

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Oct. 8

# Board hears presentation on improving water quality in lake

By James Howald

At the meeting on Oct. 8, the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board heard a presentation from SePRO Corp. on improving water quality in Lake Woodmoor, clarified a tap policy, and heard reports from water district personnel.

SePRO proposes proactive management of Lake Woodmoor water quality

Andrew Skibo of SePRO spoke to the board concerning the work his company has been doing to control water weeds, especially elodea and coontail, in Lake Woodmoor. According to Skibo, application of Sonar, an aquatic herbicide, has greatly reduced the amount of elodea and coontail in the lake. Reducing the weeds in the lake helps to prevent clogged intakes to the water processing plant, Skibo said.

Skibo also outlined lake management practices he argued will improve the safety and taste of the water in Lake Woodmoor. Implementing these practices will save the district money by reducing the amount of well water the district must add to water from Lake Woodmoor to improve its taste and odor and would be cheaper than processing the water with ozone at the treatment plant, Skibo said. The process should be to set a threshold for action, make regular measurements of the lake water, and take action before customers report problems, Skibo said.

According to Skibo, the blue green algae present in the lake can produce poisonous cyanotoxin. Although that

is not happening at present, it is a potential danger, Skibo said.

Geosmin, an organic compound with an earthy unpleasant taste and smell, is also present in water from Lake Woodmoor, and is the cause of some complaints from the district's customers, especially in late summer, Skibo said. Water from 20 feet below the surface of the lake has higher levels of geosmin, according to Skibo.

To address these issues, Skibo recommended treating the water below 20 feet several times a year with PAK 27, an OMRI-certified organic algicide. The treatments would cost about \$27,000 annually, Skibo said.

In addition to the algicide, Skibo recommended the installation of an aeration system, which would help circulate water from the bottom to the top of the lake and slow the growth of algae. The aeration system would cost between \$64,000 and \$70,000 to install, depending on the number of diffusers used, Skibo said.

After Skibo's presentation to the board, District Manager Jessie Shaffer shared his thoughts about the value of ozonation at the water treatment plant. Even if the quality of the water in the lake is improved through better management, ozonation provides a final guarantee of safety and acceptable taste, Shaffer said.

### Board clarifies policy on taps

Shaffer asked board members for their thoughts on an issue related to detached garages that was not completely clear in the existing rules and regulations. A builder working on the plans for a detached garage asked Shaffer if a mop sink could be included in the garage, and connected to the existing water and sewer service lines already in place for the main residence on the lot rather than to the water and sewer main lines. This would allow the owner to avoid a second tap fee, Shaffer said.

President Barrie Town said this has been done in the past, and that he did not see a problem as long as all lines were connected according to regulations.

### Problem with well filter noted

In the Operations portion of the manager's reports, Assistant District Manager Randy Gillette described a problem with the filter in Well 11. The presence of sand, possibly from a crack in the well casing, is causing differential pressure problems with the filter, Gillette said.

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The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 12. 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](http://www.woodmoorwater.com) or call 488-2525 to verify meeting times.

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