

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, July 9

Strategy for ponds considered; Woodmoor Ranch trip planned

By James Howald

On July 9, the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board worked on how to meet the state's requirements for augmenting the water retained in ponds in the district. They also planned a field trip for the board members to visit the Woodmoor Ranch, and district staff presented operational reports.

Ponds added to district's augmentation plan

District Manager Jessie Shaffer told the board that five years previously, the district had filed a plan with the state board to augment water in ponds in the district. When water is held in a pond, the pond owner must augment water flow downstream from the pond to replace water that evaporates from the pond, so that owners of downstream water rights receive all the water for which they have paid.

The plan, or decree, that WWSD filed gave the district the right to add more ponds in the future, Shaffer said. In December, Doug Hollister, District 10 Water Commissioner, told the pond owners in WWSD they would have to choose between draining their ponds or meeting the requirement to augment the downstream flows, Shaffer told the board. The pond owners approached WWSD with requests to address this issue, Shaffer said.

Ronnie Sperling, the district's water attorney, filed the necessary papers to add the ponds in question to the district's augmentation plan, Shaffer said. To complete the process, the WWSD board would need to vote on a resolution to add the ponds to the district's water decree.

Shaffer asked the board to vote to add seven ponds to the district's aug-

mentation plan: Williams pond, Wild Duck pond, Twin ponds, Maguire pond, Doewood pond, Duck pond and the Augusta pond. Two of these ponds, Wild Duck pond and Twin ponds, are on Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) property, Shaffer said, adding that a third WIA pond, Hidden pond, would be addressed separately.

The board voted unanimously to approve the resolution adding the seven ponds.

Board plans trip to Woodmoor Ranch

WWSD owns Woodmoor Ranch, previously known as JV Ranch, near Fountain, which it acquired for its water rights. To convert the water from agricultural to municipal use, the district must complete revegetation projects that protect the topsoil. Shaffer proposed that the board tour the property to better understand the progress the district is making in its revegetation efforts. Paul Flack, the district's revegetation consultant, would accompany the board on its tour, Shaffer said.

In addition to the Woodmoor Ranch, the district is also a shareholder in the Chilcott Ditch, which transports water from Fountain Creek to Calhan Reservoir on the Woodmoor Ranch and which includes an augmentation pumping station that is currently undergoing improvements to protect it from erosion. The augmentation station would be included on the tour as well, Shaffer said.

Highlights from operational reports

- In the financial report, it was noted that requests for new taps have slowed in the last two months.
- Matrix Design is moving forward with its work to address erosion at

the Chilcott Ditch augmentation station, and funding for the project has been obtained.

- Warm, dry weather has required the district to do more irrigation on the Woodmoor Ranch to help with the establishment of native grasses.
- Only 1 percent of the district's water is unaccounted for, indicating the system is operating very efficiently.
- The quality of the water in Woodmoor Lake has improved due to

efforts to reduce algae and better aerate the water in the lake.

The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 13 at 1 p.m. Meetings are usually held at the district office at 1845 Woodmoor Drive on the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. See www.woodmoor-water.com or call 488-2525 to verify meeting times.

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Donala Water and Sanitation District, July 19

New rates proposed for large commercial customers

By Jim Kendrick

On July 19, the Donala Water and Sanitation District (DWSD) board unanimously approved an interim multi-user rate change for commercial customers like hotels that use significantly higher amounts of potable water than any previous Donala commercial customers have used until a "large commercial businesses" rate table can be created and approved. An inclusion hearing for the Western Museum of Mining and Industry was tentatively scheduled for the Sept. 20 regular Donala board meeting. Donala has been advised that El Paso County's 100-day construction of the roundabout at Struthers and Gleneagle Drive will now begin in October.

Director Bob Denny announced that he would be moving out of the Donala service area and resigning from the Donala board a few months from now. The board will have 60 days to appoint a replacement director after the date of Denny's formal resignation.

Commercial rates needed

District General Manager Kip Petersen stated that Donala has historically served residential units and small commercial operations that do not consume a great deal of water on a sustained basis and had never needed a commercial water rate in the past. Hotels use more

water than other Donala businesses like 7-Eleven have previously required, and a large-business tap rate structure that also considers summer irrigation peaks needs to be created, he said. The staff will research a rational basis for setting appropriate commercial rates for the larger demands of 1½-inch and greater tap sizes.

Museum update inclusion hearing scheduled

The Western Museum of Mining and Industry was conditionally included into Donala in 2006 and lies within Donala's service area but remains on well and septic. The museum has been listed as part of Donala's previous 1041 reports and Bureau of Reclamation requests. The board concurred with Petersen that an updated formal inclusion hearing was appropriate and tentatively scheduled it for Sept. 20. Donala's Northgate lift station was designed to service the museum, and no additional wastewater construction will be required. The museum's Dawson well water right would be transferred to Donala.

First-half district financial results on track

Petersen reported, "Overall I'm happy with where we're at [financially],"

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