LAKE COUNTY

3 appointed to lead Department of Utilities

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With the retirement of Executive Director Rick Martin April 1, three people have been appointed to lead the Lake County Department of Utilities.

At their most recent meeting, the Lake County commissioners appointed Matt Armand as director of Business Operations and Gary Fedak as director of Technical Operations. Sanitary Engineer Randy Rothlisberger was named chief executive overseeing the Department of Utilities.

The decision to replace Martin, who spent 14 years in the executive role, stems from increased safety demands, regulations and business development. The coordinated management of the new positions will "allow each area of operations to maximize employee talent and resources," according to a news release.

Martin

Rothlisberger started working for the county as a deputy sanitary engineer in 1998. He has also served as assistant sanitary engineer and director of water. Last April, Rothlisberger was named sanitary engineer, replacing Al Saari, who served in the position for the past 30 years.

In a statement, Rothlisberger said he wants to "continue the success of the current model by leading the department toward 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," he said.

Armand began in the Utilities Department in the Billing and Customer Service Office. Before the appointment to director of Business Operations, Armand served as public service coordinator. He has been involved with administrative functions, including financial management, customer service, public outreach, community relations, and intergovernmental relations.

Fedak's role will be focused on directing and administering the long-term operations and maintenance functions for the water department, sewer department and solid waste department. He has more than 25 years of experience working as a project manager and construction manager. He has worked for engineering firms like Burgess & Niple Inc. and AECOM. He has worked with about 25 different water and wastewater treatment plants, with projects ranging up to $200 million according to the news release.

"Randy is a go-to guy that always tries to find a resolution," Commissioner Judy Moran said in a statement. "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."