Two directors sworn in; officers elected

By James Howald
In May, the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board delayed its meeting, typically held on the first Thursday of the month, by a week to accommodate the schedules of the directors. Two directors—one new and one returning—were sworn in, and board members were elected. The board named a director to represent WWSD on the Joint Use Committee (JUC) and voted to accept the application of a legal resident to fill the board’s vacant seat. After these issues were addressed, the board heard a presentation from consultants on the district’s long-range plan and approved a pilot project for a four-day workweek.

Directors sworn in; new roles assigned
The district’s attorney, Erin Smith, administered the oath of office to Jim Taylor and Lee Hanson. Taylor was returning to the board after a term as the board’s president. Hanson was new to the board. Their terms will end in May 2022.

Taylor was elected president of the board by a unanimous vote. Brian Bush was elected board secretary and Jim Wyss was re-elected as the board treasurer, both by unanimous votes.

The board elected Hanson to serve on the JUC. Director Rich Strom, who is no longer on the board, had played that role for the previous four years. The JUC, made up of representatives from WWSD, the Monument Sanitation District, and the Palmer Lake Sanitation District, is responsible for ensuring the output from the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility’s sewage treatment plant shared by the three communities, meets state requirements. WWSD is responsible for 62 percent of the input to the treatment plant.

The newly sworn-in directors were given signature authority on the district’s bank account.

The board also voted to contact resident Tom Roddam, who had applied to fill the board’s vacant seat.

District’s long-range plan addresses supply and demand
Four consultants—Daniel Niemela of Bishop-Brogden Associates, and Jorge Wyss, Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery, and Teresa Kaylor of Walker Schooler—presented their work on the district’s long-range plan to the board. The plan is updated every five years.

The first topic addressed was the possibility that the district’s boundary might be expanded to include the property owned by the Wyss family, which is northeast of the district’s current boundary, and the Home Place Ranch property, which is southeast of the district’s current boundary. No decision has been reached about expanding the district’s service area.

Hinojos said WWSD was currently serving 6,337 single-family equivalents, and at ultimate build-out that number would rise to 7,801. He also pointed out that water use by the typical residence had declined slightly from 365 gallons per day in 2012 to 281 gallons per day in 2017, due to the success of conservation efforts such as rebates for low water use fixtures, mandatory outdoor watering schedules, and the district’s tiered rate structure.

Currently, wells provide most of the district’s water supply, Hinojos said, with 58 percent coming from the Arapahoe aquifer, about 13 percent coming from the Dawson and Denver aquifers, and the remaining 29 percent coming from the exchange with Monument Creek. All three of the aquifers are becoming less productive, he said, although there has been somewhat less decline in the last five years.

Johnson told the board that he anticipated demand for water to exceed supply from current sources by 2031.

Johnson also reviewed some of the planned capital improvements to the water and sewage systems. In 2018, the Southern Water Treatment Plant will need additional filtering equipment to increase its capacity to 3.3 million gallons a day, at a cost of $790,000, he said. From this year to 2025, the district will need to spend about $10 million on new wells, and starting in 2019 the district will need to begin moving forward with plans to re-use the water it diverts from Monument Creek. In 2023 the Central Water Treatment Plant will need upgrades to convert it to surface water treatment.