

port, quarterly Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) test report, nutrient sampling, flow reports, sludge removal reports, and annual metals sampling. All results were well within expected tolerances, and the plant is running well, he said.

Burks asked the JUC about scheduling a future agenda item to discuss the overall future of the plant and its employees. This could help plan for "if and when" the wastewater regionalization plan connecting Tri-Lakes-area wastewater districts to Colorado Springs Utilities' treatment system comes to fruition. See www.ocn.me/v18n12.htm#msd and www.ocn.me/v19n2.htm#tumd.

However, the consensus of the JUC was that there were multiple nested

variables that must be dealt with before the wastewater regionalization idea could actually happen. These include negotiations with the Air Force Academy and complicated water rights concerning potable or non-potable water return flows back to the various Tri-Lakes water districts. Shaffer said it would be "premature to discuss the future" of TLWWTF at the JUC.

Stakeholders group update

Wicklund, Burks, and MSD Environmental Compliance Coordinator Jim Kendrick explained the ongoing topics of concern discussed at the February meeting of Arkansas River/ Fountain Creek Coalition for Urban/Rural River Evaluation (AF CURE). These included:

- The nutrient modeling project,

AF CURE's nutrient data, and the Colorado Water Quality Control Division's plan to collect its own nutrient data.

- The difficulty of choosing one number to summarize the health of a stream in Colorado when there are eight very diverse geographic regions.
- Shortages in state resources and gaps in methodologies.
- Anticipated site-specific required stream temperatures that may require wastewater plants to install effluent cooling towers.
- Environmental Attorney Gabe Racz is concerned about "backtracking on items that were already resolved" in workshops regarding proposed changes to Colorado Regulation 22 - Site Location and Design Approval Regulations for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Works.

Kendrick summarized by saying the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is demanding more and subsidizing less. "Burks and I apologize for only being able to explain very precisely the ambiguity and lack of direction" from the state.

Joint Use Agreement needs revisions

The Joint Use of Facilities Agreement

(JUA) governs TLWWTF facility operations and cost-sharing methods among its three member districts. In a continuation of a discussion begun in January, the JUC and managers are striving to find a copy of the 2010 version of the JUA that does not contain formula mistakes and formatting problems that caused whole phrases to be omitted.

Note: OCN noted in 2010 that the final version of the consolidated JUA that incorporated all previous amendments was completed by attorney Tim Schutz and was conditionally approved by the JUC with "a few typographical corrections still to be made." See www.ocn.me/v10n3.htm#juc.

Orcutt said she has boxes of documents from Schutz at PLSD, and she is searching for the "wet ink" original. Once the revisions can be made, the JUC and each of the three member district boards will have to sign it again.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. March 12 at the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility, 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month and are open to the public. For information, call Bill Burks at 719-481-4053.

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

Donala Water and Sanitation District, Feb. 21

Efforts to complete treatment project expedited

By Jennifer Kaylor

At the Feb. 21 Donala Water and Sanitation District board meeting, GMS Inc. Engineers Roger Sams, David Frisch, and Tom McClernan presented information and recommendations pertaining to the timeline, materials, and contractors for the arsenic removal project and proposed an adjusted rate for a new commercial customer.

Engineers recommend early procurement for treatment project

Sams summarized Donala's current project, which addresses the removal of water treatment waste residuals, such as arsenic, iron, and manganese, generated at the R. Hull and Holbein Water Treatment Plants. The project involves the construction of a Water Treatment Plant Residuals Dewatering Facility (RDF) at a proposed location along Homeland Court that will

house a plate filter press to "dewater" liquid waste into dry solids that have been deemed suitable for disposal at a municipal waste landfill.

This new process diverts the water treatment plant residual contaminants from being discharged to the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRWWTF), where the arsenic levels may exceed permit limits that will become more restrictive as of Oct. 1. The district expects to use the dewatering facility for about five months out of the year, when its wells are pumped most heavily. The engineers, directors, and staff talked extensively about creating a facility that is aesthetically pleasing

Sams and McClernan explained further that radium, another component of the residual waste, is present at an elevated level and will require a Radioactive Materials License for the RDF. The licensing process, which in-



Above: The proposed site along Homeland Court for Donala Water and Sanitation District's Water Treatment Plant Residuals Dewatering Facility. The structure will house a plate filter press to "dewater" liquid waste into disposable solids directed to municipal landfill instead of the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, which faces more restrictive biosolids regulations as of Oct. 1. Photo by Jennifer Kaylor of the graphic presented at the meeting.

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