

Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee, Sept. 11 and Oct. 9

# Planning for 2019; more time allowed for big decisions

By Lisa Hatfield

The Joint Use Committee (JUC) of the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) reviewed the first drafts of its 2019 budget and heard about the operation of the facility and the regional stakeholder report on Sept. 11 and Oct. 9.

TLWWTF operates as a separate joint venture public utility and is owned in equal one-third shares by Monument Sanitation District (MSD), Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD), and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD).

The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts' boards. In the absence of all three primary JUC members on Sept. 11, the owner districts were represented by WWSD board President Jim Taylor, MSD Director John Howe, and PLSD Chairman Mark Bruce. On Oct. 9, MSD board Chairman Ed DeLaney, JUC president; PLSD Vice Chairman Patricia Smith, JUC vice president, and WWSD board Director Lee Hanson, JUC secretary/treasurer were back.

Other board and staff members of the three owner districts also attended, including MSD Manager Mike Wicklund, PLSD Manager Becky Orcutt, and WWSD Assistant Manager Randy Gillette.

## 2019 budget reviewed, questioned

At both meetings, Facility Manager Bill Burks presented drafts of the 2019 budget, and his answers to questions included:

- TLWWTF pays \$13,920 to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) each year for permission to discharge treated effluent into Monument Creek.
- Timing on \$197,000 for rebuilding the clarifier drive will be determined later.
- Recommended personnel cost increases include 3 percent cost-of-living increases as well as pay scale progressions for increases in certifications.
- Biosolids ought to be removed from the lagoons every year now, instead of every other year, for a cost of about \$150,000 a year. "We are producing more sludge. We are growing."
- The new chemical total phosphorus (TP) removal tertiary clarifier expansion will operate again starting in October, and the chemicals to operate it will cost \$200,000 a year.

**Note:** The \$3.6 million total phosphorus (TP) removal

tertiary clarifier expansion was built to comply with the state's Nutrient Monitoring Control Regulation 85 TP discharge effluent limit of a rolling annual median of 1 milligram per liter (mg/l) in accordance with the compliance schedule in the facility's May 1, 2015 five-year discharge permit. See [www.ocn.me/v17n2.htm#tlwtf](http://www.ocn.me/v17n2.htm#tlwtf).

After a long discussion including weighing potential future regulatory ramifications and when it made the most sense to spend large sums of money, the consensus of the JUC was to not include either the purchase of a fourth blower or a site application to get the facility's biological oxygen demand (BOD) capacity re-rated, in the 2019 budget.

They also discussed but did not decide whether the new blower would eventually be paid for by one-third shares or by percentage of flow/BOD capacity when the time comes to spend that huge amount of money. It seemed that the definitions of terms used in the TLWWTF Joint Use Agreement (JUA) were open to multiple interpretations as has occurred before, most recently when the total phosphorus (TP) removal tertiary clarifier expansion was built. See [www.ocn.me/v17n10.htm#wwsd](http://www.ocn.me/v17n10.htm#wwsd), [www.ocn.me/v17n10.htm#msd](http://www.ocn.me/v17n10.htm#msd).

A related discussion concerned how to divide the cost of cleaning and doing TV inspections of the collection lines above TLWWTF's headworks. Hanson said the \$12,000 should be divided by thirds, and Taylor read part of Paragraph 7 of the JUA to support this. However, Wicklund said it was an operational/maintenance expense and not a capital expense and so should be divided by flow/BOD percentages instead. Although the dollar figure here was not high, it was a precedence issue, they agreed. The consensus was that this cost would be divided by thirds for the 2019 budget so each district could plan its own budget, and any changes to the JUA could be made at the JUC's annual meeting in December.

The public hearing on the

2019 budget will occur at the Nov. 13 meeting.

## Plant manager's report

Burks said he has submitted the required letter to CDPHE reporting that TLWWTF exceeded 80 percent of the 30-day average BOD capacity due to a loading spike in July. He said the facility was able to maintain its usual high effluent quality and treat the spike in organic load using only one of the three blowers it could put into service.

A similar larger load occurred in June. Gillette, Orcutt, and Wicklund said as of September all three districts were

done with line cleaning, and the consensus was that this might reduce the BOD spikes for now. The samples for September were back to expected

numbers. See [www.ocn.me/v18n9.htm#tlwtfjuc](http://www.ocn.me/v18n9.htm#tlwtfjuc).

Burks said he was working with two labs and talking to CDPHE about the recent failed

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