District, June 21

2011 audit approved; new water treatment funding sought

By Jim Kendrick

On June 21, the Monument Sanitation District board accepted the 2011 audit presented by Mark Gilmore of auditing firm Bauerle & Co. Gilmore discussed the management summary and his report, which included an unqualified, or "clean," opinion of the district's finances in 2011. He noted that the district has sufficient cash reserves to meet all short-term liabilities. The district continues to tightly control expenses to an amount significantly less than the total expenditures conservatively budgeted year over year.

Gilmore explained several technical aspects of his audit report in depth for the new directors. He emphasized the increased annual capital depreciation due to the new Wakonda Hills collection system paid for in large part by an American Recovery & Reinvestment Act forgivable loan of \$2 million and significantly higher treatment expenses that had to be met with recent user fee increases. All actual costs of district operations have remained consistent and under budget year-over-year.

Board President Ed Delaney and Secretary Kristi Schutz were reappointed

for the rest of 2012. New Director Don Smith was appointed treasurer to replace Lowell Morgan, who was term limited. Director Chuck Robinove was appointed the primary district member of the Joint Use Committee (JUC) for the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility, also to replace Morgan. New Director David Joss was appointed the first alternate representative to the JUC and all the other directors were appointed secondary alternates.

Treasurer's report

District Manager Mike Wicklund noted a payment of \$3,640 to I & C Design LLC for repair of the district's Red Lion telemetry from the Tri-Lakes facility and installation of a new dedicated supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system monitor that is used to track lift station performance. This cost was \$1,000 less than originally projected.

The district received another tap fee of \$7,500 to bring the total for the year up to \$29,000. The amount of tap fee revenue budgeted for 2012 was \$10,000. Cash on hand increased to about \$291,000, up \$11,000 from the previous month. However, the district still needs to continue to

increase this reserve to be able to cover the cost of an accidental spill or an unplanned Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility capital equipment failure. The reserve was significantly reduced to pay for two new Wakonda Hills lift stations in 2010 as part of that collection system expansion.

Wicklund said he was preparing a \$3 million grant request from the state revolving fund of the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority to help pay for the new nutrient treatment equipment. The equipment will be required by the new Control Regulation 85 and the new nutrient amendment to Regulation 31 to remove total phosphorus and total nitrogen at the Tri-Lakes facility.

If approved, the grant request will be added to the authority's Intended Use Plan, which has a backlog of over \$3 billion already. The authority is currently only able to lend about \$80 million per year, but large unspecified cuts have already been announced beginning in the next Colorado fiscal year. The statewide minimum cost of \$25 billion to meet the new nutrient requirements remains unsustainable.

Wicklund also advised the board that

even though the implementation date for these two regulations has been deferred by Gov. Hickenlooper until June 30, 2013, the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility must still immediately expand its monitoring and testing in Monument Creek upstream and downstream of the facility's discharge pipe for even more chemicals and forms of aquatic life. It also must pay for the installation and operation of a pilot plant for chemical removal of total phosphorus in 2013.

Wicklund stated again, as he has done in district meetings for the past year, that these direct short-term increases in facility operating costs for stream monitoring and the pilot plant will require monthly fee increases of at least \$5 to \$10.

Nutrient hearing update

Wicklund briefed the board on the final approval of new nutrient restrictions in Control Regulation 85 and Regulation 31 by the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) at the June 11 commission meeting. The new regulations now will take effect on Sept. 30, a further three-month delay. Although the EPA's own regulations call for providing its comments and approval within 90 days regarding all



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