

reporter asked for a copy of the document from the fire district office manager and the vendor representative.

The representative noted that the new coverage would cost 40 percent less than the previous provider's. Emergency Ser-

vices was selected as the new provider.

**2014 budget**

The district's 2014 proposed budget was reviewed for a second time and will be presented for final approval at the Dec. 4

board meeting.

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The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 4, in the Administration Center at 166 Second St. in Monument. For further information regarding

this meeting, contact the district Fire Administration Office at 719-484-0911.

Bernard Minetti may be contacted at bernardminetti@ocn.me.

**Tri-Lakes Facility Joint Use Committee, Nov. 12**

**JUC approves 2014 budget**

By Jim Kendrick

On Nov. 12, Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Manager Bill Burks presented the final draft of the facility's 2014

budget to the Tri-Lakes facility's Joint Use Committee (JUC.) This budget included additional costs for an application for an early renewal of the facility's five-year

discharge permit to start in 2014. The facility's current discharge permit expires at the end of 2016. The JUC unanimously approved the 2014 budget resolution and 2014 appropriation resolution as presented, including the additional costs for the new discharge permit application.

The Tri-Lakes facility's budgeted total revenues and equal total expenses will increase from \$948,785 in the 2013 budget to \$2.8 million in the 2014 budget due primarily because of the \$2 million cost for the state-mandated total phosphorus treatment expansion. However, the estimated actual total revenues and total expenses for 2013 were \$859,990, due primarily to the postponement of construction of an \$83,000 storage building until 2014. Repairs and maintenance costs will increase next year from \$29,780 in 2013 to \$55,748. Chemical costs will increase from \$58,328 in 2013 to \$66,500.

The facility has no revenue source other than the three special districts that

own it and pay its invoices monthly. The facility will receive \$1.08 million from an \$80,000 state planning grant and a \$1 million state construction grant. The entire \$2.007 million planning/design/construction cost was budgeted and appropriated for 2014 because of the grant requirements. The grant money will be spent first before the rest of the costs are paid by the three owner districts, with the exception of a required \$16,000 match for the planning grant.

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: President Jim Taylor of Woodmoor, Vice President Dale Smith of Palmer Lake, and Secretary/Treasurer Chuck Robinove of Monument. Several other district board members, district managers, and district staff from each of the three owner districts also attended the meeting with Burks.

**Major changes in copper limits**

Tri-Lakes' environmental attorney Tad Foster had advised the JUC at its Oct. 8 meeting that agreeing to the state Water Quality Control Division's unprecedented early permit renewal request may make it easier to negotiate more realistic long-term copper limits for Tri-Lakes' treated effluent in the next facility discharge permit. Foster had also recommended that the JUC agree to the division's request for early permit renewal only if the division agrees to an appropriate phosphate removal compliance schedule for the Tri-Lakes facility—one that allows sufficient time to determine the optimum operational protocols for this untested equipment. Changes to the 2014 budget would be required to pay for the permit renewal process.

The Tri-Lakes facility will also request that the division eliminate the current permit's requirement to test for selenium, lead, and hydrogen sulfide since none of these has ever been detected in Tri-Lakes' treated effluent. The current discharge permit would require costly monthly testing for these potential constituents to continue for another three years, through the end of 2016, even though there is no further apparent purpose.

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