

trict returned check fee, from \$25 to \$35.
The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m.
on June 20 in the district conference room
at 130 Second St. Meetings are normally

held on the third Thursday of the month.
Information: 481-4886.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at

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Tri-Lakes Facility Joint Use Committee, May 21

Draft 2012 audit approved

By Jim Kendrick

On May 21, auditor John Cutler advised the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee (JUC) that his 2012 audit would contain an unqualified, or "clean," opinion. He noted that the amount of mandatory facility depreciation for the year was about \$188,000. However, the facility's cash balance actually increased by about \$8,000. The draft audit was unanimously approved as presented.

Cutler said he would provide electronic copies of the preliminary final draft audit to the three owner districts for their individual 2012 district audits that afternoon. He will provide printed copies of the final audit for formal approval and signatures at the June 11 JUC meeting.

The Tri-Lakes facility operates as a separate public utility and is jointly owned, in equal one-third shares, by Monument Sanitation District, Palmer

Lake Sanitation District, and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District. The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts' boards: President Jim Whitelaw, Woodmoor, Vice President Dale Smith, Palmer Lake, and Secretary/Treasurer Chuck Robinove, Monument.

At this meeting, Palmer Lake Director Joe Stallsmith filled in for Smith's excused absence. Monument Director Don Smith filled in for Robinove, who arrived after the start of the meeting due to an overlapping appointment. Several other district board members and district managers from each of the three owner districts also attended the meeting.

Update on Monument Creek copper limits

During the financial report, Tri-Lakes Fa-

cility Manager Bill Burks noted payments for two consultant work invoices for work done to support a facility request to the state to amend the facility's two copper discharge permit limits: the monthly maximum individual copper test result and the 30-day average test result. The board unanimously accepted the financial report. The JUC approved a payment of about \$8,000 for legal work performed by the facility's environmental attorney, Tad Foster.

Also approved was a payment of about \$3,000 for analysis of in-stream aquatic life data in a study of fish gill absorption of copper using the biotic ligand model. This work was performed by GEI Consulting Inc. of Denver.

The current three-year temporary modification to the Tri-Lakes facility discharge permit increases the copper limit for the 30-day average sample reading to 24.8 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/l}$) and the peak monthly copper sample reading to 36.4 $\mu\text{g/l}$. This temporary modification expires at the end of 2014. The Tri-Lakes copper limits will change to a monthly average of 9.8 $\mu\text{g/l}$ and a monthly peak of 15 $\mu\text{g/l}$ on Jan. 1, 2015, for the last two years of the five-year permit.

The plant's activated sludge treatment process was never intended to nor expected to remove copper. No copper limitations existed or were planned when the plant was constructed in 1998. No affordable treatment option is available that

would meet these pending 2015 copper permit limits.

GEI formally recommended in the facility's March 19 proponent's prehearing statement that the Water Quality Control Commission establish site-specific dissolved copper standards of 17.4 $\mu\text{g/l}$ on average and a peak of 28.4 $\mu\text{g/l}$ on the sub-segment of Monument Creek from immediately above the discharge of the Tri-Lakes facility down to the North Gate Boulevard Bridge (Exit 156 on I-25.) This recommendation is based on nearly a decade of studies that led to GEI's creation of a biotic ligand model as well as GEI's fixed monitoring benchmark statistical analysis, in accordance with EPA's new 2012 guidance document, of copper concentrations in fish gills.

These new results were documented in GEI's update of its biotic ligand model study. If approved, this change would take effect before the Tri-Lakes discharge permit limits for copper revert to an average of 9.8 $\mu\text{g/l}$ and a peak of 15 $\mu\text{g/l}$ on Jan. 1, 2015. The Water Quality Control Division staff now appears ready to recommend adoption of the GEI recommendations to the commission on June 10.

At the commission hearing on June 10, Foster will present the Tri-Lakes facility's formal request that the commission adopt new site-specific permit limits of 16 $\mu\text{g/l}$ (average) and 25 $\mu\text{g/l}$ (peak), the best performance that the plant can be reasonably expected to achieve now, for the rest of the permit period. Both limits are lower than the site-specific stream standards GEI has recommended. In-stream concentrations below the mixing zone will be much less than either the new Monument Creek segment standards or new Tri-Lakes effluent standards noted

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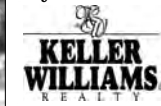
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