

MSD (Cont. from 14)**Donala suggests preventive maintenance contracts**

In the absence of a district manager, MSD has contracted with Donala Water and Sanitation District to provide operator-in-responsible-charge (ORC) services. In his monthly report, Donala Superintendent Mark Parker told the board about issues with lift station backup generators. A bad generator starter was replaced under warranty at the Wagons West station. Parker said all four MSD lift station backup generators should have associated preventive maintenance contracts that will allow Donala to service them every six months. The board voted to pre-approve a contract for the maintenance not to exceed \$3,500 annually.

Other comments by Parker included:

- Donala needs a key to the MSD office so it can access the supervisory control and data acquisition control and management (SCADA) system if there is an alert after hours.
- SCADA system field radios were improperly grounded but have been adjusted.
- The MSD North Monument influent flow measurement flume at the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility has been down for eight days. Parker says this may be attributed to a Microsoft Windows 10 upgrade at the treatment facility.
- He requested access to the MSD storage facility to do an inventory of operations documents. Treasurer John Howe said he would provide keys and lock codes.
- The Red Lion brand metering display needs to

be replaced with a larger one at a cost of roughly \$3,500. No decision was made for the purchase.

- MSD has 113,000 feet or 21 miles of pipe. In today's costs, that equates to \$11 million in pipe assets.
- Monument has four lift stations plus a fifth one being built in Willow Springs. MSD has 533 current taps. When Willow Springs is built out, there will be a total of 1,199 taps.

GMS Inc. Consulting Engineers also provided its monthly engineering report in the board packet, but the board did not discuss it.

Financial matters

Director Laura Kronick noticed the Integrity Bank cash account has over \$400,000 saved and asked, "Why would we have that kind of money sitting in an operating account?" Hamilton said, "That is not my forte, but the number does seem high."

Accounts Administrator Cheran Allsup said only the board and district manager have the authority to move money from one account to the next. Because there is no manager at this time, Allsup had been awaiting the completion of the 2020 audit so that the auditors could give their recommendation. The final phase of the audit is expected to begin in earnest April 30 and will take over a month to complete. Board consensus was to move the money, but those of us on the remote call could not hear the details decided or what direction Allsup was given.

Other system reports

Resident Timothy Enders is adding a second single dwelling unit to each of two properties he owns, both in the district. He's working to connect a new private

sewer service line for each new dwelling unit to the existing service line for each existing home. Hamilton asked why Enders was bringing this to the board's attention. Enders said he needed clarification from GMS Consulting Engineers, but they were not the district manager. Hamilton told Enders someone from GMS would be contacting him to finalize these plans.

Joint Use Committee (JUC) representative Howe heard at the JUC meeting in March that the Town of Monument has decided it is "not doing anything with the radium and put off for a couple of years." In February, MSD was concerned the town would be sending technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive materials (TENORM) that require special disposal methods to MSD's collection system and, therefore, Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility as well. See <https://ocn.me/v21n3.htm#msd> and related March 9 JUC article on page 14.

The board went into executive session at 10:28 a.m. for C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b) and (f). Upon entering open session, Hamilton told OCN the board took no votes and ended the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Monument Sanitation District meetings are normally held at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month in the district conference room at 130 Second St., Monument. The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 21 at 9 a.m. See <https://colorado.gov/msd>. For a district service map, see <https://colorado.gov/pacific/msd/district-map-0>. Information: 719-481-4886.

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Donala Water and Sanitation District, March 18**Leak nightmare fosters policy exception**

By Jennifer Kaylor

Directors of the Donala Water and Sanitation District board received reports, recommendations, and updates from the district's support staff at the March 18 meeting. District General Manager Jeff Hodge was absent due to unexpected personal leave.

All directors attended the meeting. Online guests included Roger Sams of GMS Inc., Dave Powell, and Brett Gracely of LRE Water.

The March board meeting packet is available on the district's website by accessing https://www.donalawater.org/images/docs/packets/2021/March_2021_Board_Packet.pdf. A list of Donala's 2021 board meeting dates can be found at https://www.donalawater.org/images/docs/notices/2021_Meeting_Schedule.pdf

Board responds to exceptional water loss

The home of a Donala resident who left town during February experienced a burst pipe that resulted in an 18-day leak and gushed more than 183,000 gallons of water into the home. With the customer facing a bill that exceeded \$6,000, Office Manager Tanja Smith presented a leak policy change proposed by Hodge. Current policy calculates the bill by establishing the difference between the same month of the prior year to the leak month, dividing that figure in half, and charging the halved excess to the customer's usual tier rate. See a related March 2020 article at www.ocn.me/v20n3.htm#dwsd.

