

The annual rate CSU charges Donala each year to treat each 1,000 gallons of Donala's surface water has risen an average of about 10.9 percent per year from \$11.12 in 2011 to \$15.17 in 2014. The annual rate of credit Donala receives from CSU for each 1,000 gallons of Donala's surface water, in lieu of CSU having to provide any of CSU's water to Donala, has risen an average of about 9.4 percent per year, from \$4.33 in 2011 to \$5.67 in 2014. As a result, the direct net operating cost to Donala for CSU treatment of each 1,000 gallons of Donala's renewable surface water has risen from \$6.79 in 2011 to \$9.50 in 2014. The amount CSU is charging Donala for "out of district" treatment service is 50 percent higher than the treatment charge paid by CSU customers.

Donala also pays CSU a separate at infrastructure use fee of \$180,150 per year as well as a separate at water use fee of \$300,820 per year. This \$480,970 paid to CSU for transport of the first 200 acre-feet of Donala's renewable surface is equivalent to \$2.76 per 1,000 gallons for this first 200 acre-feet.

An acre-foot of water is 325,851 gallons or 43,560 cubic feet of water. There are 7.48 gallons in a cubic-foot of water.

Donala is actually producing and using more than 200 acre-feet of Willow Creek Ranch water per year. For example, the ranch produced 290 acre-feet of renew-

able water for Donala customers in 2013. Donala's annual renewable surface water right is limited by its adjudicated water court decree to an average of 280 acre-feet per year over the previous 38 years.

Petersen said Willow Creek Ranch was still producing 9 cubic feet per second of renewable surface water in North Willow Creek. About 220 acre-feet of renewable water has already been stored in Pueblo Reservoir. The district will stop taking credit for surface water flows early again this year to stay within its decreed annual allocation.

Petersen said the board members will meet with members of the Colorado Springs City Council during a tour of CSU facilities and each will be able to explain to them that Donala is not a CSU customer. Rather, CSU is just treating Donala's water and delivering it to the district for distribution to Donala's customers by Donala's pipelines.

At the end of this lengthy board discussion, Petersen said his goal is to conclude negotiations with CSU by mid-2015 for the new SDS-related agreement that starts in 2016. Board President Bill George asked whether a statement in the current treatment/transport agreement regarding transfer of the ownership of district water to CSU would preclude re-use of Donala's renewable water by Donala. Petersen said he would consult with the district's water

attorney Rick Fendel and provide Fendel's answer to the board.

Billing adjustments for water leaks

Petersen presented a draft policy for adjusting water bills when documented water leaks occur. He noted that major leaks can occur over long periods of time before they can be detected and documented and can result in bills of thousands of dollars. He noted that he had reviewed the existing billing adjustment policies of other water agencies throughout the region.

He recommended adopting the CSU policy effective retroactively to May 1. The policy of CSU is to determine what the average consumption had been in the past during the period of the leak and charge for only half of the "leak consumption" cost of the water lost due to the documented leak. A motion to adopt this policy as of May 1 was approved 4-1. Petersen will incorporate this policy into the district's rules and regulations.

Petersen reported that Academy Water and Sanitation District board unanimously approved a motion on July 16 to move forward with connecting to Donala's sanitary sewer collection system and have Academy's wastewater treated by the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. The state is requiring Academy to replace its existing wastewater lagoons by 2018. For more in-

formation, see the article on the Academy board meeting on page 1.


The Academy district board will schedule an election for May 3, 2016 for the property tax initiative needed to finance design and construction of a lift station and force main to pump all of Academy's wastewater over the ridge between the two districts to a Donala manhole where the water can flow by gravity to Upper Monument Creek. Ballot initiatives like this that have TABOR restrictions can only be held in even-numbered years.

Stormwater initiative

Petersen noted that he had been the only person to attend the July 16 regional stormwater meeting at Lewis-Palmer High School regarding a November ballot initiative to create a regional drainage authority within El Paso County. He said that the Monument Board of Trustees had not yet formally voted against joining the authority, though Mayor Rafael Dominguez has been outspoken about town fears that most if not all the proposed stormwater fees collected from town property owners would be spent elsewhere downstream.

Petersen said the current proposal states that money contributed by an entity's constituents will be returned to the entity through local regional drainage authority construction projects within a five-year period.

Triview status



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