



**Above (L to R):** On May 16, Assistant District Manager Kip Petersen presented a cake bearing the words "Fighter Pilot to Water General Manager" to commemorate General Manager Dana Duthie's June 14 retirement from his position with the Donala Water and Sanitation District. Duthie, a retired Air Force F-16 fighter pilot, will retire with exactly 20 years of service as general manager. *Photo by Jim Kendrick.*

Reservoir upstream of the Pueblo Reservoir, using Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) storage to minimize evaporation losses, has caused some problems with the bureau's federal environmental analysis.

Duthie said the bureau has determined that CSU no longer has the right kind of storage contract with Pueblo Reservoir to be able to transport Donala's stored water in the reservoir to Donala

for distribution to its customers during periods of high demand. Duthie told the board that this problem was still not resolved. He also noted that current flows from Willow Creek Ranch are so high that they may exceed the Donala's allocation for the month of May. He said that Donala should be able to use 60 acre-feet of water in May.

Duthie used a map to show how Willow Creek Ranch water

is moved to Donala from Twin Lakes Reservoir through the Otero pump station to Rampart Reservoir, then to CSU for transport north to Donala. The alternate route for Willow Creek Ranch water goes to Donala's storage rights in Pueblo Reservoir, per the new May 1 contract. This water then goes through a paper transfer to CSU storage rights in Pueblo Reservoir, so that it can be pumped northward to CSU through the Fountain Valley pipeline. CSU then pumps the water farther north to Donala for distribution.

The bureau says that CSU's Pueblo Reservoir account does not actually list Willow Creek Ranch in its primary permanent storage account in its environmental impact study. In 2012, CSU listed Willow Creek Ranch in a separate temporary account that allowed transport of Donala's water by CSU from Pueblo Reservoir to Donala. Now, however, the bureau has stated that this temporary CSU account is not effective for 2013 and it cannot move Donala's water through Pueblo Reservoir to Donala.

CSU disagrees with the bureau's position, as does Donala. The bureau says the required solution is to complete new environmental impact statement that lists Willow Creek as a source within a long-term Donala bureau storage contract.

Duthie said the only other process that would work is to make a paper exchange transfer of Donala's water in Pueblo Reservoir (after a 10 percent evaporation loss) back to Twin Lakes for a direct transfer to CSU via Rampart Reservoir. The water transferred using this alternate method can then be credited as an offset to some of the CSU water used by Donala. Donala would pay cash for the rest of the water CSU provides during peak irrigation demands with a surcharge of 50 percent. However, accounting of actual flows, amount stored, and amount lost to evaporation is not as accurate using this method.

Donala's water attorney, Rick Fendel, also briefed the board on the complex water law issues listed in his May 15 memo regarding the status of the one-year contract extension. There was a lengthy technical discussion of board member questions about how to resolve this issue promptly while flows from Willow Creek are high enough to give Donala priority for making use of this water. No decisions could be made by the board because of these ambiguous circumstances.

#### Financial reports

Petersen asked the board to sign new bank signature cards and adopt a formal resolution for approving the updated signature authority listing. The board unanimously approved the resolution and unanimously accepted the financial statements of revenues and expenditures, including a short summary of interest earned in Donala's three funds invested in Davidson Fixed Income Management.

Petersen reported that he had received the late payment for Triview Metropolitan District's

quarterly payment for first-quarter wastewater treatment by Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. The payment was made on May 15. The Triview board refused to authorize payment in April when it was due, even though there was more money in Triview's budget line item than was required to pay Donala on time on April 17.

Petersen noted that the Triview board had sent an April 22 notice to its water customers stating that Triview has the least expensive water rates in northern El Paso County. He also noted that Triview owes Donala a balance of \$785,486 under the management agreement.

Petersen updated the board on the status of prehearing activities in preparation for the tri-annual Arkansas River Basin hearing for Regulation 32 before the Water Quality Control Commission in Alamosa on June 10. The Upper Monument Creek facility is supporting the initiative to use an alternate method of determining the correct copper water quality for Monument Creek north of Northgate Boulevard. For more information on hearing issues, see the May 16 Monument Sanitation District article on page 16 and the May 21 Joint Use Committee article on page 18.

The board went into executive session at 3 p.m. to discuss property disposition and personnel issues.

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The next regular meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on June 20 in the district conference room at 15850 Holbein Drive. Information: 488-3603 or [www.donalawater.org/news-events/board-meeting-agenda.html](http://www.donalawater.org/news-events/board-meeting-agenda.html)

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#### Monument Sanitation District, May 16

## Board approves financing policy for customer pipe repairs

*By Jim Kendrick*

On May 16, the Monument Sanitation District board approved a policy to help some district constituents finance repairs of customer-owned sanitary sewer service pipes suffering from tree root infiltration that causes backups. The policy is designed to minimize the illegal use of copper sulfate to kill tree roots in service lines. Use of copper sulfate can lead to very large state and EPA fines for the discharge of excessive amounts of copper into Monument Creek by the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The absence of Director Kristi Schutz was unanimously excused. The absences of Board President Ed DeLaney on March 21 and April 18 were also unanimously excused.

#### New district financing policy approved

District Manager Mike Wicklund stated that tree roots have grown into several leaking customer-owned service lines. These roots have then extended down toward the larger water supply available in the district's collection line. Some of the affected customers have not had the money to excavate their service lines to repair the leak problem. When a domestic sewer line starts to back up into a home, the cost to have the tree roots cut out of the service line to restore a free flow from sinks and toilets is typically about \$300. Just cutting the roots does not repair the leak in the service pipe. During the current drought, these tree roots grow back into the service line and

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