

erational and pilot test data to determine if the pilot test results can be integrated into the current facility's processes, then complete a report containing the pilot test results (\$10,000).

The other part of the plan calls for Tetra Tech to develop a nutrients engineering report that evaluates near- and long-term nutrient management strategies and creates a capital improvements program for a 20-year planning period (\$70,000). This report is currently scheduled to be completed by June 20, 2014.

The facility received an \$80,000 state nutrient planning grant to help pay for a study by Tetra Tech to plan the design and construction of new Tri-Lakes nutrient treatment equipment for enhanced removal of total phosphorus from the facility's effluent to comply with the new state

nutrient Control Regulation 85. This planning grant requires a 20 percent match (\$16,000) from the three districts that own the facility. The Tri-Lakes facility already meets the new total inorganic nitrogen limits in Control Regulation 85.

When Gov. John Hickenlooper announced the grant on July 19, he also said that the Tri-Lakes facility would receive a \$1 million grant to help pay for design and construction of this new state-mandated nutrient treatment equipment. No match is required for this grant. This award of \$1.08 million provides a total of \$360,000 to each of the three wastewater special districts that own the Tri-Lakes facility. Both state grants are good for three years. Neither grant requires any reimbursement to the state. For more information see www.ocn.me/v13n8.htm#grant.

Tetra Tech's Nutrients Design/Construction Project Work Plan for use of the \$1 million design and construction grant includes these tasks:

- Complete a preliminary effluent limit (PEL) application (\$9,000).
- Prepare site application for the recommended facility improvements (\$23,000).
- Prepare a process design report for the recommended facility improvements (\$45,000).
- Prepare final engineering design documents for the recommended facility improvements as identified in the Nutrients Engineering Report (\$181,000).
- Construct improvements for the recommended facility improvements (\$742,000).

The rough estimate of the total design/construction cost for this phosphorus removal project is \$2.007 million. Burks said plans currently call for construction to be completed by the end of 2015. The design/construction grant statute states that the Water Quality Control Division must approve full operation of the new nutrient equipment by May 1, 2016.

Financial reports

Burks advised the JUC that he had succeeded in negotiating a cancellation of the state's invoice for a \$2,800 fee for a discharge permit amendment that eliminated the twice monthly nonylphenol testing requirement and restored the requirement to conduct only one test per quarter from the facility's previous permit. Nonylphenol has never been detected in testing performed by the Tri-Lakes facility. It is an organic compound found in industrial surfactants, detergents, dry cleaning fluid,

and pesticides and is toxic to many aquatic organisms.

Burks stated that the state Water Quality Control Division staff admitted that the requirement in the new discharge permit was their mistake since every test for nonylphenol ever conducted by Burks' staff had resulted in a "non-detect" reading, proving there has never been a reasonable potential for finding any nonylphenol much less having a discharge permit violation. These tests have cost \$600 each for a total of \$14,400 per year, since the permit took effect at the start of 2012 for a total of \$25,200. The division staff finally agreed that the Tri-Lakes facility should not have to pay the standard minimum 25 percent fee for administrative processing correction of the staff's mistake.

Burks noted that the only exceptional item in the financial statements for August was an invoice from Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority for \$6,285 for the facility's participation in the Arkansas River Fountain Creek Coalition for Urban/Rural River Evaluation (AF CURE) in 2013.

Burks reviewed several line items in an update to the facility's draft 2014 budget. The draft budget will continue to be refined as more specific information becomes available on items such as actual capital costs of planned phosphorus removal construction and new nutrient data reporting costs for AF CURE for 2014. The three district managers will have their boards review the draft budget to provide comments back to Burks.

The financial statements were unanimously accepted as presented.

District managers' reports

Manager Mike Wicklund gave an update on Monument Sanitation District's an-

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Proud Of Colorado; An Open Letter To
D38 Seniors, Retirees, & "Empty-Nesters"

I am proud of Colorado's educational opportunities. However, I have seen over the last several years a negative change in attitude by our D38 Board of Education towards our community and especially our life-experienced Seniors, Retirees, and "Empty-Nesters".

I have seen D38 presentations place blame on the State of Colorado for D38 money problems with the solution being a "local" reliable and indefinite \$4.5 million dollar annual MLO tax increase.

I have seen our Seniors, Retirees and Empty-Nesters respectfully asking appropriate questions concerning district finances, actions, and strategic visions for our kids, with the D38 response including the following:

YOU ARE NOT EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS and therefore:

- 1) you are too untrained to know what is best for your kids & grandchildren. Your concerns are unworthy of district consideration. Basically, "Your three minutes are up please sit down".
- 2) you are too ignorant to read a financial statement and obviously do not have the training to understand long-range BIG RED re-finance maneuvering.
- 3) you are too selfish to not give more and more unlimited or unconstrained tax dollars for anything generically labeled as "for the kids".
- 4) you are too demanding to ask for details on district financial decisions and publically SCOLDED to not question spending of community tax dollars.

AND I am really tired of hearing recent MLO advocate briefings that our financial problems are caused by the State of Colorado and how unreliable the State is with their poor school funding and financial cheating of "our kids".

I am proud of Colorado and our citizens who pay for and help set the best future for our kids. If it "Takes a Village", then ALL "Villagers" have a valuable voice, especially in the coming MLO election.

Please let your voice be heard. VOTE!

Paid For By: Gordon Reichal, Major USAF (ret.) & 14-Year Woodmoor Resident, D38 Senior, Retiree, and Empty-Nester

JUST THE FACTS

The request for a mill levy increase (3A) placed on the ballot for November 6 is all about investing in our kids. It is our desire to properly inform our community. Recently there has been a great deal of misinformation communicated in a variety of ways. It is our desire that your vote will be based on accurate information.

Here are the FACTS about District 38 and the MLO:

- The mill levy will increase property taxes for homeowners from 9 to 15 percent depending on the community, water and fire protection district of the residence. The actual cost will be approximately \$8 a month for \$100,000 assessed value of property.
- D38 only has five district administrators; and one of the lowest ratio of administrators to students in all of Colorado according to CDE.
- Teacher turnover in District 38 is 11 percent according to CDE. One of the lowest in the state.
- One hundred percent of the revenue from the MLO will go to our district. With Amendment 66, only about 40 percent of the increased income tax from our area will come back to our schools.
- None of the MLO revenue will be spent on administrators or construction of a new building.
- Lewis-Palmer Middle School had the highest gain in the district on the state accountability report (according to CDE).
- The percentage of budget held in reserves places District 38 squarely in the middle of districts of the same size.
- Every year District 38's financial reporting is audited and reviewed by the State Auditor's Office, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and an Independent Certified Public Accounting (CPA) firm. D38 received the highest possible rating by each group.
- District 38 has never been fined by CDE for any reason.
- District 38 has been accredited with Distinction the last four years by CDE.
- There will be a committee of community members who will annually oversee the spending of the MLO revenues.

—John Borman, Superintendent of Schools

Please join us on Thursday, October 17 at 6:00pm for a Community Forum with the Lewis Palmer Board of Education where you can learn more about the facts regarding District 38 and the MLO.