



What's Inside this Issue?

Inside this issue you'll find our Connector Highlight featuring:

- Applewood Sanitation District,
- Meet Metro's newest team member, Dennis Graves
- A summary of the 2020 Special Session.

Based off feedback from Connectors, Metro will be providing flow and loading information via email beginning March 1. **Connectors should provide their preferred and/or updated email to Brandy DeLange (bdelange@mwr.district.co.us) no later than February 1. For those who do not wish to receive this information electronically, please notify Brandy no later than February 1.**



The district owns and maintains over 17 miles of sanitary sewer pipelines and 396 manholes within its boundary. The majority of the original infrastructure is clay pipe. The Applewood Sanitation District boundary map is shown below in Figure 1.



Figure 1 - Applewood Sanitation District Boundary Map

Connector Highlight Applewood Water and Sanitation District

By James R. Landry, PE, CWP, ORC & District Engineer
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Background/History

Applewood Sanitation District was established in 1958 within unincorporated Jefferson County to serve the developing neighborhood adjacent to City of Wheat Ridge and Lakewood. Over 98% of the district is residential, with 998 residential connections and 11 non-residential connections consisting of churches and Youngfield Plaza.

Clear Creek Crossing Development

The Clear Creek Crossing Development is currently under construction and will include a 26-acre health campus with a hospital and medical offices, fitness center, restaurants, shopping, apartments, and hotels. This development, including the installation of Clear Creek Drive and W. 40th Avenue, required the design and construction of new sanitary sewer mains for Applewood. An aerial photo of the Clear Creek Crossing Development is shown below in Figure 2.



Figure 2 - Clear Creek Crossing Development Aerial Photo

Changes to the district's complexion

As communication with the master developer for the Clear Creek Crossing project progressed, the district anticipated substantial changes that needed to be implemented to prepare for this development. The district created a list of required updates and adaptations and began methodically addressing each item. In addition to changing the district's composition with the addition of multifamily units, commercial properties, and medical facilities, the new Clear Creek Crossing would double the district's size by adding approximately 900 SFREs based on anticipated water consumption. In anticipation of the Clear Creek Crossing, the district produced a capital improvement plan (CIP) and rate study, updated its rules and regulations to include a Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Policy, and is in the process of reviewing and updating its engineering standards and details.

Billing methods will be re-evaluated for the district's new commercial customers to provide fair and equitable rates that allow the district to continue to operate and maintain its sanitary sewer system.

Recently added to Applewood's website is a [Developers Information page](#) that consolidates information relevant to developers, including: applications and agreements for main extensions; easement preparation, submittal procedures and a checklist; funding agreements; engineering standards and details; and contacts for the district engineer and construction manager. Comment-response letters are provided for development review to assist developers in gaining district approval. Monthly engineers reports summarize and track development reviews and other information pertinent to district business.

The district is committed to providing its customers with cost effective and transparent sanitary sewer service. District meetings are held regularly on the second Wednesday of every month at the district's office and meeting minutes are regularly posted to the district's website. The [district's website](#) is regularly updated to provide up-to-date resources and transparency for its customers and developers. In addition to rules and regulations, fees and charges, and the district boundary map, the capital improvement plan (CIP), rate analysis, annual budget, and transparency notice can be found under the Important Documents link on the district's homepage.

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Annual System Status Reports

Annual system status reports allow the district to regularly access the existing condition of its sanitary sewer facilities. The district is split into 6 zones. One third of the district is cleaned annually, while one sixth of the district is videoed and inspected to identify problem areas that may need additional work, such as root cutting, point repairs, or replacement.

Manual manhole inspections are completed using detailed evaluation sheets which include photos of the lid, chimney, cone, walls, and base of each manhole. Manhole conditions are summarized in an overall map of the zone indicating each manhole is in good or fair condition, that the manhole requires repair, or the manhole was unable to be located.

System Status Reports are prepared annually and are available for review at the district's office. The district has found the rate of deterioration analysis within the line status reports to be particularly useful.

The percentage of pipes within each pipe condition category is compared with the results from other nearby towns and districts, as available, and previous results from when the zone was last videoed, with side-by-side photos of individual pipelines showing progression of such conditions as cracks and root growth. Figure 3 shows an example of photographic comparison for a cracked pipe from a rate of deterioration analysis. This level of analysis allows pipelines to be prioritized for rehabilitation or replacement based on historical decline. The photos below show a cracked pipe from 2013 and again in 2019.

The Applewood Sanitation District is looking forward to incorporating the Clear Creek Crossing Development into its sanitary sewer system and to continuing to serve its existing customers in an equitable and transparent fashion. Rules and regulations, engineering standards and details continue to be evaluated as appropriate to tailor the district for its existing and anticipated customers.



2013

Figure 3 - Photographic Comparison of a Cracked Pipe from a Rate of Deterioration Analysis

2019

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Other Major Projects

Two other major infrastructure projects impacted the district concurrently, in addition to the rapid development of the project!