Hodge proposed charging all of the excess at a tier one rate and maintaining the current two-leak per three-year time stipulation. Smith explained

that the current policy tends to favor residents who experience small leaks but creates an unfair calculation if customers have not lived in their home a full year since the calculation would be based on another customer's use. Under the current policy, the leak being considered would cost \$2,697, but under Hodge's proposed plan the cost would drop to \$1,411.

Smith asked the directors to consider applying Hodge's proposed policy as an exception for this customer as well as amending and approving the policy in the future. Directors unanimously authorized the exception and anticipated approving the amended policy when officially presented by staff.

Donala works with neighboring districts

Donala, Triview Metropolitan District, and Forest Lakes Metropolitan District (FLMD) partner-own the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. Donala manages the facility and provides water and wastewater infrastructure management guidance to FLMD. Over the past few months, there have been breaks in FLMD's water pipes. Superintendent of Water Operations Mark Parker reported that he and Hodge had been researching possible reasons for and solutions to the breaks. Parker described the possibility of variances in water pressure causing expansion and contraction of the pipes, which could lead to pipe degradation and thus breakage. One of FLMD's engineers posited that the breaks may be due to pipes sitting on hard pan, which is compacted, impenetrable soil or rock. Another consideration is that the pipe, which was likely manufactured between 2006 and 2008 by a manufacturer that faced lawsuits in its history, may have been made with sub-standard materials.

Donala staff planned to attend a March 25 meeting with FLMD to explore solutions to the pipe problem as well as other topics.

Monument Sanitation District (MSD) also receives operational and Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC) licensing support from Donala. The six-month intergovernmental agreement became effective Dec. 1, 2020 and has the potential to be extended for an additional six months. See <https://www.ocn.me/v21n1.htm#msd> for more information. Parker reported that he attended MSD's March 17 board meeting in which directors approved a general contractor for preventive maintenance of the district's generators. Donala also received means to more reliable access to MSD's supervisory control and data acquisition system. There was no discussion of whether MSD would opt to extend the ORC intergovernmental agreement with Donala.

ID theft strikes district personnel

Identification defrauders seeking to illegally obtain unemployment insurance stole information per-

taining to five Donala employees. Smith presented information about purchasing identification theft protection for all employees and board directors, a move initiated by Hodge. After conducting research, Smith recommended enlisting the services of Identity Guard at an approximate annual expense of \$8,000. Directors supported the purchase.

Finances switched to new institution

District accountant Christina Hawker discussed a resolution to adopt the banking services of Chase Bank. Explaining that the bank employs a small department that specializes in services to government accounts, including water and sanitation districts, provides direct access to its representatives, and has balance and fee requirements commensurate to her expectations, Hawker requested board approval of the resolution. President Ed Houle read the official resolution and directors approved it unanimously.

Additional updates

- Hawker's report on the district's finances confirmed that all revenues and expenses aligned with budgetary boundaries.
- Sams expected bids for the meter replacement project to go into circulation within a few days.
- Houle confirmed that the U.S. Air Force Academy's Visitor Center wastewater system would not be channeled through Donala's wastewater treatment plant. As of Donala's February meeting, the potential project still held some possibility.
- Parker reported that precipitation continues to be forecast at below-average levels heading into summer. The recent snowstorm did raise Colorado's statewide snow water equivalent from 85% to 92%. See <https://www.drought.gov/states/colorado> for U.S. drought monitor conditions for Colorado.
- In a written report, Chief Waste Plant Operator Michael Boyett confirmed that all laboratory analysis fell well within parameters, and performance of the sequence batch reaction continued to improve as weather improved. Boyett applauded Waste Plant Maintenance Technician Trevor Wilch's outstanding work during the recent snowstorm.
- Parker announced Water Operator Ross Robinson's achievement of earning his B water certification, his third certificate in an estimated six-month timespan. Smith reported that Water Operator Joe Lopez had earned his A water certification. Parker described the operators and their professional advancements as assets for the district.
- Drawings for the 2021 water main replacement project had been finalized and were await-

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