

MEMORANDUM
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

To: Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney
Subject: Citizen Complaints

Date: June 21, 2017

Background/Discussion

Sunrise River Bank Erosion

A Sunrise River property owner recently contacted the District expressing her concerns about the state of the river banks in her area. The resident noted that over the last couple of years they have seen a lot of erosion and dead trees falling into the river which have taken large chunks of the bank with them. On June 20th Mike Sorensen and Sam Duncanson visited the property and inspected the area of concern. They reported that there are many large trees in the area that appear to be shading the streambank to a degree where no undergrowth is present to stabilize the soil and major erosion is occurring as a result.

EOR completed an initial assessment of this stretch of the Sunrise River in 2012 which highlights these similar issues. A comprehensive approach to address the long term issues with these residential streambanks would provide a predictable method to fund the maintenance needed. This would involve initial coordination with the City of Wyoming and perhaps the County. Ideally, a corridor of easements would be obtained so the streambanks could be managed as defined in a long term maintenance program. This may include removing only select trees or the establishment of native trees that have the root structure to stabilize the bank while still allowing sunlight to reach the banks so grassy vegetation can get established.

Staff can work with the engineer and others to outline an initial effort that would need to be funded in the next budget so as to establish the longer term efforts and costs associated with this.