

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, July 21

Board hears costs to serve Ponderosa Camp, Bald Mountain

By James Howald

The Woodmoor Water and Sani-

ation District (WWSD) board departed from its regular schedule in July, meeting on July 21 instead of July 14. The board heard a presentation on adding two new areas to the district, the results of the 2015 audit, a discussion of adding water re-use engineering to the district's infrastructure, a request from the Colorado Department of Wildlife (CDW) to use Calhan Reservoir as a fishery, and an operational report from District Manager Jessie Shaffer.

Plans to serve Ponderosa Camp and Bald Mountain presented

At a previous meeting, the board

asked Shaffer to study the engineering and costs required to extend water service to Ponderosa Camp and Bald Mountain, two neighborhoods adjacent to the intersection of County Line Road and Furrow Road. The neighborhoods are in Douglas County, and together comprise 189 acres. There are a total of 180 taps in the neighborhoods, according to Shaffer.

The planning was to include water service only, not sanitation, and was to be used only as recommendations to the neighborhoods to assist in their decision-making. Both neighborhoods need to address two problems: They are using non-renewable water sources and have high insurance premiums because they lack the flow rates required to fight fires.

Shaffer said there are two legal approaches to extending water service to those areas: extra-territorial service and inclusion, and each approach has its own legal requirements, constraints and costs. Existing conservation easements may prevent water rights from being transferred to WWSD, according to Shaffer.

Shaffer did his planning based on the assumptions that Ponderosa Camp and Bald Mountain would pay for all required construction, that they would cede to WWSD all their surface and ground waters rights in perpetuity, that they would give WWSD a half-acre of land for a well site, and that they would also pay an acreage fee for water service in addition to use-based rates.

Shaffer's plan called for both neighborhoods to construct some on-site facilities such as fire hydrants, add service lines and metering, and add a booster station to existing WWSD infrastructure.

If the neighborhoods and WWSD agree on extra-territorial service as the preferred strategy, capital costs would fall between \$2.2 million and \$5.4 million. Also, there would be annual fees totaling \$165,000, Shaffer said. Inclusion, on the other hand, would require capital costs from \$5 million to \$5.4 million, and annual fees of \$192,000, Shaffer

said.

Shaffer told the board he would present his findings to the neighborhoods in about 10 days and would report back to the board if there was interest in proceeding.

2015 audit approved

District Auditor Uli Keely presented the 2015 financial audit to the board. The report shows "no concerns, nothing unusual . . . business as usual," Keely said.

The district ended the year with a \$4 million increase to its net position, or profit, for the year, according to Keely. 2015 was "heavy on revenue and light on expenses," Shaffer said.

The board voted unanimously to accept the report.

Water re-use to be studied

Shaffer asked the board to consider funding a study to determine the feasibility of improving the district's water infrastructure to include a method to indirectly re-use water for consumption. Wastewater would be treated, pumped upstream to Monument Creek, allowed to flow through natural buffers, and then treated again to a higher standard, and then used for consumption.

Studies of this approach have already been done by some neighboring water districts, according to Shaffer. The designs that have been studied are similar in most ways, but differ in their choice of filtration technologies, he said.

Shaffer proposed that the board hire FEI Engineers to evaluate two existing plans, one developed by Tetra Tech Inc. and the other by Forsgren Associates Inc., along three dimensions: compliance with regulations, water quality, and standards unique to WWSD. The proposed study would cost \$21,000 and would help the district develop its long-term planning and communicate the benefits to stakeholders, Shaffer said.

The board voted to authorize the study.

CDW requests access to Calhan reservoir to raise trout

Shaffer said the CDW had asked the district to approve its use of Calhan reservoir as a fishery. The CDW did not offer to pay the district, and asked for four days of access to the reservoir each year to stock it with trout fry and then harvest the fish after they mature, Shaffer said.

Shaffer saw some issues with the request: It might require the approval of the ranching company that is currently leasing the land from the district, and might raise liability issues for which the state does not indemnify the district.

The board felt it was important to have a cooperative relationship with the state, and asked Shaffer to draft a letter accepting the request and submit it to the board.

Operational report mentions few concerns

The operational report made the following points:

- Director Rich Strom mentioned that a \$23,000 change order to correct flow-through at the treatment plant had been approved by the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee.
- The re-vegetation project at the JV Ranch, required to prevent soil erosion, is on track.
- The technology to aerate the water in Woodmoor Lake will be added in late fall.
- Four wells have failed this year, caused by a variety of factors. The district plans for two failures in a typical year. Two of the four wells have been returned to service.

The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 11 at 1 p.m. 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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Monument Board of Trustees, July 18

Extra audit of water fund discussed

By Lisa Hatfield

The July 18 Monument Board of Trustees meeting included a lengthy discussion about the town's water enterprise fund finances, amendments to the town's zoning ordinances on "clinics," a call for volunteers for the Board of Adjustments, and news of two arrests associated with marijuana.

Majority of trustees want audit of water fund finances

Trustee comments included a lengthy discussion, with many

voices raised, about the town's water enterprise fund. The topic came up when Trustee Jeff Bornstein asked his colleagues "where are we going?" on providing additional water production to the Town of Monument water service customers west of I-25. "I am disappointed in the new board. We haven't done anything!"

Trustee Greg Coopman agreed water discussions would come up every meeting as long as he still had "many, many, many unanswered questions" about the water enterprise fund. He is con-

cerned about the prospect of \$44 million in possible future projects being covered by only 1,100 customers. He quoted the May 2, 2005 Board of Trustees minutes in which former trustee Glenda Smith said the general fund had been taking money from the water fund in order to cover salaries and franchise fees. See <http://monumenttownco.minutesondemand.com/> and also www.ocn.me/v5n5.htm#bot0502.

Trustee Kelly Elliott asked why some trustees seemed to have no sense of urgency in mov-