



Above: Donala candidates (from left) Bob Denny, Tim Wheeler, William George, Kenneth Judd, Gene Thornton, and Gar Graham. Photo by John Heiser. Their candidate statements will be carried in the May 5 issue of OCN.

apply to the district for a mail-in absentee ballot. The district must receive requests to mail absentee ballots by May 1. Absentee ballots can be picked up at the district office until 3 p.m. May 4. Even those who have been put on permanent mail-in ballot status by El Paso County must submit a request to the district to receive an absentee ballot.

For more information, contact Jackie Sipes, Donala's office manager and designated election official, at 488-3603. Email messages may be sent at www.donalawater.org/contact-us.html.

Wastewater treatment plant issues

The Donala district operates the Upper Monument Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility that is jointly owned by the Donala district and the Triview and Forest Lakes metropolitan districts.

Dana Duthie, Donala district general manager, distributed copies of the Perspective on Our Community "Nutrients, wastewater, and why you should care" that ran in the March 3, 2012, issue of OCN.

Duthie noted that the state has revised the wastewater requirements so that for plants that have a capacity of less than 2 million gallons per day (mgd), compliance with the new nutrient standards will be delayed 10 years. The Upper Monument currently has a capacity of about 1.75 mgd and currently is operating at about 40 percent capacity.

Duthie said that total inorganic nitrogen (TIN) in the effluent from the plant is currently running about 6 mg/liter but at full plant capacity will likely be near 10 mg/liter. Compliance with the proposed limit of 7 mg/liter would require a substantial plant expansion and potentially more sophisticated treatment. He noted that there are significant constraints on further plant expansion due to protected mouse habitat near the plant.

He added that limitations on the expansion of the plant and required compliance with the anticipated nutrient standards will constrain growth in the Triview district.

There have been numerous problems with the blowers

at the wastewater plant. Duthie reported that three blowers are currently operational although two have minor oil leaks. The newest blower has been dismantled for shipment to repair its oil leaks. Insurance is reimbursing \$31,000 for three of the blower failures.

Other matters

- Duthie noted that if a conservation easement is placed on the Willow Springs Ranch, it would eliminate the most attractive water reclamation options identified by the Donala Extended Water Supply Study (DEWSS).
- During the three months from Dec. 1 through Feb. 29, the district's \$3.19 million in investments managed by Davidson Fixed Income Management showed a yield of 0.32 percent, achieving a goal of beating the Colotrust Plus fund, which yielded 0.04 percent during the same period. The weighted average maturity of the district's investments is 7.6 months. Davidson also separately manages \$5.6 million in proceeds from the bond sale to be used to fund the infrastructure improvements needed to handle renewable water and \$596,431 in a debt service reserve fund associ-

- ated with the bond sale.
- Duthie reported that toward

the end of March, the district will solicit bids for the first

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