the access road to Monument Lake. It was previously owned by the railroad and will be deeded by BK-LOR to the town as right-of-way for Mitchell Avenue.

See www.ocn.me/v14n2.htm#bot0121 for more details.

Inclusion approved

Although all of the Lake of the Rockies



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Let's talk about the 2014-2015 school year now. Sheryl Ellis, Monument, cell 321-536-9504



parcel has now been annexed into Monument, BK-LOR did not seek inclusion of the parcel into the adjacent Monument Sanitation District. The Palmer Lake Sanitation District's main wastewater interceptor pipe is located adjacent to the west side of the proposed development. The interceptor runs along the east shoreline of Monument Lake at a lower elevation than Monument Sanitation District's closest interceptor pipe to the east. The comparatively greater depth of Palmer Lake's interceptor will provide gravity feed of residential wastewater to all 156 lots.

However, installation of some of the development's interior sanitary sewer collection lines will require relatively deep excavations to provide sewer service for lots on the east side of the Lake of the Rockies property. Palmer Lake Sanitation District's engineering firm, GMS Inc., had not completed its review of the project's plans by Feb. 11.

Monument will provide potable water to the development and meter the wastewater that flows into the Palmer Lake collection line to keep track of how much wastewater, which will be treated by Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility, may be available for re-use or sale to downstream water users.

Some of the lot sizes have been changed by Century Communities and will have to be approved by the Town of Monument. The next tentative town hearing date for amendments to the previously approved Lake of the Rockies PD site plan is the April 8 Monument Planning Commission, followed by Board of Trustees consideration at a May meeting. The project would be developed in three equal phases from south to north.

There were no comments from the public during the open portion of the inclusion hearing.

A motion to approve the Lake of the Rockies inclusion subject to any and all required documents being submitted was unanimously approved. District Manager Becky Orcutt said she would provide a

letter stating that Palmer Lake Sanitation District will serve the project with wastewater service.

The board unanimously approved a resolution to hold an election on May 6 for approval of the district's ability to accept state grants totaling \$360,000 for nutrient treatment equipment design and construction at Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility. Orcutt noted that she had mailed a notice regarding the district's upcoming election to the address for every residence and business that receives wastewater service from the district.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday March 11 in the district conference room at 120 Middle Glenway. Information: 481-2732.

> Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

Tri-Lakes Facility Joint Use Committee, Feb. 11

State Senate bill threatens steep increases in permit fees

By Jim Kendrick

On Feb. 11, the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee (JUC) was briefed by Monument Sanitation District Manager Mike Wicklund

on state Senate Bill 14-134, titled "Repeal Statutory Water Quality Fee Schedules," which was sponsored by state Sen. Mary Hodge, chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill would transfer fee setting from the elected members of the state Legislature to the political appointees not subject to recall by the electorate that sit on the governor's Water Quality Control Commission.

The state Water Quality Control Division (WQCD), of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), acts as the staff for this Commission. Under this bill, the commission would have total control and discretion to set all the cash fees that finance the operation of the division, rather than the Legislature determining the state's funding through the state's general fund.

The Tri-Lakes facility operates as a separate public utility and is jointly owned, in equal one-third shares, by Monument Sanitation District. Palmer Lake Sanitation District, and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District. The threemember JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts' boards: President Jim Taylor of Woodmoor, Vice President Dale Smith of Palmer Lake, and Secretary/Treasurer Chuck Robinove of Monument. Several other district board members, district managers, and district staff from each of the three owner districts also attended the meeting, as well as Tri-Lakes Facility Manager Bill Burks.

Details of SB 14-134 undefined

Wicklund noted that the state Senate bill would restructure water quality fees by eliminating over 100 fee categories based on type of facility and create these new general, but unspecified, cash funds covering broad water quality regulatory categories:

- Public and Private Utilities Fund
- Construction Fund
- Commerce and Industry Fund
- Pesticides Fund
- Water Quality Certification Fund
- Animal Feeding Operations Fund
- Drinking Water Fund

The fiscal note that accompanied SB 14-134 stated: "For each cash fund, a surplus, shortfall, or another funding status is likely to decide the type and magnitude of fee adjustments. As of this writing, the fiscal

note has no definite information about the ability of new cash funds to meet specific budget requirements. However, the fiscal note assumes that current statutory fees will be continued by emergency rule immediately following the effective date of this bill."

The fiscal note also listed the funding status, on page 3, for each of these new funds as "Unknown." This statement on page 5 of the fiscal note further explained the "unknown" impact on state local governments and special districts: "Without information concerning new cash fund balances and annual budget requirements associated with each fee, the fiscal note cannot estimate the impact of the bill on local expenditures."

Furthermore, the fiscal note included this statement about fee increases to refinance 10.0 full time equivalent (FTE) staff members: "At least 16.0 FTE in the WQCD [are] currently financed using General Fund, despite fee authority that, in scope, includes these personal services. By authorizing administrative fee-setting, CDPHE will meet budget goals by adjusting fees to refinance up to 10.0 FTE using cash funds in FY 2015-16 and future fiscal years. This requires an increase of up to \$782,470 in fee revenue, which will be apportioned to new cash funds based on allocation of these refinanced personal services in WQCD water quality programs."

The division's funding is 66 percent federal, 18 percent general fund, and the remainder is fees. The current division fee structure is enormously complex. Some permits, such as pesticides and 401 permits don't have fees, and are currently







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