

Petersen noted that Mountain View Electric Association (MVEA) increased electric power rates by 9 percent on July 1. He added that MVEA will increase the higher second half of 2015 electric power rates a second time by 9 percent on Jan. 1, 2016. Donala water rates have to increase to pay the increased costs due to these substantially higher electric power rates throughout all of 2016 that will be about 18 percent more than the rates for the first half of 2015. Petersen said he hoped to be able to limit the Donala water rate increase that will become effective on Jan. 1, 2016 to 5 percent. Donala's water rates were increased about 10 percent in 2015.

It is still the Donala board's goal that annual revenue from its water fees should be increased to the level needed to pay annual costs of drinking water service so that water operations become self-sustaining. The board has the same goal that Donala's annual wastewater revenues should cover Donala's share of Upper Monument Creed Regional

Wastewater Treatment Facility annual operations costs.

Manager's report

Petersen reported that he, Director Ken Judd, and Director Bob Denny had attended the Arkansas Basin Roundtable meeting on Sept. 5. Most of the meeting's discussions centered on comments the group would be providing regarding Gov. John Hickel's statewide water plan. The next step for the roundtable is to hire an implementation coordinator for the Arkansas Basin portion of this water plan. The next Arkansas Basin roundtable meeting will be held on Oct. 7.

Petersen noted that he and Judd would be attending the Special District Association's annual conference in Breckenridge Sept. 23-25.

Petersen stated that he, Judd, Superintendent Robert Hull, and Chief Water Operator Mark Parker had participated in the Colorado Springs Utilities' (CSU) annual mountain water tour on Sept. 10-11. All of CSU's water supply is renewable surface water. The first day of touring focused on the

Blue River Water System including Montgomery Reservoir near Hoosier Pass on Highway 9, the Hoosier Tunnel that connects the reservoir to the Blue River watershed, and the Otero pumping station. There was an overnight stay in Salida. The second day of touring featured visits to the Pueblo Reservoir, the Southern Delivery System (SDS), and the new SDS water treatment facility at the intersection of Highways 24 and 94. This new facility has a treatment capacity of 50 million gallons per day.

Petersen said that the 2015 annual season for taking credit for Willow Creek Ranch renewable surface water is over. As of Sept. 1 Donala had 433 acre-feet of water stored in the Pueblo Reservoir. There was a lengthy technical discussion of options to consider if 2016 Arkansas River flows are higher than the Pueblo Reservoir can store, as currently predicted due to higher than average El Niño rainfall. The Pueblo Reservoir was 63 percent full on Sept 17.

There was also a preliminary

discussion about the possibility of injecting some of Donala's renewable surface water that Donala may not be able to store in Pueblo Reservoir into some of Donala's groundwater wells for later retrieval. If the state were to approve the proposal, this option may be preferable. Petersen said storing water in a water tank too long causes it to go "stale." Due to the need for more rain, snow, and flow information that won't be available until spring, no decisions were made.

Operations/projects report

Well 9A had a failed motor that was replaced at a cost of \$50,000. Recorded data for this well showed a lightning strike occurred just before the motor failure. Some of the cost may be eligible for insurance reimbursement.

Well 1A was out of service on Sept. 17 due to a failed pump, most likely caused by gravel ingestion. This well is about 11 years old. No cost has been determined yet for repairing the failed

pump because the pump inspection that was to be conducted in Wyoming had not yet been completed and it was not yet known whether this pump would have to be replaced.

Three mixers in the Upper Monument equalization basin had to be repaired or replaced. In addition a pump motor had to be replaced at a cost of \$10,000. Also, a motive pump impeller had to be replaced at a cost of \$16,000. Petersen said these were all routine operational costs.

Petersen stated that installation of two sections of the water line between Donala's Latrobe and Holbein water tanks had been postponed until 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 15 in the district conference room at 15850 Holbein Drive. Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month. Information: 488-3603 or www.donalawater.org.

