

for this total of \$3,265.

- \$149 to the Town of Monument for November, December 2014 use tax collection fees
- \$203 to the Town of Monument for January 2015 use tax collection fees
- Check No. 1448 to the Town of Monument for this total of \$352
- Check No. 1447 for \$4,500 to Classic Homes for a refund of road use fees submitted by Classic after Dec. 19, 2014 but held in escrow until after the BRRTA road improvement use fee was formally rescinded on Jan. 16

For more information on the Classic refund, see <http://ocn.me/v15n2.htm#brrta>

Olson reported the following total BRRTA sales tax revenue collections:

- 2011 - \$1.033 million
- 2012 - \$1,146 million
- 2013 - \$1.197 million
- 2014 - \$1.231 million

CDOT reimbursement solicitation discussed

Mayor Dominguez led a discussion of the most politically efficient method for BRRTA to seek further reimbursement from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for BRRTA financing of the expansion of the state's I-25 Baptist Road interchange (Exit 158) in 2007 due to a lack of available state Senate Bill 1 funding. There was consensus among the board members and staff that direct seeking of reimbursement was not appropriate for the Town of Monument, the county, or the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG.) To date there has been one CDOT reimbursement payment of \$3 million to

BRRTA in 2012 out of a total reimbursement commitment of about \$16 million for the actual construction cost of the interchange expansion.

Jennifer Irvine, engineering manager for the county's Public Services Department and chair of the PPACG Transportation Advisory Committee, confirmed that this reimbursement was a CDOT commitment, not a PPACG commitment. She added that CDOT could seek other state and federal financing to reimburse BRRTA and some local agency funding might be available as well. Seago said she would work with Irvine to get more current information on this CDOT commitment.

Irvine also noted that contractor mobilization for the widening of the west end of Baptist Road to Hay Creek Road, including construction of a traffic circle at the Old Denver Road intersection, would begin at the end of April. Construction for this project is estimated to last 15 months. Some detours will be required during the construction of the traffic circle.

There was a brief discussion about BRRTA's future after this West Baptist Road widening is completed. No other construction by BRRTA is planned at this time. BRRTA will remain in operation until all the privately held BRRTA sales tax revenue bonds issued for financing construction of the Baptist Road interchange are paid off. The BRRTA one-cent sales tax will last up a total of 20 years, through 2027.

See <http://ocn.me/v6n12.htm#brrta> and <http://ocn.me/v7n6.htm#brrta> for more information.

There were no new scheduling updates regarding the temporary county-approved modification of the Baptist Road median between Jackson Creek Parkway and I-25 Exit 158. The new building for Natural Food Grocers currently under construction will be served by the existing access on the north side of westbound Baptist Road.

Temporary removal of an existing portion of the median will allow for departure to the south by only one vehicle at a time from the new Natural Food Grocers site on the north side of westbound Baptist Road into the far left lane of eastbound Baptist Road.

When a second building is built in this shopping center near the Natural Food Grocers site, the Baptist Road median will be restored to its originally constructed condition, allowing only a left turn from the far left eastbound lane to the north into the existing access opening in the far right lane of westbound Baptist Road. At that time, customers of Natural Food Grocers and any other adjacent stores will be restricted to right-out-only access to the far right westbound lane of Baptist Road to drive toward I-25 Exit 158. Interior roads will have to be built by the shopping center landowner to connect all stores to the Blevins Buckle Trail intersection on Jackson Creek Parkway to the south of the O'Reilly auto parts store at the southeast corner of Monument Marketplace.

There can be no access to this undeveloped shopping center between Blevins Buckle Trail and Baptist Road from southbound Jackson Creek Parkway due to all the protected Preble's meadow jumping mouse habitat on both sides of Jackson Creek.

For more information see <http://ocn.me/v15n2.htm#mbot0105>

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on at 2:30 p.m. on May 8. The location of this meeting has not yet been determined. Meetings are normally held on the second Friday of the second month of the quarter. Information: 884-8017 or 520-5547.

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El Paso County Board of County Commissioners, April 14

Detention basin, Hodgen access approved

By Lisa Hatfield

The El Paso Board of County Commissioners approved two land use items pertaining to the Tri-Lakes area in April.

The commissioners approved a private detention basin/stormwater quality best-management practice maintenance agreement and easement agreement for the proposed site of Monument Hill Self Storage, south of Deer Creek Road and east of Monument Hill Road, which includes a detention pond. The county Development Services Department is finalizing the administrative approval process for site improvements associated with an approved site development plan to build a self-storage mini-warehouse facility on the 4.18-acre parcel, which is

zoned I-2 (limited industrial).

The commissioners also approved a request for approval of a plat note amendment and a planned unit development amendment to allow right-in-only access from Hodgen Road to a commercial lot in the PUD District for Lot 111, Cherry Creek Crossing Filing 1. The final plat is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of State Highway 83 and Hodgen Road. Access to the commercial lot was approved by the final plat from the westerly extension of Double Tree Court, a local residential cul-de-sac currently used to access three single-family residences.

