

### Overwhelming support to remove TABOR restriction

Designated Election Official Ron Curry reported that on the May 3 district ballot measure, over 90 percent of the votes cast were in favor of removing TABOR restrictions. A total of 171 voted yes, while 16 voted against the measure, Curry said.

This result means district residents will save money, because AWSO will now be allowed to receive and spend federal grant money that could pay for up to half of the required changes to their wastewater system due to stricter government regulations on wastewater treatment, Curry said.

See [www.ocn.me/v15n11.htm#awsd1027](http://www.ocn.me/v15n11.htm#awsd1027) for a detailed explanation.

The officers re-elected to four-year terms were President Richard DuPont and Director Ronald Curry, and Secretary Pamela Rezin and Vice President Steve Callicott were elected to two-year terms. Treasurer Walt Reiss is in the middle of a four-year term.

The district mailed out 661 ballots. Curry expressed his appreciation for the hard work of all three election judges.

### Wastewater project update

Engineer Dave Frisch of GMS reported on the \$3.1 million project underway that will

allow WWSO to pump its wastewater into Donala's system, which will transport it to the treatment plant off of Baptist Road that it co-owns with two other districts. The Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility is equipped to meet new state standards for ammonia, phosphorus, and nitrogen. AWSO's current lagoon treatment system can no longer meet these standards.

Frisch said that work that GMS is currently doing includes the Regulation 1041 site development plan, the site application, the project needs assessment for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and final engineering design.

When the district's permanent financing is in place and construction starts, GMS will have a full-time supervisor for the project.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

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The Academy Water and Sanitation District board meets at 6 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at the Donald Wescott Fire Station, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Contact District Manager Anthony Pastorello at 481-0711 or see the district website at [www.colorado.gov/pacific/awso/general-info](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/awso/general-info).

*Would you like to help Our Community News report on the Academy Water and Sanitation District? Please contact Lisa Hatfield at [lisahatfield@ocn.me](mailto:lisahatfield@ocn.me).*

### Donala Water and Sanitation District, May 19

## Houle sworn in for new Donala director term

By Jim Kendrick

On May 19, Bill George, in his final act as the term-limited Donala Water and Sanitation District board president, swore in former board Director Ed Houle for a new four-year term and Director Ken Judd for a second four-year term. Judd chaired the rest of the meeting. Director Dave Powell's absence was excused. General Manager Kip Petersen thanked George for his "fantastic" service "to the citizens and residents of this community." George replied, "The pleasure has been mine."

Election of officers was unanimously postponed until the June 23 regular meeting. The board will be interviewing applicants for appointment to replace the late District Manager Bill Nance, who passed away on April 20. The district solicited letters of interest applications for the empty

director position to be submitted by May 26 to allow board members to conduct interviews with applicants and make an appointment at the June 23 board meeting.

A memorial Mass will be held for Nance in St. Peter Catholic Church in Monument.

### Financial reports

Petersen said that while 2016 water sales revenues have remained lower than average due to all the snow and rain to date, district plans for capital improvements this year remain in place because of funding from a low-interest Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority loan. The authority's recent refinancing in its statewide bond issue loan program will result in Donala savings of \$320,000 on Donala's 2006 loan payments. There may



**Above:** On May 19, former Donala Water and Sanitation District board Director Ed Houle, left, and current Director Ken Judd, center were sworn in for a new four-year first term and a second four-year term by outgoing term-limited board President Bill George, right, at the beginning of the regular May board meeting. The other board members are Dave Powell and Bob Denny (not shown). A fifth board member will be appointed for a two-year term on June 16. *Photo by Jim Kendrick.*

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be more savings if Donala's 2007 and 2011 loans are also refinanced by the authority.

The final 2015 audit is nearing completion. The new Forest Lakes contract to provide water collection system operations and maintenance services by Donala staff members is working well.

The funds have been received from a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant to Donala to help pay for the repair of the secondary access road that goes under the railroad tracks to the side entrance of the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. This access was damaged by flooding. The design is almost complete. Donala has Army Corps of Engineering permission to complete the repair, within protected Preble's mouse habitat. However, the repair must be complete before the winter hibernation period for the habitat. Donala will coordinate with the county's planned repair of sewer culverts under the adjacent section of the Santa Fe Trail. These culverts were a contributing cause to the flooding and facility's road damage.

The financial reports were accepted as presented.

### Manager's report

Petersen noted that an open house attended by 17 Donala property owners was held on May 11 regarding construction of the water pipeline between the Latrobe Court water tank and Holbein Drive tanks. Engineering consultant Dave Frisch of GMS Inc. gave a briefing on planned construction techniques that was well received. Directional drilling for the pipeline will start in the Sun Hills area, and then go north to the Holbein tanks. The total engineer's estimate for the pipeline project is \$1.073 million. Construction is expected to begin in July. The Baptist Road booster project is also nearing completion.

At this time Donala continues to op-

erate entirely with renewable surface water from Willow Creek Ranch, piped by Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) from Pueblo Reservoir, then treated by CSU and delivered to the Donala drinking water distribution system at a connection by Northgate Boulevard. Donala may yet lose some or all its remaining 100 acre-feet of stored ranch water in Pueblo Reservoir later this summer if this year's snow melt flows turn out to be high enough to cause a storage overflow when all entities with full-time reservoir storage contracts would be able to completely fill all their full storage allotments, using up all the reservoir's available storage capacity. The federal Department of Reclamation had planned to "spill" all water currently stored in the reservoir under existing annual "if and when available" space-available contracts, like Donala's, around April 15 but that plan has been indefinitely deferred for now due to lower than previously forecast snow melt flows to date.

If necessary, the expected higher flows of irrigation season will be sustained by re-activation of Donala's groundwater wells and water treatment system. The average amount of Donala's Willow Creek Ranch renewable surface water being drawn from Donala's renewable surface water storage in the Pueblo Reservoir during non-irrigation season is about 30 acre-feet per month.

For more information on Donala's Pueblo Reservoir storage, see: [www.ocn.me/v16n5.htm#dwsd0421](http://www.ocn.me/v16n5.htm#dwsd0421) [www.ocn.me/v16n4.htm#dwsd0317](http://www.ocn.me/v16n4.htm#dwsd0317) [www.usbr.gov/gp-bin/arcweb\\_puer.pl](http://www.usbr.gov/gp-bin/arcweb_puer.pl)

Petersen added that since CSU's 1041 permit for the Southern Delivery System (SDS) has now been approved by Pueblo County, Donala water attorney Rick Fendel will renew discussions with that county on Donala's parallel 1041 permit application