

tested, leading to a 500,00-gallon loss. Discovery of an irrigation meter that had not been read in a year and a half led to the district billing for 467,000 gallons of water that had not been paid for.

- LaFontaine reported that the CWTP is fully operational.
- The refilling of Woodmoor Lake is a little behind schedule.
- The Lake Pump Station is on schedule to be complete by June 1.

\*\*\*\*\*

The next meeting is scheduled for May 9 at 1 p.m. Meetings are usually held on the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. at the district office at 1845 Woodmoor Drive; please see www.woodmoorwater.com or call 719-488-2525 to verify meeting times and locations.

com or call 719-488-2525 to verify meeting times and locations.

James Howald can be reached at jameshowald@ocn.me.

Tri-Lakes Wastewater Facility Joint Use Committee, April 12

# Sludge lagoon flips

By Lisa Hatfield

The Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) Joint Use Committee (JUC) met on April 12 to review the monthly discharge monitoring report and facility operations. Facility Manager Bill Burks described an emergency he and his team had been dealing with for the last few days in the sludge lagoon.

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: PLSD board member Reid Wiecks, JUC president; MSD board Treasurer John Howe, JUC vice president; and WWSD board Secretary/Treasurer William Clewe, JUC secretary/treasurer.

**Sludge lagoon is upside down** Burks said, "Last week was kind of chaotic. I didn't know how all this was going to play out."

Because of seasonal temperature changes, the sludge lagoon developed thermal stratification. This happens every year, but this time was particularly bad. The layers flipped, resulting in a floating biosolid mat, intense odors, and inefficient lagoon treatment.

He and his staff have been using a diesel pump to maintain operations in a jerry-rigged way until the heavy sludge can be removed from the pond. He has asked Denali Water Solutions to move TLWWTF to the top of its priority list for sludge removal, which was already scheduled for later this year, pending test results on radium, metals, and fecal coliforms.

The JUC consensus was "Good job, Bill!"

### Stakeholders concerned about lack of due process

Burks and MSD Environmental Compliance Coordinator Jim Kendrick summarized the deliberations and concerns of the April 5 Arkansas Fountain Coalition for Urban River Evaluation (AFCURE) meeting. AFCURE has significant concerns about the draft Policy 20-1: Policy for Interpreting the Narrative Water Quality Standards for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). Burks said unelected appointees are listening to conservation groups and environmental justice groups to determine how state money will be spent, bypassing the Legislature and stakeholder work group process.

"It's idiotic," summarized Kendrick and Burks. Stakeholders are afraid the new policy will be turned into a state law imposed on Colorado without review at the technical/scientific level as required by state statutes and the federal Water Quality Control Act.

Burks also presented the Discharge Monitoring Report for February. All sampling results were well within required Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) discharge permit limits for TLWWTF and other baseline sampling.

WWSD Manager Jessie Shaffer asked for an update on the preliminary results of TLWWTF engineering consultant firm Tetra Tech's financial analysis of the new facility master plan and potential impact on the three member districts. Eventually, all three districts will need to decide whether to participate in the North Monument Creek Interceptor (NMCI) wastewater project or continue operations at TLWWTF.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. May 10 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.

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

Monument Sanitation District, April 20

# District opts out of NMCI project

By Jackie Burhans and James Howald

At its April 20 meeting, the Monument Sanitation District (MSD) board decided, after months of deliberation, not to participate in the Northern Monument Creek Interceptor (NMCI) project. District Manager Mark Parker gave details about a grant from the Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool (CSDPLP). Parker told the board about a problem recently discovered with the sewer line for Willow Springs and about a delivery of documents from a law firm that used to represent MSD. Allison Ulmer, an attorney with the district's newly appointed law firm of Collins Cockrel & Cole P.C., and Peggy Rupp, a paralegal, also attended the meeting.

Parker told the board he had received a Design Services Cost Contribution Agreement for the NMCI project from Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU), and he thought the intent of the document was to require potential participants to decide whether they would participate in the project. The NMCI is one of several efforts to build infrastructure to enable water to be re-used. If built, the NMCI project would convey untreated wastewater from participating sanitation districts south to the JD Phillips Water Recovery facility in Colorado Springs, where it would be treated before being returned to the districts for re-use.

Parker said how the treated water would be returned to the districts was not clearly defined by CSU, and he believed that Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD), Donala Water and Sanitation District (DWSD) and Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD) had all decided not to participate in NMCI. Forest Lakes Metropolitan District and Triview Metropolitan District were considering participation, according to Parker. Parker recommended that MSD not participate in NMCI.

The consensus of the board, and of Jim Kendrick, Regulatory Compliance, was that NMCI did not provide enough benefit to MSD to justify the responsibilities of participation.

### Grant awarded

Parker told the board MSD had received a safety grant of \$835 from CSDPLP, bringing the district's total budget for safety and ergonomic items to \$3,502. Parker

THE COOPERATIVE Advantage Local | Trusted | Serving You

# 2022 Annual Meeting of Members

.....Thursday • June 2, 2022.....

Limon Public Schools  
912 Badger Way • Limon, CO 80828

You are cordially invited to join your electric co-op at the Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of Members.

- 4:30 p.m. Registration & Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. Co-op Business Meeting  
Board of Directors Election  
Cash, Bill Credits & Door Prizes!

For more information, visit [www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting](http://www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting).

Powering Possibilities Since 1941



## We Want to Help You!

The Monument Hill Foundation is the charitable arm of the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club.

The Foundation grants over \$40,000 annually to qualifying organizations. Grant applications will be accepted through May 31, 2022. Grants will be awarded for projects that best advance the Foundation mission:

**Making a Difference for Youth and Our Community** in the Tri-Lakes area & northern El Paso County.

For instructions and to complete an online application, go to: [monumenthillfoundation.org](http://monumenthillfoundation.org) and select "Apply for a Grant" from the top menu.

