

District Manager Report – October 16, 2024

Saguache County Grant - Water Loss Prevention Project (Capital Project)

- Bids were due on 02/19/2024 – Present to BoD for selection
- Bids were well over the budgeted amount
 - The \$180k meter project was awarded to Cooley & Sons
 - Parts were received on the week of 5/6
 - Pre-construction meeting scheduled for 5/13
- Majority of excavation and piping are complete
 - Meters are expected to be delivered and installed the week of 7/15
- Meters were turned on and pressure tested successfully the week of 8/5
 - Will be advertising for final payment
 - District Manager provided a project update to the Saguache BOCC on 8/13
- Advertisement for final payment has been posted
- Final \$9,000 has been paid
 - October will be the first full month of data

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Water lease negotiations

- Management will start defining “drought” conditions
 - Outline restrictions for irrigation and use of MHE Well in a drought
 - Draft presented for legal review
- USFWS approved a 1 year extension to our short-term agreement
- Rio Grande Chub & Rio Grande Sucker no longer listed under the Endangered Species Act
- Present draft drought restrictions to BOD for approval prior to submission to USFWS
 - USFWS liked the drought restrictions
- USFWS would like to discuss the possibility of the District purchasing water rights, or possibly being given credit for relinquishing certain wells
 - Attorney for USFWS will be retiring in May 2024
- No update for October

Town of Crestone (ToC) – Sewer Service Negotiations

- No update for April
 - The Discharge Permit was on the agenda of the last trustee meeting
- No update for May
 - ToC has been unresponsive
- ToC held an open meeting on 6/18 to discuss the IGA and Discharge permit
 - Instructed counsel to respond to the District
- A response to the draft IGA was received on 7/31
 - No response to draft discharge permit
 - Several compliance questions received from ToC
 - Our response will be reviewed and approved by BOD

- The District's updated IGA draft was transmitted to the ToC attorney in August, 2024
- No response has been received from the ToC as of 9/25/24

Aspen Wastewater Treatment Facility (AWWTF)

- Loading data suggests additional capacity may not be necessary – Averaging 40% capacity (have not exceeded 60% capacity since 11/2022)
 - More frequent sampling
 - EQ Basin cleaning program
 - Auto samplers
- Some issues are present – Health or Safety hazards prioritized
 - Structural engineer inspection of foundation
 - Industrial health & safety inspection
- Inspections are underway
 - An initial property inspection identified several deficiencies
 - Initial quote for structural, mechanical/plumbing, and electrical inspections were much higher than expected (\$9,000), will be reviewing other options.
 - Met with structural engineer – recommended laser measurements
- Met with BOCC at AWWTF to discuss widening the relief route.
 - Looking for copy - Will be getting a survey completed at AWWTF and Stables Lift Station to determine boundaries and easements
- Foundation and Structure are satisfactory – HVAC/mechanical and Electrical inspections are pending

Grant Opportunities

- Congresswoman Lauren Boebert – Community Project Funding
 - Status – Pending
 - Request was for \$1,450,000 to help with Water Loss Prevention and new residential meters
 - Requested up date with no response. Funding was for 2025.
- Colorado Water Resources & Power Development Authority – Drinking Water Revolving Fund
 - Status - Approved for Design and Engineering \$108,370
 - Principal forgiveness loan structure
 - Requires 20% match
 - Closed “loan” on 9/13/24
- USDA
 - Representatives recommended not withdrawing application
 - Submit new PER with chosen alternatives

OLD BUSINESS

Board Meetings

- Consider change to in person/hybrid meetings



NEW BUSINESS

2025 Budget

- Held initial meeting with the Budget Committee
 - The draft budget will be presented to the Board in early October
 - Draft sent to Board on October 15, 2024

Holiday Observance

- The Friday after Thanksgiving is a holiday that has been observed by the District
 - With the 4/10 schedule the holiday will no longer be applicable
 - Requesting to observe Veterans Day 11/11 instead