

Monument Board of Trustees, May 20

Town to contribute to regional water study

By Jim Kendrick

On May 20, Sean Chambers, district manager of Cherokee Metropolitan District and president of the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority (PPRWA), and Will Forsgren, a professional engineer for Forsgren Associates Inc., gave a presentation to the Monument Board of Trustees on a proposed \$180,000 regional water supply feasibility study that Forsgren will perform for water suppliers in central and northern El Paso County.

Chambers, Koger, and Monument water consultant Gary Barber recommended that the Town of Monument contribute to the cooperative study, which will “identify the critical water supply objectives of each of the participants, identify and analyze possible joint water supply projects to meet those objectives, and plan for the necessary agreements and actions to develop the more promising projects.” The board approved a \$5,000 contribution to the study.

Trustees Jeff Bornstein, Rafael Dominguez, and Stan Gingrich were absent from the meeting.

Water shortfall facts presented to board

Forsgren’s regional water infrastructure study will be a follow-up to the Water Infrastructure Planning Study (WIPS) completed for PPRWA in 2008. Water providers that are members of PPRWA are heavily dependent on nonrenewable Denver Basin aquifer groundwater to meet their current water demands. These local government entities are proactively seeking to secure and deliver renewable water supplies for their customers and constituencies. The projected water shortfall through 2050 is expected to be about 22,000 acre-feet. A U.S. acre-foot is 325,853 gallons.

The Forsgren proposal states that the common need for sustainable water supplies and the geographic proximity of these providers create opportunities for developing regional water supply and delivery projects. By sharing resources, objectives, and focus in joint regional projects, the participating water providers can better address growing water demands in the years ahead.

The study tasks proposed were:

- Hold an initial scoping meeting to refine the study’s objectives.
- Perform a literature review on 17 documents regarding local renewable water issues.
- Meet with each study participant’s managers and operators to gather system information and discuss plans for future changes.
- Develop a preliminary summary of projected water supply needs for all participating providers.
- Coordinate with the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), the Arkansas Basin Roundtable, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.
- Develop alternative preliminary proposals for three main corridors—Pueblo Reservoir to Fountain, Fountain to Black Forest, and Black Forest to the Palmer Divide area—as well as reuse, exchange and trade opportunities, and other projects such as Flaming Gorge.
- Present the preliminary assessment at a project work session to clarify objectives, preferences, goals, and narrow down the number of alternatives to be analyzed.

- Finalize the assessment, rank the alternatives, and provide recommendations to each of the participants.

The study will cost about \$180,000. In-kind contributions from participating members will be about \$20,000. PPRWA will seek grants of about \$30,000 each from the Arkansas Basin Roundtable grant account and Colorado Water Conservation Board statewide account. The study will take about 11 months to complete. Forsgren plans to start the study in November.

Barber stated to the board that as the chair of Arkansas River Basin Roundtable, he has been a “cheerleader” for this study. He said this is the first study that Colorado Springs Utilities has contributed data to.

There was a lengthy question-and-answer discussion of numerous technical issues on interconnections and methods of water delivery between the trustees and Chambers. There was also a discussion of how each participant determines their specific cash contribution. Chambers said it was up to each entity to determine the worth of the study and make a contribution accordingly.

The town’s water engineer, Bruce Lytle of Lytle Water Associates LLC, sent a written report to the town that was included in board member packets. Some of the comments in Lytle’s May 16 report were:

- I don’t see any new ideas here, only rehashing work and proposed supplies that has already been done to some extent in the El Paso County Water Authority Master Plan and the PPRWA WIPS study.
- I think Monument might be better served by a more focused study that could provide more tangible results such as reuse.
- It seems like the renewable sources of water they are going to be evaluating, e.g. SDS, Super Ditch, exchanges from the Arkansas, etc., have already been evaluated and, at this time, seem to be too expensive, the water quality is extremely poor, and/or legally you can’t do what they propose efficiently.
- The scope of the reuse task is very regional in nature and probably not very practical.
- Selling reusable return flows to farmers won’t come close to obtaining the value of your reusable water.
- Exchanging reusable return flows into Pueblo Reservoir will be available only on rare occasions and would not be reliable.
- The WIPS study indicated that exchanges are problematic, even when limited to the area north of the Air Force Academy, much less from Fountain Creek downstream of Colorado Springs.
- My initial recommendation relative to this study is that Monument should ask Forsgren to better explain what results would be provided from this study that are applicable to Monument, as it appears that a lot of the study has no real benefit to Monument.
- This would give you a better basis to assess how much you should contribute.
- My other recommendation is for you to meet with Woodmoor to see if a more focused, local study that is more likely to actually produce tangible results that can be acted upon isn’t a better use of your funds.
- If this study did produce some tangible results, I don’t think that Monument would be precluded from participating at a later date, as levels of participation are always in flux and it is our experience there is typically room for participants to join at a later date.

