

\$94,406. Sams advised the district to award the contract to Sun Valley Contractors.

The board voted unanimously to award the contract to Sun Valley Contractors.

Details of operational reports

Hodge told the board that water sales had increased during July, and much of the revenue lost due to exceptionally rainy May and June had been recovered. He gave a generally positive picture of the district's finances, remarking that electrical expenses budgeted at \$73,000 would be closer to \$50,000 due to the lower water usage in previous months. Repair and maintenance

was also under budget, he said.

Hodge said the district was rebidding the project to recoat the district's water tanks.

Commenting on the district's recent changes to billing for sewer service, which took effect in July, Hodge said only four calls from the district's 2,900 customers had been received, with two callers unhappy with the changes and two happy. Hodge said July billing for sewer service was up \$20,000.

Hodge said only 57 meters remained to be replaced out of the 2,819 in the district. He noted that the new meters were better integrated with the

district's billing software, allowing office staff to have accurate real-time data to assist customers.

Summarizing progress by the El Paso County Regional Loop Water Authority, of which DWSD is a participating district, Hodge said he noticed Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) was becoming more flexible in the options it was willing to consider for how the loop project might use CSU's infrastructure. The loop might be able to save money by using some of CSU's infrastructure instead of building its own, he said.

Hodge also mentioned that due to staff changes, he was now the Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC) for

the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 21 at 1:30 p.m. Generally, board meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. and include online access; call (719) 488-3603 or access www.donalawater.org to receive up-to-date meeting information. The district office is located at 15850 Holbein Drive, Colorado Springs.

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El Paso County Regional Loop Water Authority, Aug. 17

Project manager discusses possible new approach

By James Howald

The El Paso County Loop Regional Water Authority (EPCRLWA) board met in August to hear an update from its recently hired Project Planning and Workflow Manager (PPWM) and to formalize the obligations required by the project's acceptance of American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The board also heard results from the most recent water quality tests. The meeting ended with an executive session.

The EPCRLWA was formed in November 2022 by an Intergovernmental Agreement between Cherokee Metropolitan District (CMD), Donala Water and Sanitation District (DWSD), the Town of Monument (TOM), and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) to build infrastructure that would allow water, including treated effluent, that is flowing south in Monument and Fountain Creeks to be stored at Calhan Reservoir at Woodmoor Ranch and then pumped back north to be used by customers of the participating districts.

PPWM reports on meetings

The EPCRLWA board recently hired John Kuosman, a water practice leader with Merrick and Co., to serve as the project's PPWM, overseeing and coordinating the work of the various contractors contributing to the effort. Kuosman told the board he was developing a decision flow chart around types of funding, funding agreements, and plans to sell bonds. Kuosman said he met with Russ Dykstra of Spencer Fane, the project's law firm, to discuss the details of how the participating water districts might sell bonds to finance their portions of the project.

EPCRLWA, which might be able to save costs on water treatment. Kuosman did not recommend that EPCRLWA "pump the brakes" on its current design, however.


Following Kuosman's remarks about the CSU meeting, Tom Tharnish, Monument's director of Public Works, who attended the meeting in place of Mike Foreman, Monument's town manager, moved to appoint Kuosman to represent the project at CSU's ongoing meetings regarding water reuse. The appointment was unanimously approved.

Kuosman also mentioned that he had met with the Town of Fountain, which has expressed interest in joining the project. Kuosman said Fountain did not want to pass on the costs of joining the project to its existing customers and was considering a public/private partnership instead that would be funded through new tap fees, which would be paid only by new development. The town had not made a formal request to join the project, he said.

ARPA subrecipient agreement explained


Dykstra asked the board to approve a subrecipient agreement required for the project to receive ARPA funds through El Paso County. The agreement states the funds must be used for work related to water and wastewater infrastructure that meets federal eligibility requirements, and the county will monitor the performance of the subrecipient against activities, goals, and performance standards that are defined for the project. The agreement documents that EPCRLWA has requested funds for:

- Design engineering fees
 - Environmental assessments
 - Easements and property repairs
 - Legal expenses
 - Indirect costs
- The agreement also requires EPCRLWA to make all its accounting documents available to the county.
- The board voted unanimously to approve the agreement.
- Water quality tests proceed**
- Richard Hood of JVA Inc., the company EPCRLWA has hired to assess water



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