

collection system. “But we told them no, we don’t want it.” If naturally occurring radioactive materials are processed or concentrated as a result of human activities such as water process-



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ing, it becomes Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (TENORM), which is being studied by the Environmental Protection Agency. Wicklund said he has not had any direct communication from Monument Town Manager Chris Lowe or Public Works Director Tom Tharnish on the issue.

Wicklund’s concern was that if TENORM radionuclides from the Town of Monument’s drinking water treatment plants that are discharged into MSD’s separately owned wastewater collection system got into the TLWWTF biosolids, the facility could be liable for any future regulations regarding TENORM in the sludge, since those treated biosolids are spread on agricultural fields as fertilizer.

He said, “We just went through a lawsuit with the three of us (in the JUC) over phosphorus. Can you imagine what would happen now if the three districts have to deal with radium or any type of radionuclides coming in our biosolids, and the expense? It’s mind-boggling.”

- The members also discussed:
- The second draft of the 2017 budget.
 - Concerns over the final completion date by Aslan Construction for the total phosphorus (TP) chemical removal clarifier expansion, which was originally supposed to have been completed in May.
 - Operation plans for the TP clarifier in 2017-19 before the Nov. 1, 2019 total phosphorus limit of 1 mg/l takes effect.
 - Water Operator Joshua Watkins earned his State of Colorado Class A Wastewater Operators license. The group’s overwhelming consensus was, “That is a big deal!”

The meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Clarifications

On Oct. 5, OCN received the following letter from Steven Farabaugh, senior engineer, Forsgren Associates Inc.:

The following are clarifications to the Sept. 3, 2016 edition of OCN article titled “Tri-Lakes Monument Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee, Aug. 9: Permitting Process in Flux” subheading “Permitting Issues Continue to Pop Up” on pages 10-11. See www.ocn.me/v16n9.htm#tljuc.

- OCN reported that Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) can include potassium, chlorides, sodium, arsenic, chromium, manganese, nitrates and other substances dissolved in the water. This could be misleading, as it follows a reference to TDS in Cherokee Metropolitan

District’s (CMD) reclaimed water. TDS is a naturally occurring collection of salts and minerals in water. Constituents of TDS are site specific. Analysis of CMD’s reclaimed water shows it is largely a benign mix of bicarbonate, sulfate, sodium, calcium, and chloride. None of the constituents of CMD’s reclaimed water exceeds drinking water limits.

- The site-specific standard for TDS for the Upper Black Squirrel Creek Alluvial Aquifer is 400 mg/L, not 300 mg/L.
- CMD uses its treated effluent from the Water Reclamation Facility to recharge the UBSC basin through rapid infiltration basins under a permit from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). This approved method takes advantage of CMD’s effluent and allows for reuse in the UBSC basin.
- The article reported a claim that CMD’s water is contaminating downstream wells and irrigation farther east of Colorado Springs. TDS is not regulated by drinking water standards because there are no known health effects from elevated TDS. The levels of TDS present in CMD’s water pose no impact on crops currently known to be irrigated in the UBSC basin and minimal impacts on crops that could be grown in the UBSC basin. The UBSC basin flows north to south, therefore water recharged into the aquifer by CMD would have no

- impact on wells to the east.
- There is no petition by Cherokee to pump the treated effluent deep into underground wells and therefore no vote was taken by the state Water Quality Control Commission on this issue.
 - The reverse osmosis (RO) treatment plant will treat a portion of the reclaimed effluent to reduce the TDS levels below the 400 mg/L limit, and it would be misleading for this to be described as decontamination of the effluent.
 - The brine produced during RO treatment requires disposal through deep-well injection or other brine disposal methods. Due to the concentrated nature of the brine solution, it cannot be discharged to streams or groundwater. The brine should not be characterized as “toxic HAZMAT RO brine.”
 - Analysis of CMD’s TDS has shown no trace of metals; dissolved metals would have to meet applicable limits for those specific metals.
 - The reclaimed water does not exceed any salinity limits.

The next meeting will be held Nov. 8 at 10 a.m. at the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility, 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meetings throughout 2016 will normally be held on the second Tuesday of the month and are open to the public. For information, call Bill Burks at 719-481-4053 or see tlwaste-water.com.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

Triview Metropolitan District, Oct. 13

District begins to make 2017 budget choices

By Lisa Hatfield
At the Oct. 13 meeting of the

Triview Metropolitan District Board of Directors, the main topic was planning for 2017 and beyond and keeping the district “healthy.” President Reid Bolander said members of the public are welcome to make comments at the 2017 budget

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