

## **District Manager Report – January 15, 2025**

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

- Attorney for USFWS will be retiring in May 2024
- No update for December – Counsel is reaching out
- No update for January

### **Town of Crestone (ToC) – Sewer Service Negotiations**

- 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
- ToC responded to the draft IGA and Discharge Permit in December
  - Concerns with amount of gallons allowed per day, and permit violation amount
  - Ensure that WWTF capacity beyond what is calculated as necessary by third party is covered by the District
  - The District provided the ToC an updated draft addressing these concerns in early January 2025

### **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
- CDPHE – Water Quality Control Division
  - 2025 Assistance Grant Funding
  - Up to \$25,000

### **Personnel**

- Chad Tate successfully completed his 90 probationary period as Utility Superintendent
  - Chad also passed his waste water level “B” certification in early January
    - District will no longer need a 3<sup>rd</sup> party ORC

### **New Business**

- The District will be applying to host a Community Water Academy with free support from the WaterNow Alliance and the River Network -
  - A Community Water Academy provides water managers and the communities they serve a forum to better understand local issues and needs as one step to creating and maintaining equitable and durable partnerships.
  - This training will be a joint endeavor with Saguache County