COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

MEETING DATE: October 28, 2019
AGENDA NUMBER: 12
ITEM: Getting Ready for Spring… and Potential Flooding

AGENDA: Information

ACTION REQUESTED
None

BACKGROUND
So far 2019 has been the wettest year in the watershed, in the past 30 years. At the end of September, the District had received an average of 32.7 inches of rain. 1.1 inches above the high normal and 6.8 inches above the long-term average.

As we enter late fall (typically a drier part of the year and a time of when water has already started to draw down) we find more precipitation in the forecast. Soils are saturated, natural storage areas such as wetlands are full as are lakes and storm water ponds. It is important to facilitate drainage and draw down before freeze up.

Actions to Date:
1. Increased the frequency of inspections of both historic problem areas (areas that tend to accumulate debris and/or sediment) and the lower third of the District looking for blockages and obstructions.
2. Started preparing press release/article describing the situation and asking for the public’s assistance in identifying obstructions or impediments to flow. A Facebook and Instagram post on this were published at 2:30 pm on 10/24/19 with no current negative reactions, and this information was posted to the homepage of our website at 9 am on 10/25/19. Our plan is to provide the article to the papers next week with a request that it be run sooner rather than later.

3. Met with the forestry contractor to rearrange work priorities and locations to address current problems in the lower portions of the District

Actions to be Completed:
1. Redirect unplanned maintenance from areas too wet to access to maintaining the channel.
2. Set up method to record and direct calls and reports of channel conditions in the lower third to O&M so that inspections and work can be scheduled.
3. Monitor water content of snow pack starting in February

ISSUES/CONCERNS

Staff Availability and Readiness: Inspections of Ditch 57 and Woodcrest Creek remain to be done this year. Inspections were initially delayed because of the wet spring and has been slow to progress because of persistent high water.

If it is found that channel conditions in the lower third
- Have deteriorated
- A significant number of obstructions are reported by the public
- There is a significant weather event or situation that causes obstructions

Then, Mario would be re-tasked to inspect the lower third. In that case, there is a significant chance we will not complete all of the 2018 inspections.

Weather Forecast: Most forecasts indicate a continued wet fall with a very snowy and cold winter. It is also reasonable to expect that the weather will continue to be volatile in the sense that:
- High temps will be higher and low temperatures will be lower, wet periods will be wetter and dry periods will be drier.
- Transitions periods between the above changes will be abrupt, occurring in hours versus days
- The period lengths between transitions will continue to decrease from weeks to days

Hydrologic Significance: Less time to draw down and therefore more water on the landscape in the form of snow pack available for thaw and contribution to flooding. (The counter argument to the above situations is that extremely cold temperatures tend to produce dryer snow resulting in less water on the landscape).
PRIOR DECISIONS
na

OPTIONS
na

RECOMMENDATION
Be prepared for questions from constituents