

## **District Manager Report – December 11, 2024**

### **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
- No update for December – Counsel is reaching out

### **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
- No response from ToC as of December
  - The new rate will be included in the updated fee resolution
    - \$8.33 per 1,000 gallons of flow
    - \$1.05 per pound of BOD

### **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
- Element Engineering is working on the updated PER

### **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.
- USDA
  - Representatives recommended not withdrawing application
  - Submit new PER with chosen alternatives
- Energy/Mineral Impact Fund (EIAF) Grant
  - Request \$750k to help fund MHE Water System Improvement Project
  - \*Requires Board Approval
- CDPHE – Water Quality Control Division
  - 2025 Assistance Grant Funding
  - Up to \$25,000
  - Will apply by 12/23/24

### **Old Business**

- \*Board review/approval of permanent 4/10 work schedule

