

for treatment, or contracting with Donala Water and Sanitation District for treatment. All options cost roughly the same upfront: about \$3.5 million, which would pay for construction of infrastructure. Annual operating costs on top of that would vary from \$650,000 to \$875,000. Any choice made will result in higher property taxes to pay for the bond and an increase in monthly charges for the district's roughly 300 households.

Engineer Roger Sams gave the board updated numbers from Donala based on its responses to questions posed by Academy's board. Sams' next report will go into more "subjective" issues, such as environmental factors (like skirting protected Preble's meadow jumping mouse habitat if laying pipe to connect with CSU), the risk of changes in user charges (with the CSU and Donala options), and the desired level of "control of our destiny" (Academy would not have a vote in CSU or Donala board decisions).

Academy could avoid that and build a new treatment plant, but then the district would bear the ongoing risk and responsibility

for discharge permit compliance in the face of more expected regulation changes, Sams said.

Sams also offered "present worth" cost comparisons, measuring the 20-year costs and perpetual costs of all three options if they were each paid for today. Building a new facility would cost the least, at \$15 million, while connecting to CSU would be the costliest, at \$20 million.

Treasurer Walter Reiss wondered if the district should look into getting annexed by the City of Colorado Springs. He said he knew that residents might not like that option, but might change their minds "when they see the numbers we're facing." Sams said there are details regarding contiguity with existing city limits before annexation can be considered; he would look at those numbers and report back to the board next month. In addition, he said, because Academy's population is entirely residential, the tax base might not be attractive to the city. Director Ron Curry liked the idea of annexation and said it would relieve the board of its duties and of the difficulty of finding future board members.

**Other board business:**

- Past-due accounts are up to \$3,242. Six of the 10 accounts owe more than \$300, putting them at risk for water shutoff. What people are doing, Reiss said, is paying a portion of their past-due amount, which gets them off the current past-due list. But then they do not pay the present bill, which puts them on a new past-due list that is less than 60 days old and so not at risk of shutoff.
- The board voted to approve the final draft of the "Contingency Plan: Source Water Protection Contingency Plan for Providing Alternative Drinking Water Supplies for Academy Water and Sanitation District," a 189-page document that Director Jim Weillbrenner spent the past year preparing. While not mandated by the state, the document helps direct the district as to what to do in case of a water emergency.

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The Academy Water and Sanitation District board usually meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday

of every month at the fire station on Sun Hills Drive. The next meeting is Aug. 1.

Susan Hindman can be reached at [susanhindman@ocn.me](mailto:susanhindman@ocn.me).

**Tri-Lakes Joint Use Committee, June 12**

**Final nutrient regulations adopted**

By Jim Kendrick

On June 12, Monument Sanitation District Manager Mike Wicklund updated the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee (JUC) on the final approval of two nutrient regulations by the state Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) of the Colorado Department of Public Health Environment (CDPHE.)

Wicklund also updated the JUC on the final changes in Control Regulation 85 and the nutrient limits added to Regulation 31 and their related new costs for removing phosphorus and nitrogen compounds from treated effluent.

The Tri-Lakes facility operates as a separate public utility and is jointly owned, in equal one-third shares, by Monument Sanitation District, Palmer Lake Sanitation District, and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District. The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts' boards: Dale Smith from Palmer Lake, Ed Delaney from Monument, and Jim Whitelaw from Woodmoor. Typically, several other district board members and the district managers from each of the three districts also attend JUC meetings.

The JUC unanimously accepted the financial statements for May. Palmer Lake District Manager Duane Hanson asked Facility Manager Bill Burks to determine if the district's new accountant, Jackie Spegele of Numeric Strategies LLC was

using a different method of vehicle depreciation on the balance sheets than the previous accountant Nolan Gookin.

Burks noted that Spegele had provided comments to auditor John Cutler on the final 2011 facility audit. The district managers noted that they had passed Cutler's draft to their district auditors for review and comment.

**District manager reports**  
Wicklund introduced new Monument board members David Joss and Don Smith. He noted that Monument had received a few

tap fees, the district's monitoring telemetry had been repaired, and that the district was looking at replacing the float sensors in its three lift stations with solid state electronic pressure transducers because the floats were susceptible to becoming tangled in the grease layer on top of the wastewater in the wet well. The high level float would be kept as a backup safety measure for sensing potential overflows in the lift station. Wicklund said that he thought transducer sensors are less susceptible to erroneous readings than ultrasonic

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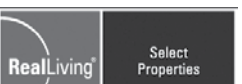
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