

**Donala Water and Sanitation District, May 16**

**Audit report positive**

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans  
In May, the Donala Water and Sanitation District (DWSD) board heard an audit report from Tom Sistare of Hoelting and Co. Inc. on the district's 2023 finances. The board heard comments from resident Tammy Ball and operational reports from district staff and from consultants. The meeting ended with an executive session, after which no actions were taken.

**Good news on 2023 finances**

Sistare told the board he had good news concerning the district's 2023 audit. The district staff was well-prepared for process walkthroughs he performed in early March and the audit went smoothly, he said. He issued an "unmodified, or clean, opinion" in the audit report, as he has in the past.

The audit report included these highlights:

- DWSD's total assets exceeded its total liabilities at the close of the 2023 financial year by almost \$47 million.
  - The district's total net position increased in 2023 by \$2.5 million.
  - Capital assets net of depreciation increased by \$19,895 from the prior year.
  - DWSD's total outstanding long-term debt decreased by \$396,897 due to the payment of loans.
- Sistare noted DWSD's operational expenses were up 10.5 %. They declined by 8.5% in 2022.

**Resident asks for help with repair schedule**

Tammy Baugh, representing the Donala Club Villas Townhomes Association, told the board the asso-

ciation had issues with broken water lines and sewer backups and needed to make repairs to roads. She asked the board to advise her about repairs to water and sewer lines DWSD might have planned so that road repairs would not have to be redone. The roads could be damaged by the line repair work.

District Manager Jeff Hodge said repairs to the association's lines had been delayed because the funds were redirected to the repair of eight of the district's 12 wells. He said some of the failures Ball mentioned were service lines, for which the residents, not the district, are responsible.

Board President Wayne Vanderschuere told Baugh he would make sure the association got as much lead time as possible when the district scheduled repairs to its lines.

Water Operator Ronny Wright told Baugh he believed the association's service line problems were due to the use of dissimilar metals that degraded over time.

**Manager's report**

During his manager's report, Hodge told the board he was expecting a memo from DWSD Attorney Linda Glesne outlining any compliance issues that arose from the last legislative session.

Hodge said the release of 400 acre-feet of water owned by DWSD from the Pueblo Reservoir, which was anticipated last month, had not happened. Consultant Brett Gracely of LRE Water explained this further in his report below.

In his comments on the Loop water reuse project, on whose board Hodge serves, he said the City

of Fountain is considering becoming a participating district.

**Operational reports**

- Wright and Chief Waste Plant Operator Aaron Tolman reported normal operations for water and wastewater.
- Consultant Roger Sams, of GMS Engineering Inc., said spot blasting was underway in the first of the water tanks the district is rehabbing. He predicted the tank would be back in operation by the end of summer when demand for water is at its highest.
- Gracely told the board Pueblo Reservoir had reversed its decision that it was necessary to release water for safety reasons. He said snowpack was still high and snow is continuing to fall at higher altitudes.

**Executive session**

The meeting ended with an executive session to deliver Hodge's annual performance review.

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The next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 20 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](http://www.donalawater.org) to receive up-to-date meeting information. The district office is located at 15850 Holbein Drive, Colorado Springs.

James Howald can be reached at [jameshowald@ocn.me](mailto:jameshowald@ocn.me).

Jackie Burhans can be reached at [jackieburhans@ocn.me](mailto:jackieburhans@ocn.me).

**El Paso County Regional Loop Water Authority, May 16**

**Board refines relationship with CSU**

By James Howald

On May 16, the El Paso County Regional Loop Water Authority (EPCRLWA, or the Loop) board continued its discussion of how it will coordinate its work with Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU). John Kuosman, a water practice leader with Merrick and Co., who also serves as the Loop's project planning and workflow manager, updated the board concerning reports on where to locate pipelines for the project, a study of the required water treatment, and the Member Agency Commitment Agreement (MACA), which specifies the benefits and responsibilities of participating districts.

Kuosman summarized a discussion held with the Town of Fountain concerning its possible participation in the Loop. The board also held an executive session after which no action was taken.

**CSU will assist, not lead**

Over several months, the Loop board has debated whether it should work with CSU to achieve its goal of water reuse or design a project that can "go it alone." This discussion has considered, for example, whether the Loop could use CSU's Edward Bailey Water Treatment Plant (EBWTP) to treat its water or whether the Loop should construct its own treatment facility. These decisions affect the total cost of the project and how the project will be financed.

