

# MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2023

## LOWER FOUNTAIN WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (LFWQMA)

### Member

**Attendees:** Jim Heckman (FSD/LFMSDD) Jonathan Moore (FSD/LFMSDD), Taylor Murphy (City of Fountain), Roy Heald (SWSD), Brandon Bernard (SWSD), Kevin Niles (Stratmoor Hills), Joshua Watkins (Cherokee Metropolitan District), Tara Kelley (CSU), Tyler Drennan (Cherokee Metropolitan District)

**Non-Attendees:** Fort Carson, Widefield W&S

**Guests:** Will Bonner (City of Fountain), Kevin Brown (Cherokee Metropolitan District), Andrew Goodall (Plummer Associates, Inc.) *via Microsoft Teams*, Sara (Cherokee Metropolitan District)

**Meeting Location:** Cherokee Metropolitan District

\*\*Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Introductions followed.

1. **Review/Approve Meeting Minutes** – Mr. Moore presented the meeting minutes for January 23, 2023, for approval consideration. Mr. Bernard made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Mr. Niles. Motion carried.
2. **Review/Approve Finances** - Mr. Moore presented the Financial Report for the month of January 2023 and for approval consideration. Mr. Heald made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Second by Mr. Bernard. Motion carried.
3. **CSU – Site Location Application Request for Reagan Ranch Lift Station-** Andrew Goodall with Plummer Associates, Inc. attended the meeting on behalf of Tiffany Miller to present a summary of the Site Location Application request for Reagan Ranch Lift Station (RRLS). The proposed RRLS will serve the service area located east of Stewart Avenue and Marksheffel Road and is located entirely in El Paso County. The service area consists of parcels allocated for commercial and residential users, currently undeveloped planned as Planned Unit Development totaling approximately 340 acres. New collection systems will be installed to convey wastewater by gravity from these undeveloped parcels to the RRLS as development continues. The RRLS facility will consist of a below grade influent wet well, with a dry pit with four (4) pumps (two (2) initially and (2) at buildout), an emergency overflow storage tank, and other appurtenances as needed. The RRLS will convey wastewater through a new force main approximately 10,500 feet in length to an existing stub-out and manhole located at Meadowbrook Parkway and Newt Drive. The RRLS is located approximately seven miles from the Las Vegas Treatment Facility which is owned by CSU and where the wastewater will be treated. CSU will own and maintain both the lift station and the force main upon commissioning in 2024. Mr. Heckman inquired at what point does CSU consider building the wastewater infrastructure to start sending the flows south by gravity? Discussion followed. Mr. Bernard made a motion to recommend sending the site application to SARC with the group's comments and concerns on capacity and future gravity flows. The group also requested Mr. Goodall submit the diagrams he was referring to in the presentation. Second by Mr. Watkins. Motion carried.
4. **Brandon Bernard (SWSD)** – Mr. Bernard reported that the WWTF improvements are ongoing, they are still having lead time issues with supplies. They received the PFAS sampling report performed on their

Biosolids back in December and the results were 10 nanograms per kilogram. They are on a quarterly schedule so they will be doing their next sampling in March. He reported that Security Sanitation District volunteered their wastewater treatment for PFAS sampling as part of an AF CURE sampling project. Brown and Caldwell are working on the sampling protocols. He reported Taylor Murphy, Kevin Niles and himself will be speaking at a session during the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, which includes a tour of their new ion exchange facility.

5. **Joshua Watkins (Cherokee Metro District)** – Mr. Watkins reported that One Point Water helped with their service line lead and copper analysis. They continue to work on the Ellicott Pipeline study and the Ellicott chlorinator replacement. He reported they are at 90% design on the upgrade of their lift station #1. The MBR process went online at the end of January and is going well. The RO system is anticipated to start up in the next week. He stated that if everything goes well, they will be having a grand opening in the summer. He reported they also sent off biosolid samples for PFAS. At this time, Mr. Brown stated that Cherokee will also be giving a tour as part of the session at the Arkansas River Basin Forum.
6. **Kevin Niles (Stratmoor Hills)** – Mr. Niles stated he has nothing new to report, they had a few water service line leaks and mainline breaks that have been addressed. They hired two new operators. Their major focus this year will be to get their team certified. They recently completed a re-structuring of the employee agreement/staffing, so certifications are the number one priority. The loss prevention specialists from the Colorado Special District Property and Liability Pool are providing a few on-site safety training classes. They plan on using RH Borden to complete another assessment of their collection system this year. He reported on the sanitary slip line issue discussed at the last meeting. The sanitary line in question was deeded from CSU in 2009 and has been lined. There are only two service taps on this line and in 2016 they discovered a service tap was drilled off center in the lining. The District paid for the service tap to be re-centered. Recently the homeowner inspected their line again and found the slip liner once again off center and blocking his tap. The homeowner paid to have the piece of liner cut out blocking his tap. The homeowner is now demanding the District reimburse charges incurred of more than \$15,000. Mr. Niles reported that their Board has elected not to reimburse the homeowner. They and CSU have both videoed the line and have not reached the conclusion that the liner has moved. CSU removed the neighbor's tap as a courtesy. The issue has escalated, and the homeowner has been in direct contact with CSU. No attorneys have been involved yet.
7. **Tara Kelley (CSU)** – Mrs. Kelley reported their projects are still status quo. She stated that although the projects are moving forward, the original costs to complete the projects have doubled or tripled so they are having to reprioritize. They are working on the JD Phillips facility plan. They are experiencing some treatment challenges; they have had a weekly TSS violation and will have a monthly TSS violation with several factors contributing. They are taking a reactionary approach and will be completing jar testing on different polymers. They have also been working with their engineers and outside consultants to evaluate different treatment schemes. She reported that they have had about a 20% staff turnover in the last year. She reported that they brought their operational staff to the City of Boulder to tour their Biogas facility to learn the nuts and bolts of the conditioning system operation, this led to everyone asking questions about basic treatment and issues about clarifiers, etc. She stated this got her thinking about the discussion opportunities which can be shared and potential platforms that can be used to host such a discussion. Lengthy discussion followed on how best to gain participation and host something like this, forums, teams meetings, etc. The consensus of the group was to check with their staff members and see if this is something that might be worth looking into and report back at the next meeting.
8. **Taylor Murphy (City of Fountain)** – Mr. Murphy reported that they continue to work on the design of the proposed 36" pipeline that will connect the south FVA tank to the crossing under Fountain Creek into the Fountain Sanitation District's property on Santa Fe Avenue. The estimated costs for that project has gone up dramatically as well so they have to figure out funding. They will receive their railroad permit within the month for the 46" steel casing that will go under the BNSF railroad. He reported that they are starting the

process of the design and permitting phase for the Fountain Reservoir project as a means of securing more treated water to serve interested residential development. It would entail diverting water off Fountain Creek to storage pits and then treated on site. They will be using some of the ARPA monies they received. He inquired on how the water entities in the group handled system wide surveys on their fire hydrants/fire flows or does everyone defer to the fire department. Discussion followed. He stated that in the past they have hired a company out of New Mexico and were not satisfied with them, so they started doing it inhouse but was curious on how everyone else handled it. Some go out with the fire department, some make the developer hire a company.

9. **Jonathan Moore/Jim Heckman - (FSD/LFMSDD)** –Mr. Moore reported they awarded a contract to KR Swerdfeger for a Railroad project which will commence on April 13, 2023. They are also evaluating sanitary main line replacements in the older sections of the system that are still VCP.

\*There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Moore adjourned the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

**Next LFWQMA Meeting** – The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 24, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. at Woodmen Hills Metropolitan District.