

Donala Water and Sanitation District, June 20

Petersen takes over as manager

By Jim Kendrick

On June 14, Kip Petersen stepped up to replace retired District Manager Dana Duthie, who served the board and constituents of Donala Water and Sanitation District for 20 years. Petersen takes his place as Donala's district manager as the special district nears buildout in a challenging period of declining Denver basin aquifer production, escalating renewable

water costs, and soaring treatment costs mandated by unprecedented EPA-driven water quality demands and tighter wastewater discharge permit requirements that will exceed the limits of available technology. And he did so with a warm welcome from the Donala board.

Petersen asked the board members to sign documents at the June 20 board meeting to inform a variety of entities that

Petersen had replaced Duthie as the point of contact for such items as district loans, financial accounts, and intergovernmental agreements. All were approved unanimously.

The absence of Director Bob Denny was excused.

2012 audit forwarded to state

Tom Sistare of Hoelting and Co. presented his final 2012 audit, which included an unqualified, or "clean," opinion for the year, with no management issues to report. Board President Bill George noted that Donala's audits had steadily improved during his tenure on the board, since 2008. The board unanimously accepted the audit. Sistare has forwarded the audit to the state.

The board unanimously accepted the financial reports for May as presented.

New surface water transfer issues surface

Petersen briefed the board on a problem that has arisen in the record-keeping required for transfers, both on paper and actual, of Donala's renewable surface water from Willow Creek Ranch near Leadville being held in the Pueblo Reservoir.

Petersen first noted that Willow Creek Ranch had been in priority for producing surface water for Donala at a rate greater than they could actually claim under the district's adjudicated quota for May. Flows will inevitably decline with the end of the snow melt, but yields had been about twice those for 2012 to date. Petersen provided a new spreadsheet with a format designed for board members to be able to track flows themselves. He also reviewed

a number of competing issues and trends that make water management and cost control a day-to-day balancing act.

However, the state Bureau of Reclamation, which runs Pueblo Reservoir, had decided that there had been significant enough confusion among some bureau employees regarding the record-keeping for Southern Delivery System transport of Donala water by Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) to withhold further work on a long-term multi-year storage and transfer agreement with Donala. Petersen said some of the individuals involved in resolving this situation are starting the summer vacation cycle, so it may be a while before this new problem can be solved. In the interim, Donala's Willow Creek water is being stored by CSU in Twin Lakes Reservoir, independent of any Bureau of Reclamation jurisdiction or control, so that it can be transported through Rampart Reservoir to CSU's water treatment plant, then piped north to Donala.

Petersen also touched on a number of technical issues for minimizing icing and landscaping issues at Willow Creek Ranch that can negatively affect day-to-day operations, and he described potential solutions for each.

PPRWA update

Petersen reported that the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority (PPRWA) is considering what level of participation is appropriate in Cherokee Metropolitan District's proposed regional water supply feasibility study. The following water entities have agreed to participate to date: Donala, Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Triview Metropolitan District, and the towns of Palmer Lake, Monument, and Fountain. The authority will seek \$25,000 from the Arkansas Basin Roundtable and \$75,000 from the Reserve Fund of the Colorado Water Conservation Board to help fund the study.

Petersen also reported on two draft options proposed for governance of a proposed regional stormwater task force. As with all stormwater issues, the ones facing the task force are complex and politically and financially challenging, particularly passing any kind of tax for revenue generation to pay for treatment and protective infrastructure.

The PPRWA unanimously approved a participation agreement for the new Arkansas/Fountain Creek Coalition for Urban/Rural River Evaluation (AF CURE) water quality monitoring group. This approval will make AF CURE a long-term project of PPRWA. AF CURE will coordinate the monitoring of Foun-

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