

DONALA WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

(719) 488-3603

www.donalawater.org

MAY 2020

GENERAL MANAGER TO RETIRE

Several months ago, I advised the Board of Directors that I would be retiring at the end of May. I started working for Donala, as the Assistant General Manager in January 2013. The Board of Directors then promoted me to General Manager in July of 2013, upon the retirement of Dana Duthie. I indicated in my conversations with the Board, that this decision was not made lightly, but is the result of underlying health issues. I have truly enjoyed my time at Donala Water and Sanitation. Someone recently asked me what my biggest accomplishments are. When I first started, there were three major actions that needed to happen; a long term storage contract with the Bureau of Reclamation to store our Willow Creek Ranch water, obtain a 1041 permit from Pueblo County to allow Donala to access the Southern Delivery System for transport of Willow Creek Ranch water; and a long term water delivery agreement with Colorado Springs Utility for the treatment of the District's Willow Creek Ranch water. I was successful in completing the first two action items, and unfortunately, I won't be able to shepherd the long-term agreement with CSU to completion as I've simply run out of time. I am confident that my successor will be able to take the next steps and complete the final agreement necessary to insure access of our Willow Creek Ranch water. I have made a lot of new friends, faced challenges and for the most part prevailed in those challenges. I want to thank the Board of Directors for allowing me to serve as the General Manager. This is one of the most engaged, and thoughtful, set of elected officials that I have had over my 40+ years in public service. The staff is comprised of professional people, who care deeply for the community and strive everyday to maintain the highest standards in service. I will remain in the area and hope to be able to remain engaged in water issues, but more from the sideline than the frontline. I have plans to introduce my grandson to the passion of car racing, once his feet can touch the pedals.

It has been my privilege to serve the community, the Board of Directors and most importantly our staff at Donala. I will miss them all.

NEW GENERAL MANAGER TO ASSUME DUTIES IN JUNE

Since Kip Petersen announced his retirement, the Board of Directors has been actively searching for a new General Manager. After multiple interviews of the finalists, the Board has selected Jeff Hodge as the new General Manager. Jeff comes to Donala with a broad range of experience with water and sanitation districts. His most recent position was with the Santa Ynez Community Services District, in California. Jeff is not a stranger to Colorado and is excited to return to the state. He holds a Class A Wastewater Operator license in Colorado and multiple similar licenses in California and Arizona. Jeff, and his wife Christine, are excited about moving back to Colorado. Jeff is also a pilot with multiple flight instructor certifications. Jeff will officially become the General Manger on June 1st but in the interim, he is transitioning into the position with help from Kip Petersen.

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“FLUSHABLE” WIPES ARE NOT FLUSHABLE!

Despite their labeling, the so called “flushable” wipes are not designed to be flushed down the toilet. With the increased number of residents complying with the Governor’s Stay at Home Order, we have noticed a large increase in the number of wipes entering the Upper Monument Creek Regional Waste-Water Treatment Facility. Additionally, we are now seeing face masks being flushed down the toilet as well. Using your toilet as a trash can will, not maybe, **will** cause the pumps to foul creating more down time and causing costly repairs that have an adverse financial impact on the District and every single customer



CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Pate Construction was the lowest bid on this year’s water main replacement project, with a bid of \$1,051,604. The project this year will replace the water mains on Huntington Beach, Mission Hills and Candlewood. We anticipate that this project will start construction right after Memorial Day. Impacted residents will be notified directly with letters outlining the scope of the project. If we are able to comply with the various limitations on public gatherings, we will host an open house to explain the need and how we will accommodate this type of project in a residential area.

My Best to all of You.

Kip Peterson