

- Training with the Tri-Lakes Fire Department on new hydrants with a hydrant water flow test
- Complaint about vehicle damage due to a manhole riser ring on Jackson Creek Parkway
- Another capital projects workshop will be scheduled soon to follow up on issues from the March 31 workshop and to do more long-range planning such as for required wastewater treatment upgrades.

Remington mentioned an emergency email signup list that has been set up on the Triview website. Residents can sign up for emergency notifications from the district. Also, Policy Level 2 water restrictions were

set to go into effect on May 1. Residents will see a notification on their water bill, but for clarity on what policy is in effect residents should check the Triview website.

Remington informed the board she has signed up for “Weather Wire,” a subscription weather service that provides a more accurate weather prediction for the Palmer Divide. It consists of 24/7 weather analysis with hourly updates and the ability to call a meteorologist directly about current conditions in the Monument area. Water Superintendent Josh Cichocki said the subscription has already paid for itself by saving unnecessary overtime, fuel, and expenses in plowing operations.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

with the board going into executive session to confer with the district’s attorney on legal questions. Remington said the board did not make any announcements or take any votes after the executive session.

The next Triview meeting will be held on May 9 at 5 p.m. at the Fairfield Inn, Mt.

Herman Conference Room, 15275 Struthers Road, Colorado Springs. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month. Information: 488-6868 or see www.colorado.gov/triview-metro.

Jason Gross can be reached at jasongross@ocn.me.

Donala Water and Sanitation District, April 20

Laughlin Ditch renewable surface water right purchase approved

By Jim Kendrick

On April 20, District General Manager Kip Petersen’s recommendation that the Donala Water and Sanitation District board finalize the purchase the Laughlin Ditch water right for 324 acre-feet per year of Fountain Creek renewable surface water was unanimously approved. This purchase increases Donala’s surface water right portfolio up to roughly 70 percent of Donala’s potable water demand at build-out.

Petersen also reported that the preliminary project concept cost for additional treatment equipment for removing ground-water arsenic from Donala and Triview Metropolitan District by the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRWWTF) would be about \$2.1 million that would be paid for by Donala and Triview.

At the start of the meeting, Petersen introduced Christina Hawker, the district’s new staff accountant.

Water right purchased

The Laughlin Ditch renewable surface water contract provides that the seller, the Gray Family Management Trust, will carry the purchase note at 4 percent per year for five years with annual payments of \$200,000, paid quarterly. A down payment of \$380,000 is due at closing, for a beginning loan balance of \$3.42 million. The contract’s final balloon payment is \$3.093 million due on or before the 21st quarterly payment date.

This renewable surface water could be reused to extinction, adding another potential 162 acre-feet of annual use, 486 acre-feet in all. The trust also offered to provide seller financing for Donala’s purchase. The Laughlin Ditch is located near Colorado Springs Utilities’ Las Vegas Wastewater Treatment Facility by the U.S. Highway 24 exit on I-25. (www.ocn.me/v16n11.htm#dwsd)

Petersen stated that after closing this purchase, Donala’s water attorney Rick Fendel would then go to Colorado Division 2 water court to request a change of place and a change of use for all for all of Donala’s possible uses for this water right. This court process is currently estimated to take 12 to 18 months to complete.

Petersen advised the board that he was working on the final draft of a letter of intent to send to the City of Fountain, which would indicate Donala’s intent to store this Laughlin Ditch water in Fountain’s future gravel pit storage project off Fountain Creek. After another 36 months to complete Fountain’s gravel pit storage construction, an exchange agreement could be arranged for Fountain to store this water in the new Fountain water storage

area. Fountain could then exchange a like amount to Donala from Fountain’s existing water storage right in the Pueblo Reservoir. In turn, Donala would have Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) transport this exchanged Fountain reservoir water north by CSU’s Southern Delivery System (SDS) pipeline to a CSU potable water treatment plant. CSU would then transport this treated potable water through another CSU water main to the CSU-Donala interconnect at Struthers and Northgate Roads for direct distribution to Donala customers.

This is the same method currently used by Donala to have CSU transport Donala’s stored Willow Creek Ranch renewable surface water from the Pueblo Reservoir for CSU treatment and subsequent CSU transport to the CSU-Donala interconnection for distribution to Donala customers.

All the water court actions and the storage, transport, and treatment agreements have to be completed before this new water can be distributed to Donala’s customers. In the interim, Donala will lease its new exchanged Laughlin Ditch stored water in the Pueblo Reservoir to the Arkansas Groundwater Users Association.

Petersen noted that at the March 16 Donala board meeting, Director Ed Houle had stated it is rare to be able to obtain a renewable surface water right and arrange for storage and conveyance all at the same time.

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