

March 7, 2019

## Metro District Board approves collaboration with Parker Water & Sanitation District on Joint Water & Wastewater Service Study

Consistent with its reform vision and core objectives, the Castle Pines North Metro District Board of Directors is pleased to announce a joint water and wastewater service-delivery study with the Parker Water & Sanitation District.

During its regular public meeting on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, that was both live video streamed and video recorded, the board and district manager discussed the prospect of the study at length and subsequently voted enthusiastically to move forward. Video of the meeting is available for viewing on the **Board Meetings Page** of the Metro District's website at <https://cpnmd.org/board-meetings>.

The study will allow the Metro District to flesh out the terms and conditions under which the respective governing boards in both jurisdictions might consider essentially merging our water and wastewater services with Parker and the degree to which doing so may or may not make financial sense for the people of both communities.



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Providing clean, safe, reliable, on-demand drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, parks, trails, and open space services to the people of Castle Pines.

Board meetings are available for viewing via live video stream and video recording at [cpnmd.org](https://cpnmd.org).

The study and associated comprehensive due diligence efforts will most likely span several months – probably through the summer of 2019. At the conclusion of the study, District Manager Jim Worley intends to return to the Metro District Board to report what the joint study reveals as well as joint recommendations.

*“This is fantastic news,” said **President David McEntire**. “But for the new relationship we have with Parker Water and Sanitation District at every level, this opportunity would have remained elusive. This joint study demonstrates forward progress for this board, for our Metro District, and most importantly, for the people we serve and represent. I believe the Metro District should have seriously evaluated consolidation alternatives years ago; however, we are where we are, and I am deeply grateful to the Parker Board and their District Manager, Ron Redd, for the opportunity.”*

In his remarks to the board, District Manager Jim Worley reminded those present of several *“compelling, obvious, and relevant facts and associated renewable water alternatives”* that in his professional opinion, the district and its consultants, in years past, had failed to acknowledge, much less evaluate. For example:

- When built out, *The Canyons* development, located on the east side of I-25 and adjacent to Rueter-Hess Reservoir, will essentially double the size of the City of Castle Pines.
- The Castle Pines North Metro District owns 1,500-acre-feet of raw-water storage in Rueter-Hess Reservoir.
- The Parker Water and Sanitation District owns and operates Rueter-Hess Reservoir and is the water and wastewater service provider for what will soon be the new half of the City of Castle Pines.

*“I think Jim’s remarks to the board and public conveyed in a compelling way the rationale for collaborating with a much larger neighbor to assess the value of consolidation,” said **Director Denise Crew**. “Through the process of this study, both sides can work together to identify and evaluate potential efficiencies, economies of scale, and the costs and benefits of combining our water and wastewater service delivery.”*

**Director Robert Merritt** had a slightly different take. *“In the interest of managing expectations, I offer a word of cautious optimism,”* he said. *“We won’t know for several months what the study will reveal. However, I want Castle Pines residents to be confident that our support for analyzing this alternative is rooted in our intent to secure the community’s renewable water future wisely and at less cost than the voter-rejected plans of recent years.”*

*“To say that I’m pleased would be an understatement,”* said **Director Chuck Lowen**. *“In my opinion, we need to spread the cost of designing, building, operating, maintaining, and financing infrastructure and service delivery over tens-of-thousands more rooftops and ratepayers than our district has or is ever going to have. Parker Water & Sanitation District may be the service partner we need to minimize cost-of-service escalation in future years.”*

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