New CDOT (Colorado Department of Transportation) hook ramps were installed on the west side of I-70 north of W 32nd Ave., allowing direct access to the Clear Creek Crossing Development. These ramps replaced previously existing ramps at 32nd Ave. The grading of the new hook ramps necessitated the installation of a temporary drop manhole to be installed until newer infrastructure is put in place. Figure 4 shows the drop manhole between the newly paved CDOT hook ramps.



Figure 4 - New Drop Manhole between Newly Paved CDOT Hook Ramps

The 84-inch Denver Water Conduit No. 16 waterline was installed from the southeast of the Clear Creek Crossing Development running parallel and to the west of Clear Creek Drive, replacing the older 42-inch Conduit No. 16 and 54-inch Conduit No 22. The new Denver Water Conduit No. 16 is shown in Figure 5 and the bore casing pipe for the district's sanitary sewer line is shown in Figure 6.



Figure 5 - 84-inch Denver Water Conduit No. 16

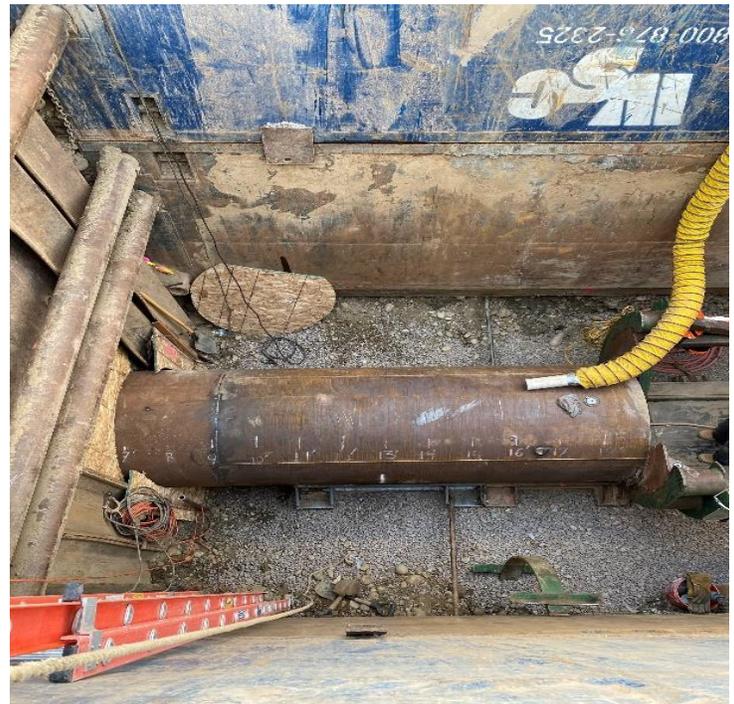


Figure 6 - Boring under Denver Water Conduit No. 16 for Sanitary Sewer Main

The District is dedicated to providing outstanding service to its customers, staying up to speed on industry standards and establishing and maintaining good relationships with other districts that are facing a lot of the same issues.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share some information about the Applewood Sanitation District.

Legislative Update

2020 Special Session Summary

On November 17, Governor Polis announced there would be a special session to address state-level COVID-19 relief because of “inaction” at the federal level. At the direction of Governor Polis, the stimulus package was to focus on providing tax relief to local bars and restaurants, providing child care funding assistance, rental and utility assistance to low-income families, and providing broadband access to K-12 students statewide.

On November 30, the General Assembly convened for three days and passed a total of 10 bills out of 33 that were originally introduced. Below is a summary of three bills that the District actively followed and were passed by the General Assembly.

The 2021 Regular Session is set to begin on January 13, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the legislature will only gavel in to swear in new legislators and manage constitutional and statutory obligations and then temporarily recess until February 16. The Metro District will provide continued updates as more information becomes available.

[SB20B-002, Housing and Direct COVID Emergency Assistance](#)

Sponsors: Sens. Julie Gonzales (D-Denver) and Chris Holbert (R-Parker) and Reps. Tony Exum (D-Colorado Springs) and Kerry Tipper (D-Lakewood)

SB20B-002, creates the Emergency Direct Assistance Grant Program in the Division of Housing in the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). The program will provide grants to individuals who experience financial need due to the COVID-19 pandemic and who may not be eligible for other types of assistance. The bill transfers \$5 million from the General Fund to the newly created Emergency Direct Assistance Grant Program Fund. As amended in the Senate Finance Committee, the bill transfers \$54.5 million from the General Fund to the Housing Development Grant fund to provide housing assistance via the “POP” program, which provides funding to landlords for rental replacement.



Finally, the bill transfers \$1 million from the General Fund to the Eviction Legal Defense Fund.

Rep. Mullica (D-Northglenn) reached out to stakeholders including the Metro District, to conceptualize an amendment which would have earmarked \$500,000 for transfer to Energy Outreach Colorado to be used specifically for water utility payments for low-income Coloradans. This conceptual amendment was discussed during the House Human Service committee meeting, but ultimately was not offered. However, there is interest in pursuing legislation in 2021 around the topic, and will include stakeholders such as Aurora Water, Denver Water, and Colorado Springs Utilities. The District will actively follow and participate in this conversation by seeking feedback from Connectors.

