

## **Synopsis of NEPCO Meeting 11 Sep 2021**

This synopsis is intended to provide the highlights of the NEPCO General Membership meeting to all residents of NEPCO member Homeowner Associations. Full minutes & presentations at [www.nepco.org](http://www.nepco.org).

**NEPCO Transportation and Land Use Committee Reviews:** John Lewis, new Chairman of the TLUC, gave a presentation of recent activities. NEPCO has reviewed over 20 proposals from the county and Town of Monument over the past six months, many were small but a few were significant. The county web site called “EDARP” is the place to get all the land use proposals and attached documentation for review; John used charts to present detailed instructions on the steps to use this on-line site for review, and the instructional charts are in the meeting presentation package on the NEPCO web site. He provided a description of some “lessons learned” over the past years. John set up a face-to-face meeting with county planners to discuss the review process and the problems NEPCO has had for many years with the process. El Paso County seemed to ignore many of NEPCO comments sent to them, and, after discussion with county planners, it turns out that many areas of the proposals were already decided before the proposals went out for citizen review. John asked the county planners for a flow-chart of their review process to show when citizens can make inputs and comments that will be considered. John said the review process must start with an understanding of the new County Master Plan. John explained how a new land use proposal review model for NEPCO to follow will begin with identifying HOAs impacted by a proposal for land use using a digital model he is building to correlate geographic locations. NEPCO will support the impacted HOAs with information and guidance, but the impacted HOAs are the best ones to do a review and provide comments to the county. He is currently experimenting with his geographic correlation program to assess its feasibility. NEPCO members interested in volunteering to be a member of the NEPCO Transportation and Land Use Committee should contact Greg Lynd at [president@nepco.org](mailto:president@nepco.org) or 1-303-808-5002.

**NEPCO Wildfire Preparedness Committee:** Greg briefed a chart for the Committee Chairman, Matthew Nelson, that had the following points. Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) is controlling the \$245K grant for wildfire mitigation, and many of the original grantees are receiving their grants. Leftover funds will be allocated to new proposed projects upon review. NEPCO will be involved in advertising the process for receiving grant money, and the NEPCO Wildfire Preparedness Committee will be the point of contact.

**Current and Future Water Availability:** Greg introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Tom Tharnish, Director of Public Works for the Town of Monument. Today’s program was originally to have been a panel of water experts to discuss the current and future availability of water in northern El Paso County, but two district general managers were unable to attend. Mr. Tharnish of Monument, however, provided an excellent description of the current water situation and future initiatives, including the “loop” concept for renewable water for our area. Mr. Tharnish explained the “loop” concept for acquiring treated wastewater in our area. The six water districts in our area currently treat wastewater at two wastewater plants. Under the “loop” concept, the treated wastewater from these plants would flow south to Colorado Springs where it would be treated again. Then it would be dispensed into Monument Creek where it would be extracted and flow back to storage tanks in northern El Paso County. The water would then be dispensed to the six water districts for treatment and dispensed for use by homeowners and businesses in our area. This concept would get about 60-65% of the water back. The development of the “loop” would be costly but would save enormously on the extraction of ground water from the Dawson or Arapahoe aquifers which are becoming seriously depleted. Mr. Tharnish said “loop” studies should be completed in about a year from now. He said previous studies of the ground water resources showed that the year 2035 is when our ground water from the aquifers is in jeopardy. The “loop” will eventually allow all our aquifers to drop much less than now and therefore last longer.