New board officers sworn in and updated on summer drought

By Jim Kendrick

On May 17, term-limited Donala Water and Sanitation District (DWSD) board President Dave Powell conducted his last official act of swearing in three directors, including new Director Wayne Vander- schuere, retired general manager of Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) Water Services; re-elected Director Bob Denny, who is entering his second four-year term; and newly-elected Director Dennis Snyder, who was appointed on Aug. 19, 2016. Powell noted the tremendous progress the board has made in the past eight years by obtaining 80 percent of the renewable water it needs to provide all the district’s potable water demand at buildout.

The new board was updated on drought predictions, irrigation restrictions, and revenue and expense projections for an active infrastructure construction summer. Engineer Mark Morton of GMS Inc. briefed the board on the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRWWTF) arsenic removal pilot plant and future expansion construction project.

Director Ed Houle’s absence was unanimously excused.

Election of officers

Director Ken Judd was unanimously elected board president. Board Secretary/Treasurer Denny was unanimously elected board vice president. Director Ed Houle was then unanimously elected secretary/treasurer.

Drought update

District Manager Fritz Shaffer asked the board to approve a pilot project to move the district to a four-day work week, with the district employees working Monday through Friday. Shaffer said he thought the compressed schedule would increase job satisfaction, make employees more productive, and save the district a small amount of money. Communicating costs for employees would also decrease, he said.

Shaffer proposed testing this new schedule from June 21 through Oct. 17. The district’s woodooorooam would be open from 7 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and the new schedule would be communicated through the district’s newsletter, through email, and through printed bills, he said.

On-call operations would not change, he said.

Shaffer said the success of the pilot project would be determined by tracking over-time hours required, customer complaints, and by surveys of employees and customers.

The board voted unanimously to allow the pilot project to go forward. See notice on page 20.

Highlights from operational reports

• The board will consider leasing a portion of the Woodmoor Ranch (previously called the JV Ranch) to JUWI Inc., so that JUWI can install a solar array.

• The board voted to provide the Magazine family with six years of augment- ed water for their pond in return for the Magazine’s returning pre-paid taps for water and sewage to the district.

• The project to secure the Fountain Creek augmentation station on the Chil- liff Ditch will go to bid in July; a loan for the work has been obtained from the state.

• The unaccounted wa- ter, which had been high in previous months, is back in line with histori- cal measurements after a leak at Higby Road and Cloverleaf Road was ad- dressed.

• The board voted to pro- vide the magazine family with an additional treatment facility for an active infrastructure project. The project to secure the project at buildout.

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