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

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Sept. 10

District increases employee health benefits

By James Howald

At their meeting on Sept. 10, Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board members reviewed and improved their benefits program, discussed an issue with the placement of a fire hydrant, and listened to several reports.

Benefits increase from 15.5 percent to 16 percent of salary

District Manager Jessie Shaffer gave the board the results of his review of the benefits the district provides to its employees. Following a request from Shaffer, the board voted to increase benefits from 15.5 percent to 16 percent of employee salary. President Barrie Town, Treasurer Jim Taylor and Director at Large Tommy Schwab voted in favor; only Secretary Beth Courrau voted against the increase.

The board voted to form an ad-hoc committee consisting of Courrau and Director at Large Rich Strom to continue the work on employee benefits.

The board also voted unanimously to approve Resolution 15-07, which documents the benefits provided to the district's existing employees as of Sept. 10.

Placement of hydrant on Lake Woodmoor Drive a concern

The board discussed a safety issue raised by the recent realignment of Lake Woodmoor Drive adjacent to Brookmoor Estates.

The changes to the road were made to allow safer access to and from the subdivision, but also shifted the location of the road slightly, so that the fire hydrant, which previously was acceptably far from the road, is now closer to the east side of the road.

Since the hydrant is at the foot of a hill, it might be hit by a sliding vehicle when the road

is icy. According to Shaffer, the hydrant is in an easement that belongs to El Paso County. The board decided to study the location of the hydrant further before deciding if it should be moved.

District finances in good shape

The financial report presented to the board shows that due to an increase in tap fees resulting from a faster pace of development in the district, the district's operating income is close to \$2 million greater than anticipated. While some nearby districts are raising rates because their revenues are down, WWSD does not need to raise rates, according to Town. The board voted unanimously to approve the financial report as presented.

Joint Use Committee report

Taylor gave the board an update on the Joint Use Committee's (JUC) budget and plans. The

JUC's priorities are replacing the UV purification equipment at the Tri-Lakes Waste Water Treatment Facility (TLWWTF), hiring a third operator, and purchasing a vehicle, Taylor said.

There is a concern on the part of the Fire Department about the storage of sodium hydroxide, Taylor added, and additional ventilation and power generation may need to be added to the construction currently under way.

The JUC believes the TLWWTF is in good shape relative to nitrogen, Taylor said. Taylor also reported a recent wet test failure, which he believed was not significant, at the facility.

Weeds slow flows in Chilcott ditch

Taylor and Shaffer gave the board a report on the status of the Chilcott ditch. Dry soil and weeds are consuming water in the ditch, allowing only 10 percent of the flows to reach the JV Ranch, ac-

ording to Shaffer. There is also some seepage from an embankment, Shaffer said.

Shaffer also mentioned some contentious issues that have arisen between the ditch company and residents who live near the ditch. In one case, a property owner was renegotiating the terms of an easement the ditch company has on his lot. The board decided, informally, that they would support the property owner's position in the easement debate.

JV Ranch weed eradication proceeds

In his manager's report, Shaffer said the efforts to eradicate weeds on the JV Ranch were yielding better results, due to an improved mix of herbicides.


The meeting adjourned at 2

p.m.


Note: OCN received a clarification from Mark Gebhart, deputy director, El Paso County Development Services Department, on our coverage of the WWSD meeting in August. Gebhart told us that the Board of County Commissioners did extend the MGP project.

The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 8. Meetings are usually held at the district office at 1845 Woodmoor Drive on the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. See www.woodmoorwater.com or call 488-2525 to verify meeting times.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP
 8:30 AM: FIRST WORSHIP SERVICE
 10:00 AM: TEACHING & COMMUNITY TIME (all ages, preschool - adult)
 10:45 AM: FAMILY SERVICE WITH CHILDREN'S CHURCH
 *nursery is available all morning



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 719 488-3495
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