

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, July 25

Improving the taste, smell of summer lake water

By Nancy Wilkins

During the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board meeting July 25, the board voted on office positions, discussed how to improve the taste and odor of Lake Woodmoor water, reviewed financial and operations reports, and passed a resolution capping per hour research and retrieval fees.

The board assigned the following positions: President Barrie Town, Treasurer Tommy Schwab, and Secretary Beth Courrau. Director Rich Strom is WWSD's new representative to the Joint Use Committee (JUC). Director Jim Taylor is alternate representative to the JUC and WWSD's new representative on the Chilcott Ditch Board of Directors. Prior to the nominations, Town complimented District Manager Jessie Shaffer on how valuable he is to the organization.

Algae change water taste and smell

District Manager Shaffer presented information on how algae change the flavor and odor of lake water. As the algae plant cells die, usually in the late summer months, the decaying cells eventually cause the water to have an odor and taste that some residents find unappealing. The particular form of algae in Lake Woodmoor is perfectly safe, said Shaffer, but the district office received about 30 calls last year to report an unfavorable taste or water smell. Thirty calls is about 1 percent of district customers.

Currently the district is aerating the lake to dispel algae growth. Adding copper or phosphates into the lake may also reduce algae growth. However, Town expressed his opposition to adding these chemicals into the lake.

One solution is to switch back to ground aquifers during July and August, the peak time algae are usually decomposing in the water. But according to Shaffer, July and August is usually the peak demand for water use, and water from the lake is less expensive to process for district customers. Using lake water also reduces the demand for water from underground sources.

According to Senior Engineer Steven Tamburini from Tetra Tech, the odor and taste caused from the algae can be removed with a combination of filters and ultraviolet

light, but the estimated cost of purchasing and installing the new equipment would be several hundred thousand dollars. However, if surface water from Chilcott Ditch is delivered to Woodmoor residents, the filtering process to improve taste and odor may eventually be needed.

Director Strom noted the board's responsibility to keep costs down. Director Courrau added that the district has yet to use the existing aeration process for one year to determine its effectiveness in improving the taste of summer lake water.

WWSD will continue to monitor the quality of water to customers. No motions were introduced concerning this topic. The board also discussed how customers could use water purifiers in their homes.

Unaccounted water down to 3 percent

Operations Superintendent Lance Nielson reported 3 percent unaccounted water from May 31 to June 29, representing 1.2 million gallons of water. Total production of water produced for potable use was up to 45.8 million gallons, and total potable water billed was up to 41.3 million gallons. Although 3 percent of produced water being unaccounted is significantly lower than industry standards, Shaffer said three meters in several zones would be installed within days to monitor water flow and help isolate leaks.

Joint Use Committee

Rich Strom, representing WWSD at the JUC, reported that the JUC is carefully monitoring how the state will determine the acceptable level of phosphorous and other heavy metals in water processed by treatment facilities. The state's determination of acceptable amounts could impact operating costs. Strom will not be able to attend the next two JUC meetings, and Director Jim Taylor volunteered to fill the position in Strom's absence.

Financial report

As of June 30, the financial report showed a total operat-

ing income of \$623,461. Water use fees totaled \$212,717, the renewable water investment fee was \$161,559, water and sewer taps totaled \$125,192, and sewer use fees amounted to \$96,238. Expenses included a year-to-date bond interest expense of \$627,781 and a monthly utilities expense of \$37,247.

Documents charges defined

The board passed a resolution stating the ability for WWSD to charge up to \$30 per hour plus copying costs per page for requested for information to cover research and retrieval costs. Director Tommy Schwab asked how often such requests had been made, and the board concluded about two. Attorney Erin Smith said requests for information fall under the Colorado Open Records Act.

Resolution 14-09 was passed in response to Colorado House Bill 14-1193, which would require WWSD to post the district's new policy on the district's website.

Nancy Wilkins can be reached at nancywilkins@ocn.me.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. Aug. 14 at 1845 Woodmoor Dr., Monument. The board normally meets on the second Thursday of each month. Information: 488-2525.



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