Kuosman told the board he had met with 10 people from CSU the previous week to coordinate the efforts of the two districts. CSU brought people from the water quality, treatment operations, transmission, regulatory, and engineering side of the district. His recent discussions with CSU led him to believe CSU wants the Loop to create momentum for the concept of water reuse, wants the Loop to build its project, and will do more to help later, but it will not supply momentum itself. CSU "is a supporter not a driver," he said.

Kuosman said CSU's timetable for water reuse was about five years behind the Loop's schedule. CSU was open to the Loop's use of the EBWTF but can only commit to using blending as a water quality strategy for 5 million gallons per day. CSU wants additional analysis of the use of blending, Kuosman said.

CSU requested a more formal request from the Loop board, specifying how the systems will connect, the amount of flow and how water quality issues will be handled, Kuosman said. Conceptual discussions

about the rates CSU would charge the Loop for the use of its infrastructure had also taken place, according to Kuosman. Further discussion of the role of CSU would be included in the executive session, he said.

**Reports ready to review**

Kuosman said he had sent two reports to Spencer Fance LLC, the Loop's legal firm, for review. They concern the placement of pipelines required to convey the Loop's water from Fountain Creek to customers in participating districts. One pipeline report addresses the southern portion of the project and the other the northern portion. He received four responses to a Request for Proposal for companies to manage easement and right of way acquisition for the pipelines.

Kuosman said the MACA, which details the roles, responsibilities, benefits, and commitments of participating agencies, was being reviewed by Spencer Fance LLC.

Kuosman explained that the documents were covered by attorney-client privilege and would be discussed during the executive session following the May meeting. He asked the board to schedule an additional meeting on May 30 at 9 a.m. The board voted to hold the meeting at the Cherokee Metropolitan District office at 6250 Palmer Park Blvd.

Kuosman described a meeting he and Director Jeff Hodge held with the City of Fountain as "very positive," and said the city was not ready to commit but wanted to study participation in the Loop further. He explained the city has 200 acre-feet of water they could handle via the Loop. "They are willing to continue the conversation," Kuosman said

**Executive session**

The meeting ended with an executive session to receive legal advice from the Loop's attorney and to hear further details from Kuosman. No votes were taken after the executive session.

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The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 20 at 9 a.m. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. at the Monument Town Hall at 645 Beacon Lite Road. Workshop meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. at the Cherokee Metropolitan District offices at 6250 Palmer Park Blvd., Colorado Springs. Please see [loopwater.org](http://loopwater.org) or call 719-488-3603 to verify meeting times and locations.

James Howald can be reached at [jameshowald@ocn.me](mailto:jameshowald@ocn.me).

**Triview Metropolitan District, May 23**

**Water and wastewater rates and fees increase approved; billing discrepancy solves wastewater increase**

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Triview Metropolitan District (TMD) meeting on May 23, the board held a public hearing on the proposed water and wastewater rate fees increases and discussed at length the district's need to implement the increases before approving the rates effective June 1. The board heard about a discrepancy in the American Conservation & Billing Solutions (Am-CoBi) process and received multiple updates on water delivery and wastewater solutions. The board held an executive session to discuss water and land acquisitions, and development incentives.

Vice Chair Anthony Sexton was excused.

**Rate and fees increase discussion**

President Mark Melville opened the public hearing on Resolution 2024-04, a resolution of the TMD Board of Directors regarding the establishment of rates and fees for the provision of water and wastewater services along with road and bridge fees for single family,

multi-family, and commercial construction within the district, effective June 1.

District Manager James McGrady said the greatest expense for the district this year will be the operation of the Northern Delivery System (NDS) at \$8.32 per 1,000 gallons for Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) to convey, treat, and deliver the district's water to customers. If the district does not make any rate or fee changes, in mid-July when water will hopefully be delivered via the NDS, the district will find itself upside-down when the fixed costs are due, he said. Raising rates is necessary to at least cover the additional cost of delivery; the district cannot charge less than the cost for delivery of water, he said.

McGrady said that almost everyone in the district uses less water during the winter months and typically most residential customers remain in the Tier 1 category during that time and transition to Tier 2 during the summer months. He estimated about a

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