

The Legislature killed House Bill 15-1259 that would have allowed homeowners to use rain barrels to capture some rain water from rainspouts for irrigation. The reason for the bill's defeat was the potential impact on owners of low seniority water rights below the confluence of Fountain Creek and the Arkansas River in Pueblo, which can only be used briefly when there are high peak flows due to high seasonal snow melt or intermittent stormwater surges. Kansas water rights owners had also threatened litigation regarding rain barrels.

The board's consensus on these new stormwater "dams" was "damned if you do or damned if you don't."

Senate Bill 15-212 addressed a similar issue from these same low-seniority water rights owners—their demand to terminate construction of new detention ponds that would control or mitigate flooding downstream of the damaged Waldo Canyon and Black Forest wildfire burn scar areas by impounding stormwater for more than 72 hours. They are pressing for preservation of their peak flow water rights even after all the substantial damage to homes and property during May.

For more information see <http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS/CLICS2015A/csl.nsf/BillFoldersSenate?OpenFrameSet> <http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS/CLICS2015A/csl.nsf/BillFoldersHouse?OpenFrameSet>.

Use the dropdown window to the left of the "Go" button at the top of the page to select the correct numerical sub-list of bills to find these bills.

Monument Creek flooding causes expensive damage to Donala access road

Petersen reported that May flooding caused by failure of

beaver dams in Monument Creek just north of Baptist Road had washed out substantial portions of the original access road the goes under the BNSF railroad bridge and new access road to the at-grade-level railroad crossing gate for the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. His initial rough estimate for these uninsurable road repairs was \$100,000.

Dana Duthie plaque

Petersen thanked the board members for attending the surprise April 24 dedication ceremony for placing a new plaque on the southeast corner of the district office building that commemorates previous Donala general manager's 20 years of service to the district. Petersen said he was pleased to note that the planned surprise for Dana and Candi Duthie was complete and they were genuinely moved by the board's actions to permanently honor Dana's service to our community. Duthie retired on June 13, 2013. For more information, see <http://www.ocn.me/v13n6.htm#dwsd>

NEPCO presentation

Petersen noted his presentation on planning for new local water system infrastructure to a Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Associations (NEPCO) meeting on May 9. He said his presentation explained the decline of the Denver Basin aquifers as a drinking water source, the need to find renewable water sources as a replacement, the cooperative efforts for the regional potable water reuse study with the Town of Monument and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, and the regional study on a joint water infrastructure project. For more information see the NEPCO article page 19.



Above: At the head of the table, Donala Water and Sanitation District Manager Kip Petersen, center, Stacey Alderson, left, and Scott Prickett, of investment consultant firm Chandler Asset Management, briefed the Donala Board of Directors on May 21 about the current Donala investment policies for its cash reserves. Photo by Jim Kendrick.

The board went into executive session regarding ongoing negotiations with Colorado Springs Utilities and Pueblo County at 3:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on June 18 in the district conference room at 15850 Holbein Drive. Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month. Information: 488-3603 or www.donalawater.org.

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

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, May 19

Summer Safety Fair scheduled for June 6

By Jennifer Green-Lanchoney

At the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District board meeting May 19, it was announced that the Summer Safe-

ty Fair is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 6 at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive. Directors also discussed a possible bank transfer of funds.

The meeting was called to order by district Director Greg Gent at 7:09 p.m.

District Directors Bo McAllister, John Fredell, Joyce Hartung, and Harland Baker were present as were the executive staff, Chief Vinny Burns and Assistant Chief Scott Ridings.

Summer Safety Fair

A free barbecue will be provided at the Summer Safety Fair June 6 and Wescott firefighters will give tours of the station and the department apparatus. Various vendors and professionals will be on hand with demonstrations and information on fire safety, aquatic safety, health topics, wildland interface issues, and driving safety. Alive at 25 and the Penrose Blood Bank will also be participating as well as many more vendors and organizations.

For further information, please contact the station at 719-488-8680.

Banking transfer

Doug Rottinghaus, Peoples National Bank Gleneagle branch manager, spoke to the board about moving funds from Colorado Trust to Peoples bank.

Colorado Trust holds about \$439,420 and Peoples Bank Peak Fund holds about \$180,000 of district funds. The reason for the inquiry is purely financial. The monthly interest earned on \$180,000 in the Peak Fund is about \$15 while the higher balance in Colorado Trust only earned \$3.74.

The Peak Fund pays a 10 percent annual yield on anything over \$100,000. Rottinghaus explained if the Peak Fund had a balance of \$600,000, which it would after transfer, the annual interest would be about \$600.

The legal requirement for public funds is the money must be in a zero-risk account. There is also concern that

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