

DONALA WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

(719) 488-3603

www.donalawater.org

FEBRUARY 2019

WASTE WATER REGIONALIZATION DISCUSSIONS

For several months there have been discussions about the possibility of consolidating the two waste water treatment facilities that are on Monument Creek and having the City of Colorado Springs treat the waste water generated in our area. Representatives of the Colorado Springs Utilities have met with representatives of both the Upper Monument Creek Regional Waste Water Treatment Facility and the Tri-Lakes Waste Water Treatment Facility to gauge interest in having the City of Colorado Springs meet the waste water treatment needs of our Districts. This would include the Donala District, Triview Metropolitan District, Forest Lakes Metro District, Woodmoor Water and Sanitation, the Town of Monument and Palmer Lake. There are multiple reasons to consider this opportunity. CSU has the capacity in their J.D. Phillips Water Reclamation Facility to accommodate all the waste water generated in the I-25 corridor of Northern El Paso County. We have all expressed our interest in participating in such an endeavor, but there are still too many unknowns to immediately sign up. What are the advantages for us to consolidate? By the year 2028, our facility will need to be upgraded to meet more stringent water quality standards for phosphorus and nutrients. Preliminary costs show a required expenditure of between \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 for this upgrade. The City's facility can already treat for both of these constituents. The trade-off here is that we anticipate spending less on the interceptor sewer line from the Air Force Academy to northern El Paso County than we would if we had to upgrade the Upper Monument Plant. One of the plants financial partners is the Triview Metro District who, at some point in the next 5-10 years, will need to fund an expansion of the Upper Monument facility to accommodate the growth they are experiencing. This expansion would be solely at the expense of Triview Metro as the other partners, Donala and Forest Lakes, have enough capacity in the existing plant to accommodate all our planned growth. We will need to examine the monthly rates that the City will charge, along with the necessary infrastructure upgrades to connect to the CSU system. One advantage for Donala is that we can remove an existing lift station, located at Struthers and Northgate Roads, which pumps the waste under the interstate and to the Upper Monument facility. This opportunity for discussion is the result of the proposed Visitor's Center at the Air Force Academy. The Air Force has requested that CSU accept the waste water from the Center, and related facilities, and has offered previously denied easements across the Academy for the required pipelines. This is an opportunity that we must evaluate to determine its merits. If, in the long term, such a project is economically prudent, we will give it serious consideration. Please note that we are in the early discussion and design stages, and a project of this size has a lot of moving parts that have to come together. We are pleased that CSU is considering a larger role in regionalization and understand that it will be a "process", with quite a bit of discussion and give and take between all parties. I will keep you posted on our progress in future newsletters.

WATER FACTS

~You can survive about a month without food, but only 5-7 days without water.

~The average five-minute shower takes between 25-30 gallons of water.

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EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Recently we have had the need to contact a customer about a water leak in their house, but residents were out of town and nobody knew how to contact them. It's a good idea to provide an emergency contact number in case of these types of emergencies. Let your neighbor know how to contact you, be it via email or phone. You may contact us with this information, and we'll place it in your account information for future reference. The last two water line breaks occurred when the owner/resident were not home but fortunately the neighbors saw water coming out of the garage and contacted us. We shut the water off at the curb to stop the flooding and minimize the damages. Emergency contact information will allow us to at least contact you so you know what to expect when you return. I, personally, am not a fan of surprises and if I had a pipe freeze and burst while I was gone, I would appreciate knowing what happened and that the water had been turned off at the curb stop. You may contact our office at billing@donalawater.com, or call us at 488-3603 and we'll be happy to add emergency contacts in your account information.

ADOPTED MEETING SCHEDULE

During the January Board of Directors meeting, the meeting schedule for the Board was adopted. The Board meets on the third Thursday of each month, except for December, which will meet on the second Thursday in December. All regular meetings will start at 1:30 pm, and are held in the Boardroom, located at the District Offices, 15850 Holbein Drive, Colorado Springs. There is not a formal Board meeting in November as that is when the annual work session with the Board occurs. That meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. The locations for posting the agenda were also approved and those locations are: The District's website; the driveway into the main offices on Holbein; next to the mail box at the Shops at the Glen; and at Community Banks of Colorado.

The District does provide drop boxes for payments. These drop boxes are located at the driveway at our main office on Holbein and King Soopers at Jackson Creek and Baptist Roads. Please remember to never put cash in these drop boxes. We did have one broken into two years ago, after which we removed it as traffic by that location has declined over the years. I am considering several other potential locations to add an additional box. If, and when that happens the location(s) will be announced in a future newsletter and on the website.

Your General Manager,

Kip Peterson

