

# Frederick County Sanitary District of Shawneeland

## Manager's Report – April 2020

Due to the ongoing issues with the Coronavirus and the potential for cancellation of the May 4<sup>th</sup> SSDAC meeting, I wanted to keep the SSDAC and the citizens up to date on what projects the staff have been working on over the last few months and what we are going to work on in the months ahead.

The winter season is behind us and we fared very well this year. We experienced a few small weather events with very little impact. Because the weather was favorable, the staff was able to continue to cut dead and dying trees on the 37 trails that we had projected. In total, the staff cut 333 dead or dying trees from the right of ways. These trees range in size from 4" in diameter to approximately 20" in diameter. On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the tree contractor removed 13 large trees that staff could not safely remove at a cost of \$1,450.00. This is a huge bargain as far as tree removal goes. The tree contractor will be back on April 13<sup>th</sup> to remove additional trees from the right of way that are dead.

The staff is continuing to cut limbs over-hanging the trails throughout Shawneeland. We are able to cut limbs as high up as 24'. This allows dump trucks whether it be ours or a contractor to dump material without the fear of damaging the truck. It also allows daylight to hit the road surface for faster snow melting in the winter and better drying in the summer. Keeping road surfaces and the base of the road dry is key in longevity. Staff has cut limbs from 47 trails to this point and will continue this project to the end of April.

During the month of May, the staff will begin Asphalt patching with the Motor Grader. This will continue throughout the months of May and June. My goal is to patch at least twice a week if the weather allows. We will be mowing one day a week as usual along with the other daily tasks the staff performs.

The staff mowed the 40+ acres of grounds for the first time this year on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are not going to mow the slope that we removed all the trees and brush from for 4 to 6 weeks. This will allow the ground to settle from the work we did with the Dozer. This will also allow the grass to establish and root to prevent erosion. Mowing of the trails with the Sickle Bar Mower will begin sometime in June. Please keep in mind that this is a very long process. We are mowing approximately 48 miles of roads two and sometimes three times per year. This means that one round of mowing is equal to 96 lane miles of grass cutting. If we do this three times per year, it equates to 288 lane miles.

The staff checked over the playground equipment last month at both locations. The equipment is showing some wear but is still safe to use. We also added 3 dump truck loads of mulch to the playgrounds as we do every year.

The Cherokee Lake level is on the rise. On January 23<sup>rd</sup> the lake level was -137.0" and as of April 6<sup>th</sup> it was -73.0". As is the case every year, the lake will continue to rise throughout the spring and will be back to full pool if the rain continues.

As we all know, the Governor has banned gatherings of 10 or more people at this point. With that being said, the Fishing Derby will be cancelled. However, because fishing is not prohibited, and the State of

Virginia will continue to stock trout in ponds, lakes and streams, we will be stocking the ponds and the lakes with trout as previously scheduled and budgeted. We have noticed quite a few people out fishing lately since many are home due to travel/ work restrictions, so fishing is a good activity. The total cost of the trout is \$1,286.00 for 402 trout. This includes 396 Rainbow Trout, 4 Golden Trout, and 2 larger trout that weigh over 2lbs each. However, we will not officially announce when the trout will be stocked due to concern over social distancing, but it will be in the next few weeks. It is up to the individuals to police themselves when it comes to social distancing as stated by the Governor.

With regards to the upcoming beach and swimming season, the beach will of course remain closed until such time that we can open it to swimming. We generally open the beach around Memorial Day but with social distancing in place at this time, we are not sure when it can open. Once we can open the beach, we will quickly prepare the beach and make it available. I do not see a need to do any prep ahead of time in case we are unable to open the beach this year due to the circumstance's surrounding the Coronavirus.

The Frederick County Public Works Department has given the Sanitary District a stockpile of class 1 Rip Rap Stone for future projects. This was offered by the Public Works Director, Joe Wilder. The Rip Rap was hauled to Shawneeland by GEI "General Excavation, Inc.", the county's on-call excavation contractor at NO cost to the Sanitary District. The cost of hauling the Rip Rap was paid for by the Public Works Department as part of their project budget. The rock came from the Public Works project for the construction of a replacement citizen convenience center in the Albin area off along Rt. 522 N. The cost of Class 1 Rip Rap is \$30.68 per ton as of 6/1/2019. The Contractor hauled approximately 300 tons saving Shawneeland \$9,204.00. We may receive more Rip Rap for the stockpile at some point in the future.

Over the coming weeks, you will see GEI "General Excavating, Inc." doing some much needed repairs in several locations throughout Shawneeland. GEI is the approved on-call county contractor who's pricing has been reviewed and is very cost effective. The funds for these projects are in the current 2020 budget. These funds were put in place in anticipation of doing these projects this Spring.

The projects include replacing and upgrading two drainage culverts. The contractor will be cleaning and grouting 14 large pipes in various locations. These drainage culverts are 20+ years old and developing holes throughout the bottoms of the pipes. By cleaning and grouting the bottoms of these metal culverts, the life of the culverts will be extended by many years. This will save thousands of dollars over the next few years by not having to replace them. Also, as part of this work, the outflow pipes at the ponds below the dam will be maintained. These pipes have been in place for 20+ years as well. Although the pipes themselves are in good shape, the ground in front of the pipes have been compromised over the last couple of years because of the continued use of the Siphon System. The siphons were used to keep the lake level at an acceptable range due to massive rainstorms. The ground beneath and around the pipes have eroded away and at times developed sink holes on the dam. GEI will be digging out the inlet end of the culverts. GEI will then place rip rap rock and grout around the inlet ends of the pipes to prevent future problems. They will be using the free rip rap rock we just received from the County. The quote from GEI for all the work is just over \$80,000 and should be completed in a couple months.

The Chairman of the SSDAC, Jimmy Smith, is aware of these needed repairs. He and I looked at each location of work to be done. All the work that needs to be done has been explained to the Chairman and with the end of fiscal year coming at the end of June, it's imperative that action be taken now.

Currently, as it stands, I feel very confident in saying that \$400,000 will be returned to the Reserve Fund at the end of this budget year, even with stocking the fish and work being performed by GEI. This of course is if we do not have any major weather events like we experienced during the summer of 2018.

Although these are very challenging and difficult times, the Shawneeland staff remains dedicated to doing their jobs in a cost-effective manner and serving the community in which they work.

Best regards,

**Kevin C. Alderman**  
**District Manager, Shawneeland Sanitary District**

**CC: Shawn Graber, Back Creek District Supervisor**  
**Joe C. Wilder, Public Works Director**