

DONALA WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 12, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Donala Water and Sanitation District met in regular session at the District's Holbein Water Treatment Facility, 15850 Holbein Drive, El Paso County, Colorado on December 12, 2024, at 1:30 P.M.

Director's Present: Wayne Vanderschuere  
Bill George  
Kevin Deardorff  
Ed Miller  
Scott McCulloch (Excused Absence)

Staff Present: Jeff Hodge  
Christina Hawker  
Ashley Uhrin  
Ronny Wright  
Aaron Tolman  
Austin Selvage

Consultants' Present: Roger Sams (GMS)  
Brett Gracely (LRE)  
Micki Mills (CEGR) – Attended via phone

Guests: Jackie Burhans (OCN)  
James Howald (OCN)

President Vanderschuere called the meeting to order at 1:29 P.M.

Approval of Agenda:  
○ No changes.

Public Comment Non-Agenda Items:  
• No public comments.

Review of Minutes:  
• Minutes from November 21, 2024, Regular Board Meeting accepted.  
○ George motioned to approve, Miller seconds, all aye.

Review of Financial Statements and Check Summaries:  
• Hodge stated that water sales are \$500,000 higher than anticipated with December billing still needing to be completed and accounted for.  
• Hodge stated we are on track to meet our water and wastewater revenue, budget and expenditure goals.  
○ Training expenses did exceed budget, but many of the employees now have certifications and licenses.  
• Hodge stated there are some ARPA funds left to be spent but we are waiting on the check from the County.  
• Financials from December 12, 2024, accepted.  
○ George motioned to approve, Miller seconds, all aye.

### February Election Update

- Hawker presented a brief overview of the timeline of events leading up to the election.
- Hawker stated that the Application for Absentee Ballot is available on the website.
- Hawker stated that a physical flyer will be mailed to District residents regarding notice of the election and is also available on the website.
- Mills clarified that the flyer being mailed to District residents contains factual information and does not violate the Fair Campaign Practices Act. She also clarified that as of the date the election resolution was adopted, the District is subject to the Fair Campaign Practices Act and no board member or employee can campaign nor can District funds be used for campaigning or advocating.

### 11D Update and Redrilling a Denver Well

- Hodge stated that prior to this meeting, there was hope that well 11D would be salvageable, however after further investigation it has been determined that well 11D is no longer a viable option. Hodge proposed re-drilling well 7D.
  - Hodge stated that 11D well site is too small to re-drill.
  - Hodge and Gracely both stated that re-drilling the well within 200 feet of the existing well will avoid us having to go through water court which would extend the timeline of the project.
  - Hodge stated that there are other well sites that were considered to be re-drilled but they present other, different issues.
  - Hodge stated that ideally the well re-drill would be completed by August 2025. We already have the equipment needed for the well, but outside engineers would need a few months for site prep.
- Vanderschuere asked if the re-drill was worked into the 2025 budget, Hodge confirmed it was.
  - Hodge anticipates having more solid numbers for this project in the January meeting.

### Resolution 2024-8 Calling for the 2025 May District Election and Appointing Designated Election Official

- May 2025 Election is for board members whose terms are expiring. The board members that can run for re-election will be determined after the February election has been conducted.
- Miller asked if there will be absentee ballots available and Hawker clarified that yes there would be as they are legally required.
  - George motioned to approve, Deardorff second, all aye.

### 2025 Budget and Rate & Fee Increase

- Vanderschuere opened public hearing at 2:04pm
- Vanderschuere clarified that only the budget and mill levies would be approved today and water and wastewater rates and fees will be available during the first quarter of 2025 after cost of service and new sanitation averages have been calculated.
- No public comment.
- Hawker clarified that she updated the budget to reflect that water and wastewater revenues will not change until April. She also stated that she received the final valuation for the property taxes from the county and we are only off by about \$1000 which will not affect a lot. Finally, she reiterate the change to the capital projects line item as a result of the re-drilling of 7D.
- Hawker used 5% to calculate water and wastewater revenues. The cost of service will determine the exact increase.

### Resolution 2024-9 Adopt Budget

- George motioned to approve, Miller second, all aye.

