The custom-made walkway installation requires construction worker scaffolding that is 25 feet in the air. This work will be completed for construction worker and plant staff safety before fall and winter inclement weather begins. The new arsenic removal pilot plant will be installed separately.

Consulting engineer Mark Morton of GMS briefed the board on improvements that have been designed for the UMCRWWTF arsenic pilot plant. Morton discussed progress to date on determining treatment options, potential costs, and timelines. He reviewed new state arsenic regulation requirements and the facility’s new compliance schedule for meeting the new UMCRWWTF arsenic effluent discharge limit of 4.7 micrograms per liter by Sept. 30, 2019.

During a lengthy and wide-ranging technical question-and-answer session with the board, Morton explained that the GMS plan is to build an ion exchange arsenic pilot plant unit to specifically treat and remove the naturally-occurring arsenic in district Arapahoe well groundwater. There are a number of technical challenges, as this new treatment process may interfere with the existing arsenic plant methods for sulfate removal, for example. Morton said the pilot plant will be a “science experiment” to determine the best design that balances all the necessary compromises for this $2.2 million arsenic project. Performance data will be collected on options constructed from various mature treatment technologies to determine the best full-scale option for cost-effective arsenic removal.

Morton and Petersen also discussed various future treatment challenges that may emerge regarding new or tighter restrictions on a variety of metals and other emerging contaminants in both drinking water and treated wastewater plant effluent. Morton said GMS is an active participant in the development of stakeholder outreach and regulatory work groups for all its clients to know what the state Water Quality Control Division is thinking about before the division starts taking actions regarding new discharge permit limits.

Petersen reviewed the history of investigations into potential sources of arsenic contamination in the district, which include apple juice, which is high in arsenic content, and the potential that marijuana grow operations could be impacting the discharges. He also reviewed the history of cost-sharing procedures that are prescribed in the UMCRWWTF intergovernmental agreement between the three owner districts: Donala, and the Triview and Forest Lakes Metropolitan Districts.

Manager’s report
Petersen, who is also the president of the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority (PPRWA), said the authority had written a letter to Gov. John Hickenlooper asking him to veto state Senate Bill 18-167 that was passed by both houses. This bill would require Donala to hand over all the underground locales, which it now performs for its own underground Greenwich Waters before underground construction, to the state’s Colorado 811 System and pay the system a fee and substantial fee for every required locate action. Petersen said Donala will always do a better job locating its own underground infrastructure than the state. (See http://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb18-167) There will be no June PPRWA meeting.

Status of operations/projects
Petersen reported that both the groundwater and surface water district treatment plants are producing water to meet higher spring and summer demands due to the expected drought. A new pump and motor was scheduled to be operational in district well 2-D by the end of May. Petersen added that the UMCRWWTF is working well and operating within established discharge permit limits.

He reported that the district’s Glen
dale 12-inch water main repair project would go forward on May 28, with a contract award expected at the next board meeting. Construction should start in mid-July with expected completion by the end of September. Donala will also hold an open house for affected district residents before construction starts on this project. Several other smaller district capital projects will also be completed this year.

Development update
Petersen reported that the Glenogle golf course redevelopment had begun, with contractors moving dirt for infrastructure to service 12 to 20 houses for which construction is expected to begin this year. Construction grading for a new storage unit building is underway north of the CPA office building on the west side of Struthers Road. The plans for the new Seven-11 business are under review by the El Paso County Planning Commission. A new office building north of Community Banks of Colorado on the east side of Struthers Road is still under review by El Paso County. The Struthers Road-Glenogle Drive roundabout is still scheduled to be completed during this construction season.

Petersen reiterated that Donala’s only concerns within Forest Lakes Metropolitan Districts are operation and maintenance of the metro district’s water and sanitary sewer systems. Donala has no land use authority regarding any of the FLMD construction projects nor any responsibility for oversight of the new Pilot truck stop that lies within both the Town of Monument and FLMD service area.

Judd noted that El Paso County is creating a new master plan and asking for comments on the county website. Petersen noted that he is a member of the county’s steering committee for this new master plan.

Public comments
Former Donala board President Bill George congratulated Petersen for his election and strong participation in this and previous board meetings throughout this year. George thanked the board for her being able “to experience a nice, orderly, well-attended board meeting.”

Executive session
The board unanimously approved a motion to go into executive session at 2:56 p.m. under CRS 24-6-402(d) to discuss details of security arrangements or negotiations. After the executive session came out of this session, it immediately adjourned with no further votes or actions taken. ————