

fee of \$6,900 had been received on Feb. 2.

District Manager Mike Wicklund noted a payment of \$6,315 to DRC Construction Service for sewer line cleaning and internal videoing of one-fifth of the district's collection system.

Joint Use Committee update
Wicklund noted that the Tri-Lakes facility was running well.

Tri-Lakes Facility Manager Bill Burks had just received state site application approval but not state plant design approval for the total phosphorus treatment expansion. Wicklund also noted that Burks would get design approval before Tetra Tech RTW asked for bids. Having Tetra Tech RTW provide contractors a bid option for construction of an emergency backup generator was

cancelled by the Joint Use Committee on Feb. 10.

Wicklund noted that Burks said there were 19 applicants for the vacant hourly operator position. However, only four were licensed. Due to the size of the plant being rated for a hydraulic flow of over 4 million gallons and the complexity of its activated sludge treatment process, the state mandates that the plant

is being run by an operator with an "A" wastewater license. Burks and the facility's only other employee, an hourly operator, have "A" wastewater licenses. The facility's other hourly operator position has been vacant since early October.

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

The next meeting will be

held at 10 a.m. on March 19 at the at the district Tri-Lakes facility's conference room, 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month. Information for these meetings is available at 481-4053.

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Donala Water and Sanitation District, Feb. 19

Total district water demand drops as groundwater well productivity also falls

By Jim Kendrick

On Feb. 19, General Manager Kip Petersen advised the Donala Water and Sanitation District board on lessons learned at a session he attended on communications from water entities to television and other media as well as the Internet, such as Donala's annual water production has dropped from 1,400 acre-feet to about 820 acre-feet.

Water engineer Will Koger of Forsgren Associates gave a briefing on a draft of a regional water and infrastructure feasibility study Forsgren performed for seven water district members (including Donala) of the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority (PPRWA) and Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU). Phase 2 of the study will be a preliminary engineering report.

Petersen announced that Donala Waste Plant Operator Aaron Tolman had successfully upgraded his wastewater treatment license to "C" level.

Directors Bill George, Dave Powell, Ken Judd, Bill Nance, and Bob Denny were all present. Donala resident Kevin Deardorff also attended the meeting.

Manager's report

Petersen reported on his and Director Bob Denny's attendance at the annual Colorado Water Congress conference in Denver. Petersen noted that there were a lot of people from southeast Colorado expressing longstanding animosity and anger toward El Paso County water entities at this session and the most recent Arkansas River basin roundtable meeting. Many people said El Paso County was "stealing water from southeast agricultural interests to fuel growth along the Front Range." Koger supported Petersen's summary, saying that public relations with Colorado residents to the south will remain "a tough nut to crack."

There was board consensus on his suggestion to prepare Donala presentations about the district's renewable water that will be transported by the CSU Southern Delivery System. Petersen added that he gained a deeper "appreciation for what it takes to keep a ranch or farm going in today's social and economic climate."

Petersen briefed the board on successful Denver water conservation efforts over the last decade that has lowered individual consumption to about 86 gallons per day per person. He noted that Donala's annual water production has dropped from 1,400 acre-feet to about 820 acre-feet.

New redevelopment policy approved

Petersen presented a district policy amendment proposal for redeveloped properties within the Donala service area that have a significantly changed use. Owners of redeveloped property will have to provide Donala with renewable water rights for increased water demand by the new use, or pay Donala for all its cost for providing additional renewable water for the new use as well as transporting this additional water to Donala's distribution system and treating it before delivery to the redeveloped property. He reported that this new policy needs to be in place before Donala signs a new long-term contract with CSU for transport and treatment and the separate new long-term contract with the federal Bureau of Reclamation for storage of Donala's renewable water within the Pueblo Reservoir. Likewise, any new costs for infrastructure and treatment of wastewater from the redeveloped property

would have to be paid to Donala by the owner.

Current district ratepayers will not be paying excess fees to subsidize redevelopment of areas within Donala, such as the former Gleneagle golf course, or new water-intensive commercial development on currently unsubdivided vacant land.

The proposed redevelopment policy amendment was unanimously approved by the board.

Financial reports

Petersen briefed the board on district water operations on budgeted cash reserves before any significant property tax revenue is received. Only \$28.07 in property tax revenue had been forwarded to the district in Janu-

ary. Total revenue for January was \$237,542—only 3.39 percent of the \$7 million budgeted. Total January expenditures were \$676,246.

The biggest water expenditure was the first 2015 \$392,168 loan payment to the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority. The total amount budgeted for water authority loan payments throughout 2015 is \$804,345. A total of \$27,797, of \$42,000 budgeted for 2015, was paid for computer and software annual expenses. Total wastewater expenditures were \$26,539 of \$1.35 million budgeted for all of 2015.

Petersen presented a summary of specific cost and coverage changes that have resulted

from the district changing its insurance carrier from Cincinnati Insurance Co. of Littleton to Travelers Insurance, which produced total annual savings of \$13,853.

Feasibility study results presented

Koger presented the results of the first phase of this new PPRWA water/infrastructure feasibility study. He discussed study goals and findings, region-wide implementation, and next steps. Previously Donala participated in the 2008 PPRWA Water Infrastructure Planning Study. For more information, see <http://ocn.me/v8n3.htm#pprwa> and <http://ocn.me/v8n2.htm#dwsd>.

The goal of the study is to provide means for El Paso

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