

District Notes & News



Established 1923

Fall 2005

SUPERVISORS

Thomas H. Powell

President

Tom Rice

Vice-President

David Beane

Robert Berman

Michael Danchuk

STAFF

Gale English

General Manager

Michael Dillon

Operations Superintendent

Greta Rayman

Office Administrator

DISTRICT OFFICE

15600 Jupiter Farms Road

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(561) 747-0550

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sirwcd@sirwcd.org

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Monday-Friday

*The Board of Supervisors meets
the third Thursday of each
month at the Jupiter High
School Media Center
at 7:30 p.m.*

*Contact the District Office
for an agenda.*

EMPLOYEES OF SOUTH INDIAN RIVER WATER CONTROL DISTRICT OFFER YEARS OF EXPERTISE



Left to right: Ronald Curboy, Gale English, George McGarry, Andy Billy, Greg Gell, Tiffany Ponton, David Duckett, Arie Raz, Earl Smith, Mike Dillon, and Dustin Brown

The South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD) serves Jupiter Farms, Palm Beach Country Estates, Egret Landing and Jupiter Commerce Park in northern Palm Beach County.

Eleven of the District's fifteen full and part-time employees are responsible for operating the motor graders, backhoes, and mowers, while the remainder of the staff are involved in office and managerial positions. These employees bring a combined total of 170 years experience to the District.

General manager Gale English has served the District since 1981 and brings a wealth of experience to his position. He is a past president of the Florida Association of Special Districts, a past president of Palm Beach County Municipal League, and was formerly mayor of Mangonia Park. Gale also serves as the District's liaison with the numerous agencies and government entities with which the District works.

Gale recently completed the Certified District Manager (CDM) program, which was developed by the Florida Association

of Special Districts (FASD) and Barry University to showcase the experience, knowledge, and management skills of qualified individuals in the field of special district management. He was recognized by the FASD and was awarded a CMD pin and Certificate of Completion.

Gale also has been certified as a Palm Beach County court mediator, and on his own time, works to resolve cases before they go to trial.



General Manager Gale English

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Office administrator Greta Rayman has been with the District for 27 years and is instrumental in day-to-day operations. With landowner petitions for improvements at an all-time high and the preparation of extensive documentation for the Natural Resources Conservation Service and FEMA for last years' hurricanes, she and office assistant Carol Wise have had a very busy year.



Greta Rayman

Mike Dillon, who has been with the District since 1996, serves as operations superintendent and master mechanic. Earl Smith is the District's equipment foreman and has been with SIRWCD for 27 years.

Full-time equipment operators include Andy Billy, Dustin Brown, Ronald M. Curboy (R.C.), David Duckett, Greg Gell, George McGarry, Tiffany Ponton, and Arie Raz. Jeff Beane and Wayne Priest are part-time equipment operators.



Earl Smith and Mike Dillon

On-going training is regularly provided for all District personnel to increase and improve their performance levels.

Gale and his staff are dedicated to providing landowners with the highest possible level of service and professionalism.

Landowners are encouraged to call 747-0550 or visit the District's office if they have any questions, concerns, or problems regarding road or drainage issues. Landowners also may visit the District's website at www.sirwcd.org for more information.



New John Deere 6420 side-arm mower

Florida Stormwater Education Corner Protecting Florida's Water

We've discussed best management practices (BMPs) briefly in earlier articles, but there are many types and their use is encouraged by the EPA to manage and control stormwater runoff and its impacts on the environment. Governing authorities such as South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and SIRWCD must develop and implement strategies that include a combination of non-structural and/or structural BMPs appropriate for their communities.

Non-structural BMPs are preventative actions that involve management and source controls. Structural BMPs include storage practices, filtration practices, and infiltration practices that capture runoff and rely on infiltration through a porous medium for pollutant reduction. The drainage swales in SIRWCD are an example of an infiltration BMP. Managing animal waste from horses and cattle in rural areas falls under non-structural BMPs. Animal waste contains high levels of phosphorus, which is carried by stormwater runoff into canals and waterways. Ultimately, this water ends up in sensitive eco-systems such as the Everglades and Loxahatchee River.

As the District's landowners include a number of equestrians, other BMPs include proper fencing that keeps horses away from surface waterways, pasture rotation to reduce over-grazing and resultant erosion of phosphorus-laden soils, installation of downspouts and gutters on stables to mitigate runoff of soils, and manure management. Daily clean-out of stalls and careful manure composting (placement away from residences, roadways, and canals) is important.

