

Doral Way construction contract awarded
The board unanimously approved the recommenda-

tion of its engineering consultant firm GMS Inc. to award the construction contract for the new Phase 4 Doral Way water transmission line (3,230 lineal feet) and associated distribution system improvements to the lowest bidder, KR Swerdfeger. This winning bid was \$754,988. Surface restoration will include seeding of native grass, placement of sod material, and street surface restoration. Swerdfeger previously completed its successful construction of Donala's phase 3 Latrobe tank transmission line in 2016. www.ocn.me/v17n4.htm#dwsd

Petersen also reported that a half-hour question-and-answer open house meeting was held on June 13 for Doral Way residents, who were advised by Petersen and Directors Ken Judd and Ed Houle that their driveway access is expected to be restricted for only one day each.

2016 audit accepted

Auditor Tom Sistare of Hoelting and Co. Inc. presented his "unmodified" or "clean" 2016 Donala audit, which contained no findings. He praised the district board and staff for Donala's tight internal control policies as it invests heavily in renewable surface water rights and infrastructure to replace finite groundwater reserves, the staff's thorough accurate work throughout 2016, and their assistance to his on-site auditing team. Petersen congratulated General Manager Betsy Bray and highlighted new Donala staff accountant Christina Sawyer for her successful support throughout her first audit cycle. The board unanimously approved a statement of recognition to the entire Donala staff for their continued success. Sistare will forward the 2016 Donala audit to the state.

Manager's report

Petersen noted that sales of new district residential taps (\$31,800 each) have been slower than expected this year. On May 23, the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) finally approved only the original 44 homes in the amended proposal for 56 new homes to be built on now-vacant former Gleneagle golf course land. The BOCC also finally approved the commercial development proposed for the vacant land between I-25 and the intersection of Struthers Road and Gleneagle Drive on May 23.

Petersen briefed the BOCC on how Donala's renewable water and resource management policies will guarantee water service to both projects as total Donala dependence on groundwater evaporates. Petersen also pointed out at the May 23 BOCC hearings the negative tap fee revenue impact to Donala caused by the BOCC stormwater drainage decision to deny approval of the additional 12 houses for now.

For more information on this controversial golf course proposal, see www.ocn.me/v17n6.htm#epbocc, www.ocn.me/v17n6.htm#dwsd, www.ocn.me/v16n11.htm#epcpc1018, and

www.ocn.me/v17n5.htm#epcpc
Petersen stated that on May 24, district employees conducted their first Baptist Road cleanup of the year. "Disturbingly, we found a large number of alcohol containers. This leads me to believe that a number of individuals are consuming 'shooters' as they drive on Baptist Road. That could be one of the reasons we see so many car parts in the ditch and at intersections."

Water service to the former Gleneagle golf course building that was used for live structure fire training by several districts was shut off on June 12 for final site demolition and cleanup.

Petersen reported that the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority (PPRWA) held its final meeting on June 7 before taking a break until Nov. 1. PPRWA sponsored 10 of the 30 water-related bills presented to the state Legislature this year. State Water Engineer Dick Wolff has retired, and Kevin Rein is the acting replacement for now. The next Legislature will probably focus on the November 2018 election. The county is expected to hire a consultant by the end of July for creation of its own county water master plan in order to have it completed by the end of 2018.

Petersen, Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District Manager Jessie Shaffer, and Triview Metro District Manager Valerie Remington will participate in a Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Organizations (NEPCO) panel discussion on future plans, water acquisition, reuse, and joint infrastructure plans at the July 15 NEPCO meeting.

Financial report

Petersen said water sales will go up now that the weather has become "warm and dry" even though irrigation is limited to three days per week. The district will begin monitoring irrigation and sending warning notices if residents are not complying with the odd/even address restrictions on Monday through Saturday. Sunday irrigation is not allowed.

The normal surge in demand will be met with as much renewable surface water as possible from the district's Willow Creek Ranch. The rest of the summer demand will be supplemented by non-renewable groundwater from the district's wells, which have now been turned on for the onset of the irrigation season.

The rest of his financial report showed that the district is on track in terms of water revenues and normal expenditures through May, which Sistare concurred with. Capital expenditures will be high again this year, starting in July. Most of this construction will be paid for with existing one-time low-interest state loans.

Willow Creek Ranch update

Petersen noted that there is still a "respectable amount of snow" on Mount Massive, adjacent to the district's Willow Creek Ranch, which has led to substantial spring runoff from the ranch again this year. He has received two separate notices this year already from the federal Bureau of Reclamation that Donala's "if and when" (or "space available") storage for up to 499 acre-feet of renewable surface water in the Pueblo Reservoir might have to be released to the Arkansas River to prevent a reservoir overflow. However, neither involuntary "spill" came to pass after a few nervous days each time.

An acre-foot of water is 325,851 gallons, the amount of water that would cover a contained flat

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July Music Schedule
July 1 (Sat): Curtis Boucher
July 4 (Tue): The E.T.s & Boyd Sweeney Jazz Quartet
July 6 (Thu): Brian Grace
July 7 (Fri): Jon Boothe
July 8 (Sat): Joe Donaldson
July 13 (Thu): Keith Rea
July 14 (Fri): Andrew Wynne
July 15 (Sat): Shawn Eckels
July 20 (Thu): Chautauqua Mountain Band
July 21 (Fri): AJ Fullerton
July 22 (Sat): Ashton
July 27 (Thu): Ethan Ice
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July 29 (Sat): Mark's Midnight Carnival

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