

DONALA WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 16, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Donala Water and Sanitation District met in regular session at the District's Holbein Water Treatment Facility, 15850 Holbein Drive, El Paso County, Colorado on April 16, 2026, at 1:30 P.M.

Director's Present: Wayne Vanderschuere  
Bill George  
Kevin Deardorff  
Scott McCulloch  
Kenneth Judd (excused absence)

Staff Present: Christina Hawker  
Carla Edwards  
Ronny Wright  
Jarred Durham  
Jason Hermann

Consultants' Present: Roger Sams (GMS)  
Brett Gracely (Plummer)  
Kelsey Briggs (Spheros)  
Carly Bonwell (Spheros)  
Matt Poznanovic (HPK)  
Nicki Bartak (Raftelis-Call In)  
Todd Cristiano (Raftelis-Call In)

Guests: Jackie Burhans (OCN)  
James Howald (OCN)

President Vanderschuere called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

Approval of Agenda:

- No changes to the agenda.

Public Comment Non-Agenda Items:

- Burhans said she appreciated the new chair lift Donala installed.

Review of Minutes:

- Minutes from March 19th, 2026, Regular Meeting, March 26th, 2026, Workshop, March 27th, 2026, Special Meeting, and April 7th, 2026, Special Meeting accepted.
  - George motioned to approve, Deardorff seconds, all aye.

#### Financial Report by Christina Hawker:

- Hawker stated that we are done with the first quarter and Donala has 77% remaining for revenue and 87% remaining for expenditures.
- Hawker also said the waste plant has a budget remaining of 78% which is on track at this point in the year.
- All expenses are tracking well, with no unusual expenses for either water or wastewater.
- Hawker said this March was the highest usage we have had in the last 7 years.
  - George motioned to approve, Deardorff seconds, all aye.

#### Contract with Amrize West Central, Inc. for the County Storm Water Project

- Hawker stated there were a couple of changes made to the contract such as adding a not to exceed amount in the contract and the price dropped to \$273,550 from the original contract price of \$309,190.
- Additionally, Hawker received a response from the county regarding our ARPA grant, and they approved accepting the 7D redrill for reimbursement submittals. This will allow us to use the remaining grant funds, which total \$487,881.91. This will cover the extra \$173,550 of this contract that we did not budget for.
- Sams stated having the contract with Amrize works out in the Districts favor and recommends proceeding with the contract after a thorough review.
  - George motioned to approve, McCulloch seconds, all aye.

#### Spheros Presentation-Donala Water Rights and Exchange Options by Kelsey Briggs and Carly Bonwell:

- Briggs discussed the purpose and need for water exchanges made. This includes aging and failing groundwater infrastructure, our costly CSU contract, interference from Southeastern Water Conservancy District, and a need to convey our stranded water supply.
- Briggs talked about the different sources of supply, including their advantages and disadvantages, as well as future opportunities each would offer. These sources include; Laughlin and Willow Creek Water Rights as well as Reusable Effluent Return Flows.
- Briggs also explained the exchange-from and exchange-to structures along with their respective advantages and disadvantages, as well as the specific assumptions that were utilized for this study.
- Briggs presented a detailed analysis of several potential exchange scenarios along with their advantages and disadvantages.
- Briggs concluded that Donala's existing infrastructure and conveyance methods are insufficient to maximize use of our existing surface water portfolio and reiterated water exchange is the best way to move water upstream without expensive pumps and pipelines.
- Briggs mentioned Donala will need downstream storage if we do not move forward with the Loop.
- Costs aside, Vanderschuere wanted to know which of the scenarios Briggs presented would help us maximize our goal of trying to become as close as possible to reaching 100% renewable water sources and thereby diminishing groundwater use and return flows.
  - Briggs stated that from her perspective, downstream storage is key and SSRC is a great potential resource that she still believes has capacity to be leased or purchased.
  - Briggs also mentioned that Donala could utilize more than one of these options to achieve our goal. She said it is difficult to make a recommendation based on one thing and our exchange potential could increase if we pursue multiple exchanges instead.

