

Academy Water and Sanitation District, June 19

# Water main leak repair was difficult, dangerous

By Lisa Hatfield

Academy Water and Sanitation District (AWSD) supplies drinking water and sewer service to Pleasant View Estates. On June 19, the AWSD board heard more about the water leak near the intersection Becky Drive and Pleasant

View Drive that left almost 40 residents without water to their homes from the morning of May 28 to the afternoon of May 30.

As District Manager Anthony Pastorello also noted in regular real-time updates on the district website, the ex-

cavation crew had to use extreme caution and take extra safety steps because the driveway near the leak collapsed and the street was also in danger of collapsing. This repair is more challenging and more dangerous than most they have completed in the past, he said, because the pipe was very deep and difficult to access due to proximity to a 50-year-old makeshift culvert that was terrifically unstable.

Pastorello said residents were disgruntled about having no water and didn't realize the delay was due to safety concerns for the workers.

He warned the board that AWSD's aging infrastructure would inevitably spring more leaks in the future, and he and the directors discussed prioritizing phases of line replacements over the next 10 years. Meanwhile, certain segments of the system lack enough isolation valves along them, causing more residents to go without water when repairs to a leak are being made.

Mark Morton of GMS Consulting Engineers offered suggestions on how to analyze more components of the system at the same time as routine maintenance is being done, to "get the best bang for your buck." This would help prioritize the capital improvement plan to fix the aging infrastructure of the district, which originated in 1963.

Pastorello had not yet received the

bill for this extended-duration water main repair.

### Manager's report

Other items discussed during Pastorello's report included:

- Progress on pumping liquid and biosolids out of the ponds now that the treatment plant is decommissioned and waste is being pumped to Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- AWSD wanted to buy its own generator this spring, but unbudgeted repairs to the deep well and other items took priority.
- However, the sewage lift station tap box connections are now compatible with Donala's generator if needed in an emergency.
- Water fees might need to be reviewed.
- A Town Hall meeting for residents is coming in October.

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The Academy Water and Sanitation District board meets at 6 p.m. on the third Wednesday each month at the Donald Wescott Fire Station, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Contact Operations Manager Anthony Pastorello at 481-0711 or see the district website [www.colorado.gov/pacific/awsd](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/awsd).

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Donala Water and Sanitation District, June 20

# Creative solutions for arsenic discharge limits

By Jennifer Kaylor

The Donala Water and Sanitation District Board of Directors considered recommendations from District Manager Kip Petersen on arsenic discharge limits, the Pueblo County 1041 permit resolution, and participation in a proposed northern potable water pipe at the June 20 meeting.

Director Kevin Deardorff was excused.

### Arsenic discharge conundrum

October 1, 2019 marks the date when the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Water Qual-

ity Control Division (WQCD) begins to enforce strict limits on wastewater treatment facility discharge. Prior to this time, treatment facilities have only needed to monitor levels of certain materials which are naturally present in aquifer groundwater and directed to the treatment facility before water is sent to consumers. See [www.ocn.me/v19n3.htm#dwsd](http://www.ocn.me/v19n3.htm#dwsd)

Donala operates the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRWWTF) which is owned in partnership by Donala, Triview Metropolitan District, and Forest Lakes Metropolitan District. Generally, the discharge is not a concern for the UMCRWWTF partners; however, hot and dry summers can be problematic. Water consumption increases dramatically due to lawn irrigation. Thus, wells are pumped more heavily to meet the demand and more of the naturally occurring groundwater contaminants—such as arsenic, iron, and manganese—are extracted and directed to the wastewater treatment facility. During these times, arsenic levels have the potential to rise slightly above the WQCD's limit.

In an effort to lower the amount of arsenic directed to UMCRWWTF by Donala, the district had been preparing plans for construction of a \$1 million Water Treatment Plant Residuals Dewatering Facility (RDF) to remove the composite of arsenic and other contaminants as solid wastes to divert them from the wastewater treatment facility and ensure that arsenic levels would not exceed the facility's discharge permit limit.

Concurrently, Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) has been exploring the feasibility of consolidating wastewater treatment with northern El Paso

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