

Monument Sanitation District, March 20

# Digital lift station control systems installed

By Jim Kendrick and Lisa Hatfield

District Manager Mike Wicklund advised the Monument Sanitation District board on March 20 that it cost \$24,588 to install new digital pressure transducer primary control systems and replace the floats for the three mechanical backup control systems for two Wakonda Hills lift stations and the Trails End lift station.

The floats in the original float control systems at one of the Wakonda Hills lift stations had been causing alarms, and the board had previously approved Wicklund's recommendation to convert all three stations to digital control, before any serious problems developed. The digital control systems are far more reliable and can be adjusted remotely by Wicklund via computer, improving operator safety during bad weather.

Also, several support structures subject to corrosion in the harsh wet well environment were removed and replaced

with stainless steel parts. The back-up electric generators were also serviced.

President Ed DeLaney and Secretary Kristi Schutz were absent from the meeting. Director Chuck Robinove chaired the meeting for DeLaney, who was out of state.

### Financial report

Wicklund reported that another \$413 was paid to Mulliken Weiner Berg & Jovient P.C. for legal services in stopping the town from taking away five of the head-in parking spaces adjacent to the west side of the district building on Washington Street as part of the town's downtown sidewalk construction program. The total cost to date to district constituents is \$6,671 for these legal services. He said the legal action preserved the value of the district building and allowed it to continue to generate rental revenue to help prevent further district increases in monthly sewer service fees.

The district donated a 2.5-foot easement adjacent to the west side of its building for construction of a 5-foot-wide sidewalk similar to the sidewalk adjacent to the west side of the Chapala Building across Second Street to the north.

The town plans to eliminate the seven angled spaces in front of the district building on Second Street. Four parallel parking spaces will be striped by Public Works in front of the district building. The town has provided vehicle access to all but one of the on-lot parking spaces for the adjacent town building at 166 Second St. for district, Willow Tree Café, and Second Street Hair Studio customers. This town building has been leased to the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District for the past several years for an annual fee of \$1.

The district has provided a 10-year license to place town chairs and benches on the asphalt area in front of district conference room to create a public gathering space.

Wicklund noted that the Joint Use Committee (JUC) of the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility had approved an additional cost of \$579 for reporting the facility's 2013 nutrient sampling results by the Colorado Data Sharing Network to the EPA and the Colorado Water Quality Control Division after an hour of discussion by the three-person committee. For more information, see the JUC article on page 15.

Wicklund noted that the board had already canceled the May 6 board election since there were not more than three candidates for the three open seats. The terms of two directors will expire May 6. Director Terry Madison was re-elected by acclamation as were the new directors, Gene Kreps and Matt Vincent.

### Commercial billing issue discussed

Wicklund noted that a major town retail corporate store had installed a bypass valve at its water meter which might have caused the meter to under-report the actual amount of water being reported to the Monument Public Works Department. For more technical information on this issue, see the JUC article on page 15.

The Monument board unanimously approved a motion to have Wicklund back bill the store for under-reported water use based on the average of previous use rates before consumption figures significantly declined.

As with any wastewater bill, if these "past due" extra charges are not paid promptly, the district can place a tax lien

on the property to obtain the amounts owed. The high fees charged by the county and the district for lien processing are also added to the customer's annual property tax bill.

### Grease trap failure

Wicklund noted that restaurants are required to install grease interceptors during remodeling if they have been using "grandfathered" grease traps installed in the past. He described a recent situation where a grease trap had been removed by a local restaurant when a grease interceptor was installed as part of a remodeling. The bottom of the grease trap was completely deteriorated, meaning it hadn't been functioning properly for years.

In other matters, Robinove, who will attend his last district meetings in April due to term limits, requested that Wicklund plan and budget for GIS (geographic information system) mapping of the entire district's infrastructure. In the past few years, all available district resources have been focused on the Wakonda Hills collection system expansion (\$2.4 million) and the district's one-third share of the \$2 million cost for new phosphate removal equipment that will be installed at the Tri-Lakes facility over the next year. Wicklund concurred with the need to begin GIS mapping as soon as funding becomes available.

Robinove also asked Wicklund begin work on planning for ways that the Tri-Lakes facility can contribute to re-using the facility's treated effluent. A study will be conducted by the Town of Monument and Woodmoor and Donala Water and Sanitation Districts on how to design a joint re-use pipe system and treatment plant.

Wicklund noted that he is exploring options on how to control the size of cost increases that will be required for equivalent medical insurance for the district's full-time employees under the new requirements mandated by the federal Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. The new, more expensive health benefits insurance policies must be in place by May 1.

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

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The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on April 17 in the district conference room, 130 Second St. Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month. Information: 481-4886.

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Donala Water and Sanitation District, March 20

# Inspection successful despite major electrical surge recovery

By Jim Kendrick

On March 20, Donala General Manager Kip Petersen reported to his board that the district had a successful in-depth state Health Department inspection of all its facilities on March 13. A minor issue regarding chlorine residual concentrations was corrected on the spot. The inspectors even took pictures of the correction to document its resolution.

The chlorine testing point was moved from the testing spot that has been used

continuously throughout Donala's existence, including during every previous inspection. The testing point had never been considered a problem in any of the previous major state inspections.

Of greater interest to the board however, was that this inspection took place during the recovery from the major Mountain View Electric Association (MVEA) power surges of Feb. 15. The surges caused widespread, expensive damage to Donala's wastewater treatment



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