
On July 19, Gov. John Hickenlooper announced the award of \$1.08 million in grants to the Tri-Lakes owner districts to help pay for planning, design, and construction of new Tri-Lakes nutrient treatment equipment for

enhanced removal of total phosphorus and total nitrogen from the facility's effluent. See the article on page 1 for more details.

The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. Aug. 14 at the at

the Tri-Lakes facility's conference room, 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month. Information for these meetings is available at 481-4053.

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Donala Water and Sanitation District, July 18

Pueblo Reservoir storage issues resolved with help from CSU

By Jim Kendrick

On July 18, District Manager Kip Petersen advised the Donala Water and Sanitation District board that the Bureau of Reclamation's extended delay in starting negotiations with Donala for a long-term storage contract for Donala's Willow Springs Ranch renewable water in Pueblo Reservoir finally has been resolved. "The biggest issue that we've had is the long-term storage contract with the Bureau of Reclamation," he said.

Petersen stated that the Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) Southern Delivery System (SDS) representative to the bureau, SDS Deputy Program Director Keith Riley, has met with bureau staff and discussed the long-term agreements and the short-term contracts that Donala and CSU already have with each other. Riley has resolved the delay by assuring the bureau that CSU is working with Donala on a long-term delivery contract.

Donala's long-term issue has been which comes first, the long-term storage contract with the bureau or the long-term delivery contract with CSU. The bureau has demanded assurances that there would be a long-term service agreement between CSU and Donala for SDS transport of Donala's water before it would even consider beginning negotiations with Donala regarding Donala's decreed water storage rights in the Pueblo Reservoir.

At the request Wayne Vanderschuere, CSU's general manager of Water Services, Petersen contacted hydraulic engineer Carly Jerla, the bureau's representative to Donala, to let her know that Donala now has a one-year CSU contract signed by CEO Jerry Forte that runs through the end of 2014. Donala Board Chairman Bill George signed this contract at this July 18 Donala board meeting.

The bureau will now start work on an environmental assessment of Donala's decreed reservoir storage of 288 acre-feet that must be completed and approved in order for CSU and Donala to sign a long-term service agreement, which will be very similar to the annual delivery agreements. Vanderschuere remains concerned that the bureau will use Donala's environmental assessment issue to reopen CSU's already approved reservoir storage environmental assessment, which he believes is unrelated to Donala's new storage contract. He asked Petersen to also state to the bureau that the two assessments are independent of each other. Petersen added that Donala must sign a long-term delivery contract with CSU before the SDS system begins drawing water out of the Pueblo Reservoir for transport.

Willow Creek Ranch update

Petersen noted that routine summer maintenance of Donala's equipment at the ranch had been scheduled and was proceeding as planned. This is important because flows were high from the snow melt and Donala had been able to use all its monthly adjudicated water rights to date. Donala has stored 170 acre-feet of water using CSU's storage rights in the Twin Lakes Reservoir through the end of June, up from storage of 111 acre-feet through June 2012. He also said it looked like Donala's surface water rights would stay in priority in July and more water could be stored.

Petersen also noted that storing Donala's Willow Creek Ranch water in the much closer Twin Lakes reservoir avoided the loss of 10 percent of renewable water to the evaporation that occurs between Willow Creek and the Pueblo Reservoir. Donala's water can be transported from Twin Lakes by other pipelines to the CSU water treatment plant without using the pipeline that currently transports water from the Pueblo Reservoir to the CSU water treatment plant.

There was a lengthy technical discussion of how much additional water would have to be produced for irrigation this summer and whether there would be a significant reduction caused by restricting irrigation to only two days per week. There was also a discussion of Donala's options if CSU shifted back to allowing its customers to irrigate three days per week. Under Donala's current service agreement, when CSU cut ir-

rigation back to two days per week, Donala had to implement the same restriction in order to still be able to buy water from CSU. However, when CSU recently increased the number of irrigation days to three times per week, Donala had the option to continue its Phase 3 restriction. Donala's Phase 3 restriction was still in place at OCN's publication deadline for this edition.

Financial reports

Betsy Bray of Accounts Payable gave an analysis of the performance of the various district budget line items for the first half of 2013. Total revenues for the first six months were \$3 million or about 36.4 percent of the \$8.3 million budgeted for the year. Higher revenues during the irrigation season will bring this percentage up rapidly as they do every year. Total expenditures through June, including capital projects, were \$2 million or about 22.4 percent of the \$8.96 million budgeted.

Petersen noted that several capital projects would start soon, including construction of a new water line from Struthers Road and Northgate Boulevard (\$100,000), design and construction a new water line, with directional boring, through the Gleneagle golf course (\$250,000), and \$3 million in other long-term capital projects. The projects now can be reprioritized for completion in the next year or two to ensure effective use of the district's \$5.3 million of bonds from a loan from the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority.

The financial reports were unanimously accepted as presented.

Operations projects

Petersen reported that the district is having little luck in finding a suitable emergency electrical generator due to the high demand for such generators in the many areas where natural gas exploration is underway.

Construction of the new Jessie/Struthers/Latrobe water pipelines began on July 1 and should be completed by mid-August. These new lines will carry Donala's raw Willow Creek Ranch water, which has been transported to the interconnection with CSU at Northgate Boulevard and Struthers Road, to Donala's Robert Hull Water Treatment Plant. After all of Donala's available Willow Creek water has been used, Donala can also use these new lines to transport additional water purchased directly from CSU, if necessary.

There has been an issue with some starters that operate blowers and mixers at the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. Replacement motors for the mixers have been installed and spare motors have been ordered.

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