

district Resolution 14-06 delegating authority for approving the final JV Ranch water rights purchase documents.

District Manager Jessie Shaffer said the court decree stipulates that the water be shared for agricultural and municipal use, that the water must be measured going into JV Ranch, and that WWSD can only take receipt of water between March 16 and Nov. 15.

Because the court decree requires WWSD to take over responsibility for monitoring ditch water use by the JV Ranch, Shaffer immediately began coordination of the production of a water metering ume, which was budgeted at about \$25,000 to \$30,000. The ume measures volumetric water ow between an expected accuracy rate of .61 cubic feet per second (cfs) and 50.4 cfs.

WWSD purchased the JV Ranch in 2011 so that the district would own water rights, a reservoir, and storage rights to provide for future water needs of the district, instead of relying on non-renewable aquifers, which are not a reliable source for a long-term supply of water. The cost for the JV Ranch was

estimated to be \$25 million to \$31 million, depending on the size of Woodmoor's final water court decree.

District residents pay a variable renewable water investment fee to help pay for the purchase of the ranch. However, the district still has no infrastructure to transport its renewable JV Ranch water north. The fee structure is available at: [www.woodmoorwater.com/rate-info/rate-information.html](http://www.woodmoorwater.com/rate-info/rate-information.html)

**Joint Use Committee report**

Director Rich Strom, representing WWSD on the Tri-Lakes Water Treatment Facility's Joint Use Committee (JUC) initially did not support paying the Colorado Data Sharing Network \$579 for a contract overrun. The extra cost reflected the network's efforts to adapt to frequent changes in reporting requirements by the state. Strom believes the network didn't notify anyone in a timely manner. Each entity of the JUC paid the network \$579. Strom personally expressed the need for better contracts.

**Manager's report**

Shaffer noted that the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority joint

renewable water infrastructure project is under way.

WWSD approved regional building plans for the Tri-Lakes Community Health Village adjacent to the YMCA. The facility's tap fee and supplemental water service fees totaled approximately \$180,000. The fees from the health village facility are an unanticipated item in the district's 2014 budget.

Assistant District Manager Randy Gillette said new equipment designed to uncover leaks in underground pipes was demonstrated. This equipment successfully uncovered a pinhole leak in a drinking water distribution line on Scrub Oak Circle that was several feet underground. These kinds of leaks are usually very hard to detect. About 12 percent of the drinking water Woodmoor produces was unaccounted for in March.

Gillette noted that the district has purchased two new motors for two currently inoperative wells, costing a budgeted \$50,000 to \$60,000 for each well. He also noted that the extensive process of cleaning a clear well at the filter plant was about to be concluded.

- Other matters**
- The board voted unanimously to accept a total of \$1,521 delinquent back taxes owed to WWSD collected by the assessor's office in 2013.
  - The board approved Colorado Water Protective and Development Association annual water lease for 2014 pending legal consideration.
  - The board was in favor of a recommendation that the board resume sending a "friendly" district representative to Woodmoor Improvement Association board meetings.
  - The board considered sending friendly letters to commercial customers requesting them to refrain from pouring hundreds of gallons of spoiled milk at one time into the sanitation system.

- The board also considered notifying customers to refrain from disposing infant wipes into the sanitation system.

Board Directors Rich Strom, Jim Taylor, and Tommy Schwab will be elected by acclamation as of May 6, and plan to take their oaths of office at the April 10 board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

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The next regular board meeting will be held at 1 p.m. April 10 at the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District Office, 1845 Woodmoor Dr., Monument. Meetings are normally held on the second Thursday of the month. Information: 488-2525 or [www.woodmoorwater.com](http://www.woodmoorwater.com).

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*Academy Water and Sanitation District, March 19*

# Without survey results, new treatment action remains on hold

By Susan Hindman

It was one step forward, one backward for the Academy Water and Sanitation District board in its efforts to compile the pieces necessary for making a decision on options for its future wastewater treatment.

Director Ron Curry discussed the step forward at the March 19 meeting. Earlier in the month, he and two other board members met with Denver advertising firm Ciruli and Associates to get information about holding a mill levy election in November. Curry said that, while the cost of hiring the firm could be high, "the alternative may be more expensive." He noted different tactics the board would need to take to get the message across. No decision was made about hiring the firm.

However, the message is still unclear because a survey of the several-mile-long terrain where pipes would be laid to connect the district to Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) still had not been done. The board had expected to know the survey results by now. Once the results are known, it will help in finalizing the cost of connecting to CSU.

Numbers have ranged from \$3.5 million to \$4 million, which would be shouldered by the district's 300 residential customers. The other options, connecting to Donala Water and Sanitation District or building a new treatment facility at the current location, have not been explored as actively. The cost of those options, however, is roughly the

same.

New state wastewater regulations led to the need for options to the district's current lagoon system that treats waste. The district's wastewater permit, issued in October 2013, mandates that plans and funding for a new treatment method be in place by October 2016 and new operations start in October 2018.

The board identified a series of action steps that need to be taken, which include more regular conversations with its engineer, GMS Inc., and finding a bondsman. The November election would be to approve a mill levy based on the amount that must be borrowed.

Also part of the permit is a requirement that the district build a dechlorination facility by October 2014, estimated to cost \$35,000. The facility would enable the district to meet new total residual chlorine limits in the effluent. At the February meeting, the board approved a letter that GMS had prepared to send to the Water Quality Control Division requesting that the requirement to build that facility be moved to October 2018, which would coincide with the start of the new operations.

If the date isn't changed, the district will have to pay to build a facility that won't be needed after 2018, because whatever option is selected (connecting with a neighboring district or building a new plant) will also address dechlorination requirements. As of the March meeting, the state had not responded to the letter.

**District receives Source Water Protection Plan award**

In February, the district received the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Colorado Rural Water Association for its development of a Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) and an Emergency Response Plan. Director Jim Weilbrenner, who was instrumental in creating both documents, attended the ceremony and received the award for the district. At the district's February meeting, Weilbrenner said he publicly thanked Paul Hempel—who led the effort as the association's source water specialist—for all his work, noting that Hempel continued helping the district even after it had received a \$5,000 grant from the state.

That became even more evident at the March meeting. Hempel had asked the district in mid-March if it had ever received a \$1,500 payment for a November invoice; the district's accounting firm indicated it had not. After several emails between Hempel, the district, and the Water Quality Control Division, the division said it would reissue the check.

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The Academy Water and Sanitation District board meets at 6 p.m. the third Wednesday of every month at the fire station on Gleneagle and Jessie Drives. The next meeting is April 16.

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