

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **New Leadership Takes Charge at the Lake County Department of Utilities**

*Trifecta Team of Experience and Knowledge Leads Department into the Future*

Painesville, OH (March 16, 2016) – The Lake County Department of Utilities is pleased to announce its new leadership team of Randy Rothlisberger as Sanitary Engineer, Matt Armand as Director of Business Operations, and Gary Fedak as Director of Technical Operations. They will take charge in leading the Utility Department into the future after the retirement of Rick Martin as Executive Director on April 1, 2016.

Because of increased safety demands, regulations and business development, the new leadership will help to ensure the success of key projects and ongoing activities within the department. The coordinated management of the new positions will allow each area of operations to maximize employee talent and resources.

Commissioner Daniel Troy commented, “Our new leadership team has demonstrated the ability to work well together, and we are fortunate to have such talent from which to choose already within the department. Like three sides of a triangle, their individual expertise fits well in each of these roles; and, on the whole, makes our organization that much stronger.”

“It’s bringing in a new era. Randy is a go-to guy that always tries to find a resolution. Matt has moved up through the ranks of the department and truly understands our employees as real people on the job, while having a strong commitment to providing superior customer service. I have great respect for Gary; he has been an important asset to our new building construction. He always knows the right questions to ask during the planning of engineering and improvement projects. We have a great team in place and I’m excited about the future,” said Commissioner Judy Moran.

“We are quite fortunate in Lake County to employ competent, dedicated professionals in our departments who are truly out to serve the people. You find those qualities in Randy, Matt, and Gary. Their combined over forty years of experience and dedication to our customers will ensure that we consistently achieve

the highest standards for our Utilities Department moving forward under their leadership. Their unique combination of skill-sets will ably and successfully serve the high function of our Utilities Department in the future,” said Commissioner Kevin Malecek.

Randy Rothlisberger began working as a public servant as the Deputy Sanitary Engineer in 1998. He was promoted to Assistant Sanitary Engineer after earning his Professional Engineers license in 2002, and has served as the Director of Water for the past several years. He also holds a Water Supply 2 Certification from the Ohio EPA. Serving in various engineering positions, he has gained extensive knowledge of LCDU operations and knows the water department employees are not only very talented, but also take great pride in their work, the facilities, and the department.

Randy plans to “continue the success of the current model by leading the department towards sound financial management and engaging committees to bring diverse opinions and knowledge together. In the long term, we need to establish a sustainable utility by replacing and rehabilitating infrastructure, as well as having the tools and equipment available for our employees to maintain and improve systems.”

Matt Armand has worked extensively within the Utility Department, beginning in the Billing and Customer Service Office. He has actively participated in administrative functions, including financial management, customer service, public outreach, community relations, and intergovernmental relations. He has widespread internal knowledge of operations and has gained tremendous experience regarding key components as they pertain to the LCDU mission of delivering the highest standards of quality to residents of Lake County.

“I’m extremely optimistic and excited that, together with Randy and Gary and every single member of our department, we will provide the highest level of confidence to the residents of Lake County. We are very fortunate to have an outstanding and dedicated team of employees who truly demonstrate what it means to be public servants,” commented Matt.

Gary Fedak brings more than 25 years of experience working as a project manager and construction manager for reputable engineering firms, including Burgess & Niple Inc. and AECOM, where he was responsible for all coordinating and construction management in the State of Ohio. He has worked with approximately 25 different water and wastewater treatment plants, with projects ranging up to \$200 million dollars. From his various engineering and management positions, his experience expands into design, capital infrastructure programs, general contracting, and quality assurance. He holds a Professional Engineering license, a Civil Engineering degree from the University of Dayton, and MBA from Lake Erie College.

Gary will be focused on directing and administering the long-term operations and maintenance functions for the water department, sewer department, and the solid waste department. His deep understanding of how various utilities operate and function allows him to see the value of cross communication between departments and the importance of developing external relationships with community stakeholders.

When discussing the future of the department, Gary said, “Our focus will be on consistency and solutions that increase efficiency and improve our quality of service to residents. We also have a highly dedicated and talented team of employees that will continue to be the centerpiece of our growth and success. Our staff is our best asset and we are committed to their training and development.”

“We plan on continuing Rick’s mission in a meaningful way. Rick spent a great deal of time developing a strong foundation for the organization, and we look forward to building upon his accomplishments,” added Gary.

The new leadership will ensure the department provides open communication with employees, Commissioners, residents, and community partners. As standard policies are refined and technology data management is upgraded, the Utility Department will create new benchmarks to evaluate its performance in Lake County and help set the standard for the industry.

“I am very confident that the team of Randy, Matt and Gary will work extremely well together, and I anticipate that this will ensure a well-managed operation that should be the envy of utility departments throughout the state,” added Commissioner Troy.

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Boilerplate*