Those rights are vital with regards to connecting with CSU! We must get water storage permissions from CSU, Pueblo County, and the Bureau of Reclamation which controls Pueblo Reservoir. We also pay extra annual water storage costs, monthly system usage fees, and water delivery charges. You must plan for so many contingencies in the timeline to acquire renewable water since this involves arduous federal processes that take many years. Proof of stormwater management also becomes a factor when connecting to other utilities. I would highly encourage interconnections for you. Without that, all is lost. Triview’s experience opened the community’s eyes to vulnerability from breaks or contamination. Donala had to pay a $225,000 bill from CSU the month we helped Triview. We don’t want to drill another well! They cost $1.5 million each and produce less water all the time. The SDS does have extra capacity now that it did not anticipate.

Note: Donala provided an emergency water connection to Triview for 111 hours in July when Triview experienced an undetected water leak that lost 20-30 million gallons. See www.ocn.me/v16n9.htm#water.

The best overall long-term options recommended by Forsgren:

- The completion of the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority (PPPPRA) regional infrastructure project, which could bring much needed storage and allow delivery of renewable water to the Monument area from Fountain Creek by “exchange of water rights” from the Arkansas River. Tri-Lakes-area PPPRA members include the Town of Palmer Lake, Town of Monument, WWSD, Triview Metropolitan District, and Donala. This proposal is separate and different from the existing Southern Delivery System (SDS).
- Keep options open with CSU and the associated SDS to possibly bring renewable water to the town. Besides the cost of purchasing water rights, there would be many other associated costs.
- Water reuse plan. The best overall emergency connection option recommended by Forsgren, in case of leaks, malfunctions, or a very dry summer. The board as a feasibility study very soon. Woodmoor will already have a pipeline at the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce.

Petersen’s comments included:

- Donala purchased renewable water rights from the Willow Creek Ranch in Leadville for $4.5 million, plus costs for water court and engineering studies.

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Monument Hill Farmers Market
Come join us for our INDOOR MARKET!
Sat., Nov. 19th — 9 am - 2 pm
in Grace Best Elementary School
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For information, call 592-9420.

Plan Monument
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Wed., Nov. 30th, 4-7 pm
Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce
166 Second Street, Downtown Monument
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Stop by and help shape the future of your community!
How should Monument grow?
We want your opinions!