

### Financial report

Burks noted that he had listed estimated 2014 coverage expenses for Colorado Special Districts Property Liability Pool insurance in the November accounts payable invoice to the three owner districts. The estimated total cost for workers compensation coverage was listed at \$5,000, while the estimated cost for liability coverage was \$21,000. He said the actual cost for liability would be \$21,264, but he had no invoice for workers compensation yet. Burks also noted an unplanned expense of \$6,017 to Bob's Electric Motor Service for replacing a failed pump.

Burks distributed final copies of the 2014 Tri-Lakes facility budget. It 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 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, 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 their individual district operating invoices monthly. The facility's operating costs are divided between the three owner districts using a formula based on the total weight of solid wastes delivered to the plant by each district times 0.6 (60 percent) and total volume

of liquid wastes delivered to the plant by each district times 40 percent. Ownership costs, such as capital costs and liability insurance, are divided equally into one-third shares.

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.

Burks stated that he met with the owner district managers after the Nov. 12 JUC meeting to finalize accounting, auditing, and payment procedures for processing invoices from the phosphorus contract engineering consultants and the general contractor selected for construction. Reimbursement will be accomplished through a single JUC budget line item and new separate nutrient project JUC account.

### District managers' reports

Monument District Manager Mike Wicklund noted that the success of Monument's TABOR waiver election Nov. 5 allows the district to accept nutrient grants larger than 10 percent of district operating revenues without having to seek voter approval in the future. Wicklund reported that the district had engaged bond counsel from the investment banking firm George K. Baum & Co. to obtain revenue bond financing for the district's one-third share of the cost for new phosphorus treatment equipment that is not covered by the state nutrient grants.

Palmer Lake District Manager Becky Orcutt and Woodmoor Assistant District Manager Randy Gillette stated that their districts were operating smoothly and had nothing unusual to report.

### Plant manager's report

Burks noted that the plant had been running efficiently and that there were no unusual test results in the October Discharge Monitoring Report that is submitted each month to the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment. Biosolids were removed at a rate of 99 percent and total suspended solids were removed at a rate of 98 percent. The required removal rate for both is 85 percent.

Wicklund asked if the facility has been doing regular upstream and downstream sampling for ambient E. coli concentrations in Monument Creek. Currently Monument Creek is on the state 303(d) list for E. coli impairment, but the problem area is well south of the Air Force Academy. Wicklund said that the facility should start

monthly testing above and below Monument Lake to determine the amount of non-point source E. coli contamination in upper Monument Creek, as well as at Baptist Road to determine the difference being caused by sources below the Tri-Lakes facility. Burks replied that testing had not been done recently.

Wicklund stated that this information can be submitted to the Arkansas River/Fountain Creek Coalition for Urban/Rural River Evaluation (AFCURE) for annual reporting to the state and EPA to show how small the contribution from the Tri-Lakes facility really is and that the facility is not causing any E. coli impairment of Monument Creek or Fountain Creek to the south. The testing and reporting would help the district defend itself from a new expense for more involved testing in the new facility discharge permit to be issued in 2014. Colorado Springs Utilities will head up the Monument Creek E. coli data analysis for AFCURE. Pigeons have been shown to be the primary source of excessive E. coli immediately downstream of Manitou Springs.

There was a related general discussion of the EPA's new testing and regulatory demands on sedimentation. The Tri-Lakes facility does not contribute any sedimentation to Monument Creek. However, the EPA is now demanding that the state require wastewater facilities to report on stream, lake, and reservoir sedimentation in the same manner as multi-metric index data collection for various forms of aquatic life such as sand fleas and macroinvertebrates. These types of life don't naturally occur in any significant quantity in the creek due to its shifting sandy bottom, types of stream bank, and the scouring flows that sweep out any floating aquatic life after rain or stormwater events. Nonetheless, Monument Creek is reported as being well below standards for multi-metric index readings for this aquatic life that cannot naturally occur.

This naturally occurring low level of tiny aquatic life may lead to a new 303(d) stream impairment listing for Monument Creek for aquatic life if the state gives in to EPA demands to declare such streams impaired. Years of additional expensive biological testing will be demanded of the Tri-Lakes facility—as well as Upper Monument Creek facility and Academy Water and Sanitation District—if a 303(d) sedimentation stream impairment classification is declared even though the reason for the paucity of aquatic life has been well-documented at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars by the Tri-Lakes facility.

### Discharge concentration reports

Burks noted the following monthly grab sample readings from the Oct. 8 Regulation 85 re-

port for samples taken in Monument Creek about a quarter mile north of the Tri-Lakes discharge location, where Monument Creek crosses Arnold Road, west of Mitchell Avenue:

- Ammonia nitrogen – 0.04 mg/l
- Nitrite nitrogen – 0.00 mg/l
- Nitrate nitrogen – 0.00 mg/l
- Total inorganic nitrogen – 0.04 mg/l
- Total Kjeldahl nitrogen – 1.10 mg/l
- Total nitrogen – 1.10 mg/l
- Total phosphorus was 0.07 mg/l

Burks noted the following individual monthly influent/effluent (before/after treatment) sample readings from the Oct. 8 Control Reg. 85 nutrients data collection report were:

- Ammonia nitrogen – 30/0.24 milligrams per liter (mg/l)
- Nitrite nitrogen – 0.00/0.04 mg/l
- Nitrate nitrogen – 0.00/3.46 mg/l
- Total inorganic nitrogen – 30/3.74 mg/l
- Total Kjeldahl nitrogen – 37/1.50 mg/l
- Total nitrogen – 37/5.00 mg/l
- Total phosphorus was 8.0/6.4 mg/l

Burks also noted the following monthly grab sample readings from the Oct. 8 Reg. 85 report for samples taken in Monument Creek below the mixing zone for stream and effluent flows—about a mile south of the Tri-Lakes discharge location where Monument Creek crosses Baptist Road, just west of the railroad tracks:

- Ammonia nitrogen – 0.04 mg/l
- Nitrite nitrogen – 0.00 mg/l
- Nitrate nitrogen – 0.20 mg/l
- Total inorganic nitrogen – 0.24 mg/l
- Total Kjeldahl nitrogen – 0.75 mg/l
- Total nitrogen – 0.95 mg/l
- Total phosphorus was 1.5 mg/l

In October, the plant used 28 percent of its rated flow treatment capacity of 4.2 million gallons per day and 41 percent of its rated biosolids treatment capacity of 5,600 pounds per day.

### AFCURE meeting report

Burks noted that the AFCURE meeting focused on how to submit monitoring data for 2013 to the Colorado Data Sharing Network. Robinove asked that the data in the CDSN spreadsheet format be easily convertible to graph presentations.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Jan. 14 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.


Jim Kendrick can be reached at [jimkendrick@ocn.me](mailto:jimkendrick@ocn.me).

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