

hearing cycle. It is still unknown when the division will issue the new Tri-Lakes discharge permit for the 30-day public notice review cycle and how the new discharge permit limits will affect the 2015 budget.

See <http://www.ocn.me/v13n7.htm#juc> and <http://www.ocn.me/v14n9.htm#tljuc-0812> for more details regarding Tri-Lakes' nutrient and copper discharge permit issues.

The Tri-Lakes facility operates as a separate public utility and is jointly owned, in equal one-third shares, by Monument Sanitation District (MSD), Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD), and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD). The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts' boards. Several other members of the three district boards, as well as district managers and district staff also attended the meeting.

**Draft 2015 budget reviewed**

Burks presented the first draft of the facility's 2015 budget, noting that several parts may change based on what new and possibly tighter discharge permit limits are issued by the state. He estimated that total expenditures for 2014 would be \$3.96 million, up from the originally budgeted \$2.86 million, and \$3.57 million in 2015. Revenues come from the three owner districts, and the total of their monthly invoices will equal these costs. There was a lengthy question-and-answer discussion about options available for various line items, but no decisions were made.

The current exceptions to this "pay as you go" process are the 2014 reimbursement from the \$80,000 state nutrient planning grant and the three-year \$1 million state nutrient design and construction grant. The state has indicated that it will reimburse all design and construction payments made by the facility at the start of the project as soon as possible to ensure the grant funds are disbursed before they expire in May 2016. Bids will be requested in February, so there are no firm numbers for this major temporary exception to normal operating costs.

The current "opinion of probable cost" from the facility's engineering firm, Tetra Tech, is \$2.87 million. Tetra Tech has stated that actual bid prices could be sig-

nificantly higher than this estimate due to the expected volatility in interest rates after the November election.

Burks requested a new pickup truck as part of the policy to replace each facility truck after 10 years. These trucks are purchased through the state truck contract bidding process. He said the current types of half-ton trucks available are 2014 Ford F-150 or Ram 1500 and prices for 2015, which have not been finalized yet, are expected to increase by 5 percent. The larger 2014 pickup trucks available are from General Motors.

However, Burks noted that he planned to keep the 10-year-old truck in the facility fleet to be used by a new plant operator that will be added to the facility payroll in April. The new employee will be required to help the rest of the staff handle all the additional nutrient sampling that will be conducted in-house rather than being outsourced, as well as operation and maintenance of new equipment that will be constructed in 2015 to meet the new tighter discharge permit limits required by state Control Regulation 85. Having a fourth employee will make it easier to comply with the state's requirement to have an employee present at the facility every day with lower overtime costs than are currently incurred.

Monument Sanitation District Manager Mike Wicklund reminded Burks that total phosphorus sampling of each district's in-plant wastewater needs to begin immediately to be able to more closely estimate the operation and chemical costs for removing phosphates in the new tertiary phosphate removal clarifier. Allocation of the new phosphate removal capacity percentages among the three owner districts may have to be different than the long-standing current ownership percentages for in-plant hydraulic flow capacity and in-plant biosolids organic capacity.

See <http://www.ocn.me/v14n9.htm#tljuc-0812> for more technical information on this nutrient treatment construction issue and <http://www.ocn.me/v13n11.htm#juc> for copper permit limit issues.

Burks also noted that new computer hardware and software will be needed to handle the automated control systems for the tertiary phosphate clarifier, and similar new computer and control system hardware and software will be required to coordinate the automated control of

the existing aeration basins and secondary biosolids removal clarifiers with the new nutrient equipment to optimize plant performance.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

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

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*Donala Water and Sanitation District, Sept. 18*

**Record renewable water year reported**

*By Jim Kendrick*

On Sept. 18, Donala Water and Sanitation District General Manager Kip Petersen reported that Donala had stored 345 acre-feet of fully consumable renewable water for 2014 from the district's Willow Creek Ranch near Leadville in the Pueblo Reservoir. Donala also has another 128 acre-feet of water stored in the reservoir that can be used for augmentation thanks to a wet year and ample snowfall in Colorado. This is up from 180 acre-feet in 2012 and 280 acre-feet in 2013. Donala's average withdrawal from the Arkansas River over a 38-year period is limited to an annual average of 280 acre-feet.

Petersen also reported that Donala water production dropped 10.2 million gallons from July to August. He estimated that total water revenue would be 20 percent less than the amount budgeted.

**Two public hearings scheduled**

Petersen gave a lengthy presentation on various options for his proposed rate structure resolution and draft 2015

budget. The directors asked numerous questions in a wide-ranging discussion about the tradeoffs for:

- Increases in district water development and investment fees.
- Various sizes and types of water rate increases.
- The continuing need for Donala to purchase new renewable water rights.

There was also a discussion of how to plan for providing water and wastewater services to the closed Gleneagle golf course property if it is redeveloped as a residential area.

Office manager Betsy Bray explained to the board how \$1.5 million in property tax revenue is allocated to various district funds—25 percent to the unrestricted general fund for cash reserves and 75 percent to the restricted debt reduction fund for payments on the district's various bond and capital loan payments.

Donala's goal is to have rates cover costs of service and provide an operating reserve for the first few months

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