

Donala Water and Sanitation District, Jan. 15

Total revenues down less than total expenses in 2014

By Jim Kendrick

On Jan. 15, General Manager Kip Petersen gave the Donala Water and Sanitation District (WSD) board a detailed review of the final 2014 annual financial report. He noted that water sales revenue from lawn irrigation was \$197,000 (6.8 percent) under budget due to a much wetter year than the preceding drought years. However other revenues were higher than budgeted: auto tax revenue was up by \$65,000 (70.2 percent), Triview tap fee reimbursements were up by \$65,000 (127 percent), and miscellaneous revenue was up by \$68,580 (457 percent) due to a 2013 hail damage insurance reimbursement and a \$15,000 Mountain View Electric Association capital credit.

Total operating expenditures were \$1.1 million (20.3 percent) less than budgeted and total capital project s were \$1.14 million (63.6 percent) less than budgeted. Overall, total revenues of \$6.02 million (16.3 percent under budget) exceeded total expenses of \$4.94 million (31.2 percent under budget) by 21.8 percent.

The board accepted the 2014 annual financial report and 2014 annual Chandler Asset Management report as presented.

Directors Bill George, Dave Powell, Ken Judd, Bill Nance, and Bob Denny were all present. The district's consultant engineer, Katie Fendel of Leonard Rice Engineers Inc. in Denver, attended the meeting.

Manager's report

The board unanimously approved renewal of the annual schedule of board meetings and posting locations notice, which was essentially unchanged from 2014. Donala's board meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. The two exceptions in 2015 are the June meeting on June 11 and the

Nov. 19 meeting is a workshop at 9 a.m. The Donala posting locations are still the district office at 15850 Holbein Drive, People's National Bank on the south end of Gleneagle Drive, and the Loaf-N-Jug on Gleneagle Drive, next to the district drop box.

Petersen briefed the board on the first Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority (PPRWA) board meeting held on Jan. 7. PPRWA's legislative liaison Dick Brown reviewed the state Legislature's activities to date, the new state water plan (<http://coloradowaterplan.com/>), two bills related to water right quantification, and a bill on ditch tailwater. The following PPRWA board officers were elected:

- President – Jessie Shaffer, Woodmoor WSD
- Vice President – Kip Petersen, Donala WSD
- Treasurer – Roy Heald, Security WSD
- Secretary – Ann Nichols, Forest Lakes Metro District

Petersen said he and Director Denny would attend the annual three-day Colorado Water Congress Conference in Denver on Jan. 28. He said Donala's biggest problem is water storage, noting that the Reuter-Hess Dam is the only regional reservoir that has been built in the past 20 years due to the expenses and delays caused by environmental impact statements and advocacy groups.

Fendel noted that the current estimated cost of expanding Chatfield Reservoir, located in Chatfield State Park on the southwest side of Denver, by 75 percent after a decade of studies is about \$160 million. The average level of the water stored in the reservoir would go up 12 feet, requiring expenses for replacing wetlands and fisheries, and rebuilding nearly all of Chatfield's recreational facilities, cottonwood trees, roads, and

parking areas that will become submerged. She said the Audubon Society is suing the state to prevent the Chatfield expansion.

The Chatfield Reservoir expansion proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would add 20,600 acre-feet to its maximum storage capacity. After the expansion, the level of the reservoir will go up and down 19 feet. The expansion would provide on average additional 8,500 acre-feet of water per year for city and industrial use. An acre-foot is 325,851 gallons. An average household uses 0.4 acre-feet of water per year. The expansion would provide water for about 21,000 houses on average.

The board held a lengthy technical discussion on the technical, political, and legal issues involved in protecting special district water rights and uses from the proposals in the state water plan for the state to be able to expropriate temporarily unused adjudicated surface water rights.

Petersen presented preliminary results of his Donala water consumption review that showed well water production, Willow Creek Ranch surface water production, summer irrigation restrictions, and water rates over the last 13 years. He said this is too short a time period to draw any definitive statistically reliable conclusions about

how Donala's escalating tiered rate system is in uencing total water consumption compared to drought or high rainfall during the irrigation season or limiting irrigation two times per week.

Petersen reported the current ownership shares of Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, now that Triview Metropolitan District has paid off Donala's construction loan that it needed to pay for Triview's share of the cost of the recent expansion and switch to a sequenced batch reactor process: Donala—38.9 percent, Forest Lakes Metro District—17.1 percent, and Triview Metro District—44.0 percent

Petersen reported changing the district's insurance carrier for comparable or improved 2015 coverage from Cincinnati

Insurance Co. of Littleton to Travelers Insurance with a savings of \$13,853.

Willow Creek Ranch update

There was a lengthy technical discussion between Petersen and the board on continuing negotia-



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