

District Manager Report – July 17, 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
- Saguache BOCC requested a project update at the 8/13 work session
 - District Manager will attend meeting and provide a project & funding summary

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
- No update

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
- No update

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
- Schedule a meeting with Planning Committee to review and select alternative upgrades
 - 7/25

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
- 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
 - Currently working on providing the requested documentation
- Bureau of Reclamation – WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grant
 - Status – Pending
 - Will be used to replace old or inaccurate water meters throughout the District.
- USDA
 - Representatives recommended not withdrawing application
 - Submit new PER with chosen alternatives

Personnel

- Staff milestones
 - Greg – 90 day probationary period
- Johann completed Excel training
- Diego and Natalie attended “Basics of Rate Setting for Water & Wastewater Utilities” hosted by Colorado Government Finance Officers Association
 - Presentation slides are available if interested
- Diego attended the State Revolving Fund Regional Workshop in Alamosa on 7/11

2025 Budget

- Staff is starting the budget process
 - Budget committee meeting next month

Cyber Security

- Cyber security threats are on the rise
 - Only official email addresses should be used for correspondence

Phone Service

- Currently undergoing a transfer to VOIP provided by Ciello

Board Meetings

- Change to in person meetings

Summer Team BBQ

- Reminder tomorrow 7/18