Contribution to Forsgren study approved

Barber again endorsed the efficacy of the Forsgren regional water supply study and recommended that the town donate \$5,000 in 2013 and another \$5,000 in 2014. There was board consensus to include another \$5,000 contribution in the 2014 budget.

The recommended donation of \$5,000 for this year was approved by a vote of 3-0-1. Mayor Travis Easton recused himself from both the discussion described above and the vote due to being a participating engineering consultant in the map drawing portion of the project.

Charlie Daniels concert approved

The board unanimously approved a special event liquor license and special events permit for the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts to hold a Charlie Daniels concert on Aug. 31 at the vacant former Lake of the Rockies campground at 99 Mitchell Ave. The initial application estimated attendance would be 2,500 ticketed participants. Police Chief Jacob Shirk asked that the event be capped at 5,000

participants to ensure public safety and that the promoters coordinate with the Police Department on safety and traffic control issues.

Fourth of July Bull Bash approved

The board unanimously approved a special event permit for the Monument Bull Bash, a bull riding event to be held on the vacant Goldwest II LLC lot on Beacon Lite Road just south of the Pankratz building and east of Grace Best School to be put on by Ty and Nancy Rinaldo of TNT Events LLC. The bull riding competition will be held between 2 and 6 p.m. July 4.

Downtown directional signage project approved

The board unanimously approved a resolution approving a \$24,995 town contract with Streetscapes Inc. for design, fabrication, and installation of the Downtown Wayfinding Signage program. The first phase of signs will be completed by July 4. If additional funds are available after the mid-year town budget statement is completed, other new signage may be funded.

Public comments

Mark Kirkland of the Fourth of July Fireworks Committee asked the board if the committee’s flyer could be mailed as an insert in Town of Monument water bills. The board unanimously approved his request. Kirkland also asked the board for a monetary donation to the committee.

Town Treasurer and interim Town Manager Pamela Smith told Kirkland she would research the amount budgeted for this event and the portion that would be retained to pay overtime to Monument Police Department staff working on July 4 to support the committee’s fireworks display. Shirk said this cost is usually about \$2,000. Smith said she would email that information to Kirkland.

Financial reports

The board approved a payment of \$119,896 to Triview Metropolitan District for March sales tax (\$109,391), April motor vehicle tax (\$10,326), and April Regional Building Department sales tax (\$179).

Sales tax revenue through March was \$54,000 or 8.9 percent higher than the amount budgeted. The gross revenue to the town after the Triview payment noted above was \$63,000 or 8.9 percent more than the amount budgeted.

Staff reports

Director of Development Services Tom Kassawara reported that the owners of Kum and Go had agreed to having additional town signs installed on their property to direct traffic exit onto Cipriani Loop rather than making a prohibited left turn directly into the northbound lane of Knollwood Drive. The town’s marketing firm has hired an intern recommended to them by the town staff to assist in promoting the town.

Public Works Director Tom Tharnish reported that the town cleanup event held on May 16-19 was a great success and four large dumpsters were filled with refuse by volunteers. Public Works has received all its new asphalt equipment and is “fine tuning and training at this time.” This new equipment will be put into active service on town streets in the next few weeks. The staff installed three new maple trees during the annual Arbor Day planting ceremony at Dirty Woman Park on the east side of the pavilion.

Chief Shirk reported that one of the two Police Department range masters is attending a Patrol Rifle Instructor course that will certify him to teach other officers the proper use of the department’s AR-15 rifles.

The department provided active shooter training to Woodmoor library personnel. About 40 citizens and faith-based leaders attended a department safety and security presentation at Town Hall. Chief Shirk also said he had helped conduct a similar five-hour training session for faith-based leaders in Arvada on May 18.

Smith reported that all the field work by the town’s auditing firm had been completed. Wells Fargo Bank has given final approval to the capital lease agreement.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. June 3 at Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. Meetings are normally held on the first and third Monday of the month. Information: 884-8017.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

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