[SB20B-003, Money for Energy Utility Bill Payment Assistance](#)

Sponsors: Sens. Rhonda Fields (D-Aurora) and Larry Crowder (R-Alamosa) and Reps. Monica Duran (D-Wheatridge) and Lois Landgraf (R-Fountain)

SB20B-003 directs the State Treasurer to transfer \$5 million from the General Fund to the Energy Outreach Colorado Low-income Energy Assistance Fund. This fund provides electric payment assistance to low-income households and follows similar criteria to the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP program). Energy Outreach Colorado must expend the money before June 30, 2021.

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Based on feedback from stakeholders in the Senate, by July 15, 2021, Energy Outreach Colorado is required to report to the Colorado Energy Office regarding the amount of the transferred money that was disbursed for direct bill payment assistance and the amount returned to the state. It should be noted that electric utilities including Xcel, Black Hills, and Colorado Springs Utility support this direct assistance, as it also provides relief to the utilities who have seen an increased number of rate-payers who are unable to pay for services as a result of the pandemic. This bill may also provide a template for income eligibility criteria for water and wastewater utility assistance conversations in the 2021 session.

[SB 2020B-004, Transfer to Make Money Available For COVID-19 Emergency](#)

Sponsors: Sen. Dominick Moreno (D-Commerce City) and Rep. Julie McCluskie (D-Dillion)

SB20B-004 transfers \$100 million from the General Fund to the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund (CMTF) in the current FY 2020-21. In addition, it allows the Governor to transfer some or all of this amount to the Disaster Emergency Fund (DEF) before July 1, 2021, if additional funding is needed to respond to the current COVID emergency. Any funds not transferred for emergency COVID purposes in the current fiscal year are to remain in the CMTF. The bill requires the State Treasurer to deposit into the CMTF reimbursements that the State receives from the federal government for any expenditures from the Disaster Emergency Fund (DEF), if those federal reimbursements are received after the date of a transfer to the DEF. Such deposits are limited to the amount of the transfer from the CMTF to the DEF.

Please stay tuned to this section as the 2021 Regular Session begins and the Metro District provides regular updates on legislation being engaged in and tracked.

Meet our Newest Team Member

Dennis Graves

The Metro District has hired Dennis Graves as an Utility Charge Accountant. Dennis is responsible administering the District's annual charges for service and sewer connection charge programs. Dennis will be replacing Tammy Walker, who retired in mid-December.

Previous to joining the District, Dennis has been a senior corporate accountant for over 15 years with companies such as Santander Consumer USA, Ford Motor Company, Prudential Insurance, and Landry' Restaurants. Some of his career highlights include opening an icon Rainforest Café in downtown Disney and being instrumental in streamlining and automating accounting processes to reduce cost and improve reporting times.

In his free time, Dennis enjoys spending time with his three daughters, 20-year-old twins Caitlyn and Shelby, and youngest 18-year-old Megan. He can be found on any given weekend with his family watching Caitlyn play collegiate softball, working on his Plum Crazy Challenger, or off-roading in his Jeep.

Dennis can be reached by email (DGraves@mwr.districtofcolorado.gov) or by phone at 303-286-3281.



Metro Needs Your Help!

As part of the delegation agreement between participating Connectors and Contracting Municipalities, the Metro District’s Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP) must continuously update the current list of businesses/industries in the entire 715 square-mile service area throughout the year. Updating the businesses/industries in our service area allows us to identify new and potentially harmful contaminants before they become a problem in our sewer lines and at our plants. It is critical the IPP knows what industries are contributing to our system. For example,

- Auto body shops generate waste that has the potential to be harmful to District employees working in sewer lines.
- Medical facility waste could impact the District’s ability to comply with environmental permits, laws, and regulations.
- Car washes discharge contaminants that could be poisonous to fish.
- Breweries discharging low pH waste could potentially corrode sewer lines.

Connectors should provide updates at the end of each quarter, by the 15th of following month (i.e. April 15, July 15, October 15, January 15) to Brandy DeLange or Meg Parker. Please contact Meg Parker if you have any IPP Questions (mparker@mwrld.dst.co.us or 303-286-3253).

Your help in identifying new and/or changing industries in your service area is greatly appreciated.

Resources for Connectors

Do you have a project that needs funding? Please follow [this link](#) to find a list of resources available to Connectors.



Important Dates to Remember

January 1, 2021	Happy New Year
January 15, 2021	4 th Quarter 2020 Sewer Connection Charge due
January 19, 2021	Metro District Board Meeting
January 22, 2021	Commercial Water Use Reports & Permit Reports due
March 15, 2021	Q1 2021 Annual Charges due
April 15, 2021	Q1 2021 Sewer Connection Charge due
June 15, 2021	Q2 Annual Charges 2021 due
July 15, 2021	Q2 2021 Sewer Connection Charges due
September 15, 2021	Q3 2021 Annual Charges due
October 15, 2021	Q3 2021 Sewer Connection Charges due
December 15, 2021	Q4 2021 Annual Charges due
January 17, 2022	Q4 2021 Sewer Connection Charges due

Keep Us in the Loop

Do we have the best contact information for your organization? If staff or board members have changed, drop us a line and we’ll update our contact list.