

Donala Water and Sanitation District, July 20

Board restates top water mission: to provide water solely to Donala customers

By Jim Kendrick

On July 20, there was once again consensus by the Donala Water and Sanitation District board that Donala's primary water mission is to ensure its customers have a sufficient stable supply of clean, safe drinking water. Donala has no plans to be a water provider for any other water entity, other than Triview during another dire water supply emergency.

Donala recently turned on its interconnect with Triview for the first time, temporarily, when Triview was about 15 minutes away from not having enough water in its single water tank to be able to operate its fire hydrants during a major structure fire event. However, the cause of that Triview emergency has been eliminated.

Board President Dave Powell's absence on an out-of-state trip was unanimously excused.

Developers' water worries wane

District General Manager Kip Petersen reported on delays in El Paso County approval for an amended land use proposal for converting some portions of the former Gleneagle golf course property from the previously approved 47 patio home lot zoning to standard single-home zoning. This first approval only permitted 41 residential single-family lots. The developer then proposed another amendment that increased the proposed number of single-family lots to 56. Ensuing county approval delays will now cause the receipt of Donala tap fee payments in 2017 for some of these 56 tap fees to be further delayed until after the end of this year, creating a 2017 budget capital project cash reserve shortfall.

This postponement of about \$400,000 in 2017 tap fee revenue that had been targeted to pay for a like amount of 2017 capital project costs will now require rescheduling of some projects for after 2017.

This golf course residential infill project had been delayed in part by the county Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) due to a waiver request for county acceptance of a Donala water service guarantee of 100 years instead of 300 years.

Furthermore, the separate Academy Gateway commercial project at the south end of Gleneagle Drive, between Struthers Road and I-25, has been similarly delayed in part by the county due to a waiver request for county acceptance of a Donala water service guarantee of 100 years instead of 300 years. The county 300-year groundwater guarantee regulation does not currently

take into account any renewable water supplies that reduce or even entirely replace a project's groundwater dependence.

Note: For more information on the BOCC's unprecedented approval of these two complicated land use issues, see the OCN May 23 BOCC meeting report at www.ocn.me/v17n6.htm#epbocc. Also, see items 13 through 19 of the May 23 BOCC minutes and their linked approved BOCC resolution at <http://bcc2.elpasoco.com/bocc/agendas/2017AgendaResults/17-05-23Minutes.pdf>. For more complete descriptions of the complexities, see:

- www.ocn.me/v16n2.htm#dwds0121

- www.ocn.me/v16n11.htm#epcpc1018
- www.ocn.me/v17n3.htm#roundabout
- www.ocn.me/v17n4.htm#epcpc
- www.ocn.me/v17n5.htm#epcpc
- <http://bcc2.elpasoco.com/bocc/agendas/2017AgendaResults/17-05-18Minutes.pdf>
- www.ocn.me/v17n7.htm#epcbocc

Other information is available at: www.gleneaglehoa.org/Portals/0/newsletters/The%20Eagles%20View%20April%202016%20Web.pdf?ver=2016-04-07-223007-873

Financial reports

Petersen noted that budget numbers for other line items

and capital projects are normal. Water sales were about 50 percent of the forecast total at the end of June. The first two quarterly payments for operation of the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility from the Triview and Forest Lakes Metropolitan Districts have been received. Donala staff members operate the joint venture wastewater facility for the three owner districts and also oversee Forest Lakes water and wastewater district operations on a contract basis.

The financial reports were unanimously accepted as presented.

Manager's report

Petersen said he had arranged to have Jim Broderick, gen-

eral manager of the Southeast Colorado Water Conservancy District, attend the Aug. 17 regular Donala board meeting to discuss how Donala could become a conservancy district member. The conservancy district manages the Pueblo Reservoir for the owner, the federal Bureau of Reclamation. As a conservancy district member, Donala may be able to secure more favorable long-term reservoir storage leases. A condition of membership would be that Donala property owners approve a ballot measure for a 0.9 mill property tax specifically dedicated to ensure conservancy district dues and water storage lease fees will be paid annually by Donala in future years. Currently Donala is

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