

Tri-Lakes Wastewater Facility Joint Use Committee, March 9 Cost-sharing method confirmed

By Lisa Hatfield

The Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) Joint Use Committee (JUC) met on March 9 and confirmed its one-time exception to a cost-sharing decision made Feb. 9. Facility Manager Bill Burks also informed the JUC that the Monument Public Works Department had told him that the town would not change the way it treats radium in its groundwater in the near future.

TLWWTF 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: WWSD board Director and JUC president Lee Hanson, JUC vice president; MSD Treasurer and JUC secretary/treasurer John Howe, and PLSD board member Reid Wiecks. The meeting was held at TLWWTF; most of the JUC members, other district board directors, and other district staff members attended remotely via Zoom.

Joint Use Agreement utilized
The 2010 facility Joint Use of Facilities Agreement (JUFA) specifies that property, equipment, or fixture expenses more than \$5,000 "in total" are defined as "major repair or replacement" capital items and shall be billed by one-third to each district. Costs below \$5,000 should be divided by flow/BOD percentages (about 20% MSD, 20% PLSD, 60% WWSD).

In February, Burks purchased a rotating pump assembly for the return activated sludge pumps for \$4,921, and he billed each district proportionally on March 1 for February TLWWTF expenses, dividing the pump cost by their percentage of flow/BOD. However, Burks found out afterward that with the shipping costs, the total expense would be \$5,070. At the Feb. 9 meeting, the board consensus was to still divide this item expense by flow/BOD, even though now technically speaking it qualified as a major repair or replacement.

In March, the board again revisited its decision. After another discussion, the members agreed to stick with

their decision from February to divide this item's cost by flow/BOD, but in the future there will be no exceptions and they will abide by the JUFA. They also agreed to revisit the \$5,000 cut-off amount at the annual JUC meeting that is attended by every director of the three owner districts and consider making an inflation adjustment to this arbitrary \$5,000 capital cost limit.

Radium not an issue

Background: The JUC has been aware of Monument's efforts to continue to meet its drinking water standard with regard to radium 226/228. See www.ocn.me/v16n9.htm#water, www.ocn.me/v16n12.htm#tlfjuc1108.

TLWWTF's sludge, which is hauled always in trailers to be applied to land as fertilizer as the most affordable and ecologically sound solution, could be potentially affected depending on what treatment method the town decides to use on its water if it can't continue to use dilution.

Burks said he had a meeting with the Town of Monument about what it's planning to do with radium in its drinking water and that, "nothing is going to

change with the way the town is going to treat radium. They are blending three water wells into one filter plant, and then all (TLWWTF) is going to get is a backwash from that filter plant that we are currently getting. The water out of filter will go into a radium removal system, and whatever is removed from that point is going to be hauled off. So, I think we are all finished with this topic as far as Town of Monument. I think we're good."

See related Monument Sanitation District article on page 14 and www.ocn.me/v21n3.htm#msd.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. April 13 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 from all three owner-districts. For information on virtual meeting access, call Bill Burks at 719-481-4053.

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Monument Sanitation District, March 17

Preventive maintenance contracts; public access to meeting

By Allison Robenstein and Lisa Hatfield
The Monument Sanitation District (MSD) board March 17 meeting con-

tinued to be difficult for residents to access. The only decision made during the meeting of mostly presentations

was to create preventive maintenance contracts for generators.

The meeting officially began 9:06 a.m. but was quickly recessed until 9:20 a.m. so that Chairman Dan Hamilton could admit several residents onto the call. These residents used the phone number published on the MSD website, but Hamilton had used a different number to begin the meeting. Resident Timothy Enders came to the meeting in person after being blocked from calling in, but Hamilton told him the meeting was not available to the public for in-person access. Later in the meeting, Hamilton called Enders to ask him questions about two projects. The

Google Meets link posted on the website did work this month, but none of the computer cameras was turned on in the meeting room.

Background: Last month, following an executive session, the board consensus was to have both video and sound made available for remote attendees for the March 17 regular board meeting unless the state allows regular attendance by all in person by that date. When asked about this, Hamilton said the board has "zero plans to get a camera." He continued by saying the small district won't be investing in a camera.

MSD (Cont. on 16)

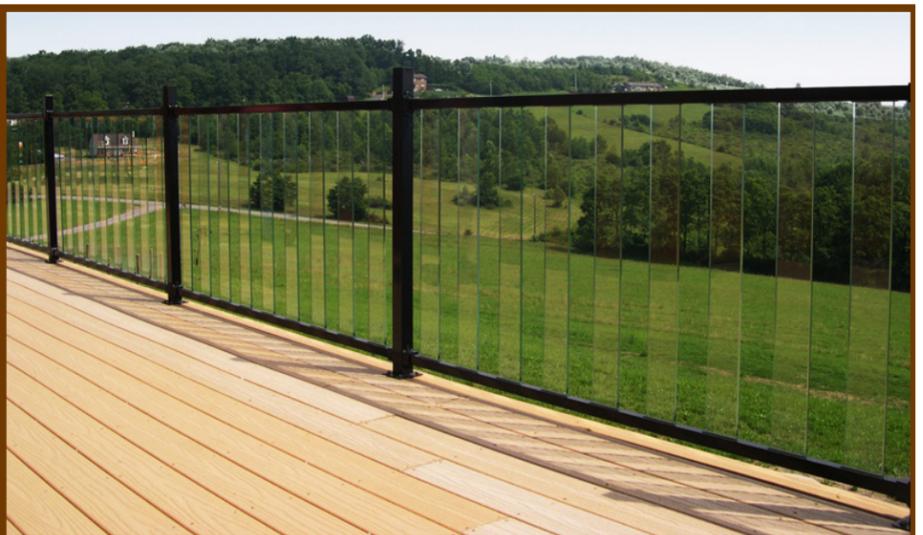
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