- Vanderschuere asked Briggs in her opinion what her exchange recommendation would be with and without the Loop- what a “plan B” might look like.
  - Briggs stated that we will still have our Denver Basin to fall back on if we need to, so we may need to take it year by year depending on how exchanges perform each year. Also, we could use our wells when demand increases in district if needed or utilize the CSU connection.
- Vanderschuere stated if the Loop was a sure thing, he thinks an exchange from Pueblo to the Chilcott Ditch would be great and has a lot of potential.
  - Briggs agreed that would be a good option.

GMS/Plummer-Updated Donala Alternatives Analysis Presentation:

- Gracely discussed some updates that have been made from the presentation given at the March Board Workshop.
  - Amortization schedule was changed to 30 years instead of 25.
  - Updated SFE’s based on newer lot development in the District.
  - Timing of some of the debt payments have been corrected for the NMCI and continued operation of the UMCWWTF and improvements.
  - Groundwater production costs were corrected to reflect common water system expenses and groundwater specific costs to the amount we are producing.
  - Input the actual amortized payment schedule instead of 30-year average for LWS debt service.
- Gracely briefly reviewed each alternative scenario again, with advantages and potential disadvantages.
- Briggs reiterated that exchanges can be a great supplemental method for conveyance, however they cannot be relied on as a sole method.
- Vanderschuere concluded that Alternative Scenario 0 and 1 would not get us to our goal of ultimately using renewable water sources. We would also not be able to make use of water rights.
  - Gracely agreed this is correct.
- Gracely stated the best renewable option for Donala would be the Loop, with exchanges from Pueblo to Chilcott as well some IPR and DPR from the UMCWWTF and capture the return flows to bring over.

Vanderschuere called a short 5-minute break at 3:20 pm.

- Board meeting resumed at 3:25 pm.

Raftelis Presentation-Rate Comparison with Alternatives Analysis by Nikki Bartak and Todd Cristiano:

- Bartak presented a couple financial plan scenario summaries focusing on the Loop.
  - Some of the highlights scenario 1 focused on were the costs associated with being the sole operator at the existing UMCWWTF, construction and use of the LWS, and use of the CSU interconnect through 2031.
  - Some of the highlights scenario 2 focused on were the construction of both the NMCI to join the WWRF at JD Phillips Plant, use of CSU interconnect through 2031, and construction and use of LWS.
  - Scenario 1 would have a cumulative rate impact of 100% through 2035 whereas scenario 2 would have a cumulative rate impact of 112% through 2035.
- Vanderschuere stated the Board has two important items coming up.
  - One the Board will need to make a decision on whether to ask the voters to increase the debt service limit soon.

- Also, the budget for 2027 will need direction from the Board soon so Christina and John can appropriately allocate funds.
- Burhans asked who John is after hearing his name mentioned regarding the budget.
  - Vanderschuere clarified John Kuosman is our new General Manager for DWSD and will be starting officially on May 19<sup>th</sup>. It was announced during open session after the Donala Board meet in a Special Board meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Hawker's title is now officially Deputy General Manager and CFO of DWSD.

General Manager Report by Christina Hawker:

- Hawker attended Southeastern's Resource and Engineering Planning Committee meeting on April 2nd, where the board approved the Regional Water Agreement with Colorado Springs Utilities. The agreement will now be submitted to the Bureau to sign off, and Donala should then be able to secure a long-term contract with CSU.
- Hawker will continue to follow this closely and keep the Board updated on the long-term contract and any changes to district fees.
- Hawker created a workshop checklist that can be referenced to continue to monitor and discuss items throughout the year.
- Hawker plans to have information to present at the next meeting regarding her conversations with the PR firms she is reaching out to. After that, she said it would be a good idea to discuss and plan dates for the open house/town hall meeting.

Consultants' Comments:

- Gracely said he continues to work on the diligence filing for the Clear Creek exchange and based on discussions we should get that filed.
  - Vanderschuere clarified that we don't need Board action for the filing. If Hawker says to go ahead that is fine.
- Gracely said there will be a meeting with El Paso County later in the week regarding their request to exercise some provisions in a contract Donala entered into with them regarding some of our return flows for augmentation purposes.

Directors Comments:

- Deardorff asked if Hawker had heard anything about the fire mitigation that was supposed to take place at Willow Creek Ranch.
  - Hawker stated she hasn't heard from them and they are on her list of people to follow up with.

Public Comment:

- None.

President Vanderschuere adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.

These minutes are respectfully submitted for record by Carla Edwards on May 14, 2026.