### Resolution 2024-10 Appropriate Funds

- George motioned to approve, Deardorff second, all aye.

### Resolution 2024-11 Set Mill Levy A

- George motioned to approve, Miller second, all aye.

## Resolution 2024-12 Set Mill Levy B

- George motioned to approve, Miller second, all aye.

## General Manager Report by Jeff Hodge:

- Loop meetings will pick back up beginning next Thursday. There is still interest from other parties to join Loop.
- Attended some end of the year meetings to prepare for 2025.
- Hodge stated that operator Cade Pennington passed his Collections I test.

## Water Report by Ronny Wright:

- Waiting on parts and pieces for the Latrobe booster pump, expected within the next 2-3 weeks
- PRV analysis has been taking place throughout the District as well as some PRV training for the operators
- Wright stated that per the State, Donala has satisfactorily complied with the state's enforcement order regarding radium, and we are no longer on a quarterly testing schedule. A new sampling schedule will be provided by the state.

## Wastewater Report by Aaron Tolman:

- Tolman introduced the new wastewater plant operator, Austin Selvage.
- SBR Basins are all functioning fine, there is a little water in basin #1 for equalization
- Continued preparation for the SBR PLC replacement with Merrick and Timberline
- The permanent upstream flow meter was installed by Ted Miller and Associates and should assist in data collection.
  - They are going to investigate to determine if underground water could be causing a mismatch of influent and effluent numbers.
- E-Coli levels are 3.0 MPN, well under the required levels.
- BOD removal was 98.9% and TSS was 99.0%, which is well above the required minimum of 85%.
- Hydraulic loading is at 44.8% and BOD loading is at 51.0%.
- Passed all DMR certificates for the year
- Tolman provided a brief summary of excavation work being done by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party surrounding the access bridge that goes to the wastewater treatment plant. The stability of the bridge is questionable but is still standing for now. Tolman is in close contact with the contractors to ensure it stays safe and stable enough for employees and vendors to still be able to access the wastewater treatment plant.

## Consultants' Comments:

- Sams stated that mobilization is still set to start on May 1<sup>st</sup> for the tank coating project.
- Sams also stated that in August, the Water Quality Control Division will be meeting regarding new PFAS Standards. They will be determining what the monitoring frequency would be, regardless of whether or not we have to do treatment.
  - This monitoring schedule would go into effect 4/26/2027.
- Sams recommended that the operators begin monitoring PFAS now so that we know where we stand when the monitoring schedule goes into effect in 2027
- Hodge and Vanderschuere both reaffirmed that at this time, there is no PFAS in our water.
- Gracely continues to work on our Laughlin Water Rights
  - Due diligence filing was completed and they are currently tracking one opposer
- Gracely stated that we may be able to utilize well 9A for ASR and be able to receive cash match towards the ASR grant.
- Gracely stated that AGRA is looking into consolidating their existing two leases and add a third to be able to lease some of the Willow Creek Water that is stored in Pueblo Reservoir.
- Gracely also stated that he is working with Merrick and Timberline to alleviate bottlenecks in our data pipeline

## Directors Comments:

- Vanderschuere stated that he, George and Hodge attended the Arkansas Roundtable on 12/11/24 and was able to do some networking.
- Water Congress is at the end of January in Aurora.

- State of the Pikes Peak Region is February 6<sup>th</sup>, attendees must reserve a spot.
- The Arkansas Forum is March 5-6 in Pubelo.
- Vanderschuere requested some marketing materials for Loop with a high overview of what Loop is about to be able to give out during events such as Arkansas Roundtable.
- Deardorff asked a clarification question regarding whether or not there is an opt out option for smart meters. Hawker clarified that there is no opt out option and we have been working with legal counsel to ensure we are within our rights. She stated that we do not have the staff to obtain meter reads for multiple people if they were to opt out and we like to give them the ability to use Eye on Water and watch for leaks.

Public Comment:

- None.

Regular Session Meeting adjourned at 2:46 P.M.

These minutes are respectfully submitted for record by Ashley Uhrin on January 8, 2025.