

ing Forest Lakes LLC and Forest Lakes Residential Development, is comfortable with the bid, he did not have any comments.

The board approved the district manager's requests, 3-0.

NMCI update

Background: The NMCI project proposes bypassing smaller, local wastewater treatment facilities and sending the influent to Colorado Springs Utilities' more efficient JD Philips wastewater reclamation facility in Colorado Springs. The tricky part involves negotiating the complicated maze of discharge points and water rights for multiple water districts and how to bring treated water north again.

Nichols said the board had received the slides from the August NMCI meeting, and the comments made a year ago by all participating water districts are being considered. Funding for the design should be in place by the end of the year and then a bid to engage a consultant will be made. The intent is that by summer 2025 the NMCI would be in service. See www.csu.org/CSUDocuments/NMCI-factsheet.pdf and www.ocn.me/v18n12.htm#msd and www.ocn.me/v20n9.htm#msd and www.ocn.me/v21n6.htm#tvmd.

Additional water supply project

Stimple said Amy Lathen, general manager of Cherokee Metropolitan District, gave a public presentation to the El Paso

County Board of County Commissioners on Aug. 10 on a possible "loop system" that would make renewable water more accessible to eastern and northern El Paso County communities, and that could help keep Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) water rates in check. See BOCC article on page 23.

Nichols said the following:

- The proposed loop system could be a kind of alternative to the CSU return flow pipeline utilizing the Cherokee water pipeline to pump water north to the northern county water districts.
- District Manager Jessie Shaffer of Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District thinks it could be a complementary water source.
- FLMD and the other northern county water districts are not considering it as an alternative to the NMCI wastewater pipeline and the useable water return flows from CSU.
- Regional water rate tariffs are looking more attractive, and customer rates are expected to be more reasonable than previously thought. See www.ocn.me/v21n1.htm#flmd.

Nichols also said that at long last the CSU board has agreed it is in everyone's best interest to be a regional player, and it is in the district's best interest to be connected to the CSU system. That system is vast and varied as opposed to being hooked

into a single entity, and an administrative decision has been made to not participate in the initial investigation of the loop system.

Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority water reuse study

Nichols said the findings of the PPRWA water reuse study being conducted by Forsgren Associates Inc. will likely suggest the Big Johnson or Calhan reservoirs or a combination of the two for the return flow water storage for the NMCI participants. The next PPRWA water reuse study meeting is scheduled for October. See www.ocn.me/v21n5.htm#wwsd.

Bristlecone Lake update

Nichols said that Blunk closely monitors district water use for the common areas, and watering has been radically reduced since the installation of artificial turf around the playground area, along with the heavy rainfall. The measures have already proven to be a good strategy in water conservation, and residents are

being cognizant of the restrictions and exercising caution when watering their lawns, as is All American Landscape Inc. The Bristlecone Lake level in mid-August was 38.6 feet and is not experiencing dramatic loss, and the lake should be in reasonable shape and finish the summer that way, said Nichols.

Stimple said the goal was to reduce the watering of common areas by 50% overall, and the district is well on track for that.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

The meetings of FLMD and PPMD 1, 2, and 3 are usually held quarterly on the first Monday at 4 p.m. For notices, agendas, and minutes, visit: <https://forestlakesmetrodistrict.com>. For general questions, contact District Manager Ann Nichols, 719-327-5810, anicholsduffy@aol.com.

Natalie Barszcz can be reached at nataliebarszcz@ocn.me.

Monument Sanitation District, Aug. 18

District reviews providers

By Jackie Burhans and James Howald
At the Monument Sanitation Department (MSD) Aug. 18 meeting, the board heard an update on district service providers, discussed building-related issues, and

heard the manager's report.

Outsourced services review

District Manager Mark Parker reported that all the requests for proposal (RFPs) had gone out and are being reviewed and acted upon. He got responses on the HVAC maintenance proposals and decided to go with Heating & Plumbing Engineers Inc. (HPE) as they came back with the biggest bang for the lowest dollar. He has received one bid for IT services from a new company; the current provider has bowed out due to manpower issues, so MSD will work with the new provider. He also sent bids out for an emergency on-call provider as a backup to the current provider.

Parker reported that he has put together a draft RFP for a legal services provider and will share that with the board. He noted that the Special District Association (SDA) website (www.sdaco.org) has legal resources, some of which were created by MSD's former legal firm Collins, Cockrel & Cole (CCC). He said he would send both CCC and their current firm, Fritsche Law LLC, an RFP and could pick other firms from a list on the SDA site. MSD staff member Jim Kendrick noted that CCC often leads SDA workshops on legal matters and is very clear and concise. It is expensive, he said, but is the best in the business and sets the gold standard for Colorado.

MSD building

In his manager's report, Parker reported that a recent walkthrough of the district's building revealed that only the MSD unit had a smoke detector. All units have now been fitted with new combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. The detectors are linked together so every unit gets notified if any unit has an issue and the system can be monitored through an app, so notifications will still happen when everyone is out of the building.

Parker also reported that he has been working with Mike Foreman, Monument town manager, and his assistant for strategic initiatives, Madeline VanDenHoek, on obtaining an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant for energy efficiency and beautification of the district's building. The ARPA grant requires a 20% match, of which the Town of Monument will cover 10% and the district will supply the other 10%. Parker will focus on completing building insulation, installing double-paned windows at the salon, installing weather-friendly coating for the concrete in front of the building, and improving gutters and downspouts.

Parker reported that a new issue was found with the wastewater system at the district's building. Water was backing up into the hair salon and the Black Forest Café. A-1 Septic drained the tanks and Alphaete Plumbing snaked and videotaped the lines. A blockage was found



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