

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Sept. 13

Wildfire water protection defenses pursued

By Candice Hitt

At the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District board meeting Sept. 13, District Manager Jessie Shaffer stated the district has been working to identify wildfire defensible zones to target in Woodmoor that would protect the

water supply in the event of a wildfire. Board member Tommy Schwab volunteered to assist in working with other local agencies such as the Woodmoor Improvement Association to identify these critical areas.

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office has asked district if it would like to participate in the county's pre-mitigation plan. The board decided the district would participate in workgroup sessions and later make a final decision on adopting the plan.

Operations and construction update

Assistant Manager Randy Gillette said Well 17 is having check valve problems. The well is operating, but needs to be pulled again to recheck the valves. The well is under warranty. Gillette said the district stopped the use of lake water in the middle of August. He has been working on a testing protocol for taste and odor concerns that were reported by customers. The exchange has been shut off from Monument Creek due to low flows to see if this would make a difference in the taste and odor issue.

Shaffer said the first draft of the district's Long Range

Plan was received from engineering consultant firm Tetra Tech and changes will be submitted by the staff. Then a second draft will be submitted by Tetra Tech to the board with a tentative final document expected at the October board meeting.

Shaffer reported that the new Kum-N-Go gas station on the southwest corner of Highway 105 and Knollwood Drive has broken ground and purchased a two-inch commercial tap from the district.

JV Ranch update

Shaffer reported the Conoco-Phillips oil/gas well site located on the district's JV Ranch is scheduled for cleanup. Conoco-Phillips is the operator of the well site and will pay for the cleanup.

The next regular board meeting will be held at 1 p.m. Oct. 11 at the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District Office, 1845 Woodmoor Dr., Monument. For information: 488-2525 or www.woodmoorwater.com.

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Monument Sanitation District, Sept. 20

2013 fee increase options considered

By Jim Kendrick

On Sept. 20, the Monument Sanitation District board reviewed an updated draft 2013 budget that included three different monthly fees as options.

The "no increase" option of keeping the monthly fee at \$25 in 2013 would cause the end-of-year balance to drop from \$285,970 for 2012 to \$143,353 in 2013 and cause an operating deficit of \$40,372. A fee increase of \$3 per month would eliminate an operating deficit but result in the ending balance for 2013 dropping to \$187,522. A fee increase of \$5 per month would result in the ending balance for 2013 dropping to \$217,030. An ending balance of \$300,000 is the minimum necessary to have enough cash reserves for an emergency contingency such as the repairs and containment needed to prevent or minimize hazardous materials impacts from pollutants during a

wastewater spill event. The district is debt free and does not collect property tax.

The district has not had a fund balance of \$300,000 for the past three years due to the high cost of expanding the Wakonda Hills collection system. Much higher cost increases are expected for the district in the following years as other non-nutrient restrictions for metals and organic compounds are imposed.

The absence of Director Kristi Schutz from the meeting was excused.

At the start of the meeting, District Manager Mike Wicklund advised the board that neither of the district's attorneys, Larry Gaddis or Jim Kin, would be able to attend the meeting and provide legal advice regarding negotiations during the scheduled executive session.

Later, the board went into executive session at 7:37 p.m. to discuss negotiating positions and came out of executive session at 9:02 p.m. Chairman Ed Delaney stated that the board had given Wicklund direction on which negotiation issues require information from Gaddis and Kin.

Treasurer's report

Wicklund noted that the district had received \$13,800 for two tap fees after the last board meeting on Aug. 16. The total amount of tap fees received to date in 2012 was \$42,800, well above the budgeted amount of \$10,000.

Monument's share of the final payments for sludge removal during August at the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility was about \$16,000. The total cost to Monument for sludge removal was about \$33,000.

The board unanimously accepted the treasurer's report.

Tri-Lakes Joint Use Committee update

The district will face an 18 percent increase in operating costs at its wastewater at the Tri-Lakes facility in 2013, plus new regulatory costs for monitoring nutrients, metals, arsenic, and numerous organic compounds in Monument Creek. These new costs result from the tighter requirements in the state Health Department's new Control Regulation 85 approved by the Water Quality Control Commission in June regarding total phosphorus and total nitrogen removal.

Wicklund advised the board that facility Operator Bill Burks recommended at the Sept. 11 meeting that the facility's Joint Use Committee postpone the planned construction and three months of operation of a total phosphorus removal pilot plant in 2013. This had already been postponed from 2012 to 2013 because the estimated cost for chemicals had jumped to \$25,000 for the pilot plant in one of the facility's two currently operational aeration basins.

Wicklund noted that Burks and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District Manager Jessie Shaffer had recommended that the JUC use the \$50,000 budgeted for the pilot plant instead for a facility master plan study by engineering consultant firm Tetra Tech for



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