Originally, no individual lot access to Hodgen Road was allowed at this point, but the owner of the commercial lot prepared engineering studies to show that a right-in-

only access to Hodgen Road could be designed safely. The county engineer approved the deviation request in November 2014, but an access permit could not be issued until the plat note and PUD note were revised.

The Board of County Commissioners meets Tuesdays and the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of each month. The meetings are 200 S. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs at 9 a.m. See <http://bcc.elpasoco.com/Pages/TuesdayCurrentAgenda.aspx> and <http://bcc.elpasoco.com/Pages/ThursdayCurrentAgenda.aspx> for upcoming agenda topics.

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April 2015 Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

Unsettled conditions were felt the first few days of April, with rain and snow in the region. Highs hit the upper 60s on the 1st, then cooled to the 50s on the 2nd and 40s on the 3rd as a cool front moved through during the afternoon of the 2nd. Low clouds, fog, and surries developed that evening and turned to light snow during the overnight hours of the 3rd. As is typical in April, temperatures warmed quickly that afternoon and melted most of the snow. Temperatures continued to warm over the next couple of days, reaching the upper 60s by the 5th.

The first full week of April started off mild and breezy. Gusty winds from the west/southwest helped boost temperatures into the upper 60s and low 70s from the 6th through the 8th. These temperatures were 10-15 degrees warmer than normal for early April. The mild and breezy conditions, along with the strong April sunshine, also helped to melt off any remaining patches of snow.

Then, during the late afternoon of the 8th, a cold front moved through. The main storm, however, was taking a more northerly path through northern Colorado and Wyoming. This left us on the southern edge of the storm, but close enough for some fun. That evening as colder, unstable air moved in, thunderstorms with rain, then snow, developed. Several rounds occurred from 9:30 p.m. through the late evening. More wet snow fell that morning as the system departed, bringing a quick reminder that April is on average our snowiest month of the year. Mild and dry conditions quickly returned for the rest of the week and through the weekend. Temperatures rebounded back to the

mid-60s on Saturday and Sunday with morning sunshine giving way to afternoon clouds.

We experienced about everything from a weather perspective during the week of the 13th. The week started off mild and dry, with highs reaching into the 60s from the 13th through the 15th. Winds were also gusty, with a few afternoon clouds building each day. Precipitation falling from these clouds evaporated before reaching the ground (called virga), as the low levels of the atmosphere were very dry. This helped enhance the gusty winds and blew some dust around, especially over the eastern plains of Colorado. During this time, a strong storm was moving through the Intermountain West. The first effects of this storm were felt late on the 15th, when the initial cool front moved through. Temperatures continued to cool that evening, and the atmosphere continued to moisten up.

Snow began to fall the next morning, with generally light accumulations. Temperatures were cold that day, with highs barely reaching the low 30s. However, the high sun angle allowed much of the snow to melt or at least not accumulate much during the day. Then, a strong push of moisture moved in that evening and continued through the next morning. This accumulated a good 6-12 inches of heavy, wet snow. The storm responsible for the cold and snow was cut off from the main flow and therefore stayed over the same generally region around the Four Corners for several days. This allowed cool and unsettled conditions to affect the area through the weekend as several more rounds of snow moved through. A few rumbles of thunder and ice pellets also occurred, showing just how

unstable the atmosphere was during this event. This is common in April as the sun gets much stronger and adds a lot of energy to the atmosphere, yet temperatures up here are still cold enough for snow.

Temperatures remained below normal on the 20th, with some surries, graupel, and thunder during the afternoon, showing just how unsettled and energetic the atmosphere was. More normal conditions arrived for the next few days, with quiet, sunny mornings giving way to afternoon clouds, isolated showers, and a few rumbles of thunder. Temperatures reached the low 60s each afternoon from the 21st through the 25th. A strong storm began to affect the region late on the 25th, with clouds and showers developing late. Cool air continued to filter in with high amounts of moisture. This storm wound up over the Four Corners region, then moved through central New Mexico, just far enough south to miss us with the heaviest precipitation.

However, plenty of rain developed on the 26th, with fog, low clouds, and a few rumbles of thunder that morning. Snow levels were just above most of us, around 8,000 feet, until the morning of the 27th. Heavy, wet snow brie y fell that morning, but this was at the tail end of the system, so most of the heavy moisture had already passed by. Some areas along the I-25 corridor and up the Highway 50 corridor received 3-4 inches of rainfall, with higher areas accumulating 1-2 feet of snow with this storm. Cool temperatures, clouds, fog, and drizzle stuck around most of the 27th, holding high temperatures in the upper 30s. The pattern of morning sunshine giving way to