

Academy Water and Sanitation District, Jan. 15

First steps taken toward connection option with CSU

By Susan Hindman

Communication with Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) about connecting to its wastewater treatment system has begun, Dave Frisch of GMS Inc., an engineering firm, told the Academy Water and Sanitation District board at the Jan. 15 meeting. He said the people he had spoken with were actively working on next steps, including drafting an intergovernmental agreement.

Frisch said that in February, GMS will conduct field surveying of the area along Smith Creek where a new pipeline would carry wastewater from the district's treatment facility on Spring Valley Drive to the CSU connection point on Northgate Road. Currently, Academy's treated wastewater is discharged to the creek. He said GMS should know by the end of the month if a lift station would need to be built along this pipeline's route. However, building a lift station would

boost the cost significantly, so Frisch and the board hope this won't be necessary.

The board approved spending up to \$300 for an initial meeting with a public relations firm to discuss how to educate residents about the new mill levy that will be required to pay for the connection.

The current need on the wastewater side is the result of new state regulations, which passed two years ago despite vigorous opposition by most wastewater treatment facilities across the state. While CSU also faces complying with the new regulations, connecting with CSU would help spread out the costs among more customers.

Though the Academy board hasn't voted on a specific solution among the three offered by GMS — building a new treatment facility, connecting with the Donala Water and Sanitation District, or going with CSU

— the CSU option has been pursued because, at this point, it doesn't require building anything mechanical, said board President Richard DuPont.

May elections of directors

Two board positions are up for re-election on May 6: Walt Reiss and Susan Hindman. They will need to submit self-nomination forms by Feb. 28 if they wish to continue serving. The call for nominations will be published in the Gazette Feb. 5-20; if there are not more nominees than positions open, then the election will be canceled in early March.

The Academy Water and Sanitation District board meets at 6 p.m. the third Wednesday of every month at the fire station on Gleneagle and Jessie Drives. The next meeting is Feb. 19.

Susan Hindman can be reached at susanhindman@ocn.me.

Donala Water and Sanitation District, Jan. 16

Pueblo Reservoir renewable water storage contract approved

By Jim Kendrick

On Jan. 16, Donala Water and Sanitation District General Manager Kip Petersen reported that he had received a Bureau of Reclamation short-term storage contract for 2014 that will allow Donala to continue to store its renewable surface water from its Willow Creek Ranch property near Leadville in the Pueblo Reservoir. This renewable water is transported north in a Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) pipeline, treated by CSU, then delivered to

the Donala distribution system primarily during the high demand irrigation season.

The cost of this CSU-treated water is higher than the cost of producing treated Donala groundwater, but it relieves the pressure on Donala's various wells. The delivery of treated Willow Creek renewable water was reliable and effective in 2013. The board unanimously approved a resolution authorizing Donala board President Bill George to sign the 2014 short-

term storage contract.

The board unanimously approved the regular board meeting schedule for 2014. Meetings will continue to be held at 1:30 p.m. in the district conference room on the third Thursday of each month. However, there will be no meeting in November and the 2015 budget hearing will be held on Dec. 4 at 1:30 p.m. in the district conference room.

Repairs for hail damage at the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment

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