

water-quality concerns in the region.

Kendrick said on Dec. 1, there was more discussion about how to achieve state resegmentation of Monument Creek into separate upper (rural) and lower (urban) sections, since previous sampling for temperature, E. coli, and other wastewater constituents would better show where Monument Creek is or is not impaired for each constituent.

Kendrick described the 2016 AF CURE budget of \$226,383 which is divided among the 11 members. TLWTF's share for 2016 will be \$21,105. A portion of this share helps pay for base fees including the Brown and Caldwell engineering consulting firm fees, the Colorado Monitoring Framework Watershed Group membership, Colorado Data Sharing Network, and Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority membership.

Wicklund said AF CURE discussed changing its method of cost allocation in 2017, perhaps using designed flow capacity of wastewater plants as a yardstick. If this happened, Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) and the City

of Pueblo would likely be assessed increased costs.

Kendrick said CSU representative Mark Shea advocated that other organizations, particularly stormwater entities within the watershed, join AF CURE to help pay for treatment of large amounts sediment that they are adding to Monument Creek and Fountain Creek. Possibilities include the towns of Palmer Lake, Monument, and Manitou Springs; El Paso County stormwater, the U.S. Air Force Academy; and Fort Carson. Shea also noted the contribution CSU had already made to the effort by providing data to AF CURE.

Kendrick said that Shea explained how huge amounts of sediment in the runoff from the Waldo Canyon fire burn scar continue to affect the survival of macroinvertebrates in the streams. Kendrick stated this sediment issue is creating "mission creep" for wastewater entities and a growing AF CURE budget, as well as making the resegmentation debate with the state's Water Quality Control Division more complicated with regard to metals and E. coli.

Kendrick also summarized a report from the facility's

environmental attorney Gabe Racz of Vranish & Raisch LLP, at the Nov. 18 Division's Basic Standards stakeholder meeting. He said Racz gave an exhaustive summary about experiences from Colorado and Wisconsin on how ambiguous and variable stream temperature results are, how undefined the causes of this variability are, and that solely regulating wastewater treatment plant effluent temperature will not control stream temperatures in this alpine desert region when ambient daily air temperatures are much higher than the unrealistic and unattainable limits set by the EPA and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Department.

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Jan. 12 at the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility, 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month and are open to the public. For information, call Bill Burks at (719) 481-4053.

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Donala Water and Sanitation District, Dec. 10

2016 budget approved with 4 percent water rate fee increase

By Jim Kendrick

On Dec. 10, the Donala Water and Sanitation District unanimously approved five resolutions for the 2016 budget, 2016 appropriation, and setting both Donala 2016 property tax mill levies (unchanged), and water/wastewater rates as presented without comment or revision. The 2016 budget included a 4 percent across the board increase

for the tiered water use fee structure, but no increases in the \$30 monthly wastewater rate or the \$25 monthly water service rate.

Director Bill Nance's absence was excused.

District General Manager Kip Petersen reported that 2015 revenues through the end of November were 23 percent less than the total amount budgeted for drinking water operations for the year due to 2015 being a wet year with reduced summer irrigation peak sales. He also reported that total 2015 district expenditures through November were 19.42 percent less than the total amount budgeted for the year, due primarily to two very expensive well repairs and some planned capital projects being deferred until 2016, when the district will take fuller advantage of a low interest state loan from the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority. Wastewater revenues and expenses for Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility through November were similarly low, down 31.49 and 29.09 percent respectively for the totals budgeted for 2015.

There were no public comments during the open portion of the public hearing. Board President Bill George said, "Congratulations to the general manager and all staff involved in the budget preparation with such flexibility."

Director Bob Denny asked Petersen to explain the following factors that Petersen used in preparing this 2016 budget proposal in a newsletter to Donala's property owners:

- The line item for bond construction projects increased from \$750,000 in 2015 to \$1.8 million in 2016.
- Water revenue was decreased for 2016 by \$300,000.
- Property tax revenue was increased by \$13,000 based upon the actual assessed values received from El Paso County.
- Auto tax revenue was increased by \$10,000 based on 2015 figures through October.
- Total expenditures were increased from \$9.09 million in 2015 to \$10.28 million in 2016
- Three 9 percent rate increases by Mountain View Electric Association from June 30, 2015 to July 1, 2016 will result in a cumulative 29.5 percent rate increase in just 12 months.
- Colorado Springs Utilities will increase the rate it

charges Donala by 4.9 percent for transporting and treating Donala's Willow Creek Ranch renewable surface water for direct distribution to Donala customers.

- Tap fee revenue from development will be significantly less than in 2015.
- Vendor rates were budgeted to increase by about 2.5 to 3 percent in 2016.
- The budget includes only five new tap fees in 2016, with none from the 41 platted new home sites in the former Gleneagle golf course property until 2017.

It is still the Donala board's goal that annual drinking water and wastewater revenue should be sufficient to pay all annual costs of drinking water and wastewater services respectively so that each operation can become self-sustaining and achieve enterprise status.

Two 2016 water contracts approved

The board unanimously approved an annual agreement for month-to-month water service for 2016 with Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) for transport and treatment of Donala's renewable surface water from Willow Creek Ranch near Leadville. Currently CSU transports Donala's water that is stored in the federal Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation's Pueblo Reservoir in CSU's existing pipeline to a CSU water treatment plant. After treatment by CSU, this now-potable water is transported to an interconnection with Donala's distribution system for direct delivery to Donala's water customers. Currently this is the only source of district drinking water as all Donala groundwater wells have been turned off to optimize use of Donala's stored water in the reservoir. Donala's 1041 permit for using CSU's Southern Delivery System is still being delayed due to CSU's unrelated and still unresolved stormwater issues with Pueblo County.

There were three changes to the agreement with CSU, which were also approved by the Colorado Springs City Council:

- Donala's Willow Creek Ranch surface water return flows now belong to Donala instead of CSU as before.
- As long as Donala only uses its own renewable Willow Creek Ranch surface water and no CSU supplementary treated water, Donala will no longer have to abide by CSU's restricted schedule for irrigation during the summer months.
- If there is a future Donala problem with Donala's current approval for using its renewable Willow Creek Ranch surface water by either the Bureau of Reclamation or Pueblo County, the CSU contract will only be temporarily suspended until Donala meets their conditions, rather than terminated/cancelled.

The board also unanimously approved an annual 2016 excess capacity storage contract with the Bureau of Reclamation, as presented, for storage of up to 499 acre-feet

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