The implementation of a program of BMPs in South Florida in the early 1990s has prevented 1400 tons of phosphorus from entering the Everglades. Proper management of animal waste from horses and cattle can make a large difference in phosphorus impacts on the surrounding environment. And you don't have to own a stable full of horses to use BMPs - owners of just one animal can reduce phosphorus impacts.

A new publication on equestrian BMPs entitled "Good Horse Sense: Protecting Water Resources" is now available from (SFWMD). Call 561-682-2717 or e-mail tvanveen@sfwmd.gov for a copy.

SWALES & DRAINAGE IN THE DISTRICT

As noted in earlier newsletters, the roadside swales that accommodate stormwater runoff from roadways and act as a secondary drainage system for the landowners' property, serve as retention areas to capture and hold water for infiltration into the ground. As directed by South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), custodial maintenance by SIRWCD "to provide design capacity drainage is necessary, however, it should be limited as such to preclude erosion and subsequent turbidity that may result from a disturbed drainage network." The swales are an important part of best management practices (BMPs) for the recharge of the aquifer, water quality, and to meet water conservation objectives of SFWMD and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. They are essential to the regeneration of the District's natural resources and to ensure potable water for area residents in the future.

With new water quality environmental guidelines that will be implemented in the future, such as total maximum daily load (TMDL) regulations, BMPs to control stormwater runoff, which includes swales, will become even more important.

Some long-time landowners have noted increased levels of water in their swales for the last couple of years. Development of lots has increased dramatically, and the average home size has grown as well. Since the home creates impervious cover on the formerly pervious lot, more water runs off and into the swales than before. Old aerial photos of the District show ponds throughout the area that provided water storage capacity in the wet season. When lots are filled and raised, this reduces the storage area on the property and the excess runs off into the swales, whose depth relative to the roads is limited by safety conditions and soil stability considerations.

The Board of Supervisors plans to hold a workshop on the future of swales and drainage in the District at a later date. Watch this newsletter and newspapers for more information.

*South Indian River Water Control District
cordially invites you to attend the
15th Annual Landowners Family Day*

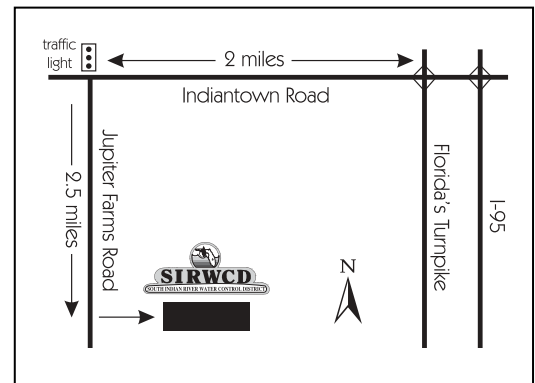
*****Postponed due to Hurricane Wilma*****

Will be rescheduled in the spring of 2006

Meet the Supervisors & Staff • Enjoy Free Barbeque & Music

Exhibitors - Free information and give-a-ways!

American Red Cross • Community Connection, Inc.
Equine Rescue & Adoption Foundation • Florida Blood Centers
Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
Jupiter Farms CERT • Jupiter Farms Residents/Jupiter Farmer
Jupiter Horsemen's Association
Palm Beach County Dept. of Environmental Resource Mgmt.
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections
Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County



Family Entertainment

**Misty Ridge Bluegrass Band • Cookie the Clown • Cock-A-Doodle-Do Petting Zoo
Sarah Brown-Ford Horse Riding**





15600 Jupiter Farms Road
Jupiter, FL 33478

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*Saturday
October 22, 2005*

*15th Annual
Landowners
Family Day*

Bring the Family!

Visit www.sirwcd.org
for news updates!

THOMAS POWELL WINS SIRWCD ELECTION

Thomas H. Powell has been re-elected to a three-year term on the Board of Supervisors of the South Indian River Water Control District. Tom has served on the board since 1981.

Certified totals from the Supervisor of Elections office show that Tom Powell received 1,153 votes while the other candidate, Geoffrey B. West received 630 votes.

The ballots for the election were mailed out to landowners in early August and were due by the annual landowners meeting that was held on Thursday, Sept. 15.

Tom is a retired engineer who owns land within the District and currently serves as board president.



Tom Powell stands in front of the new water control structure south of Indiantown Road in Jupiter Farms

Board Approves 2005/2006 Annual Budget

The Board of Directors of South Indian River Water Control District approved the 2005/2006 budget at their specially scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, September 1, which was held immediately after the public hearing on the budget.

District Accountant Charles Haas reported that assessments from ongoing programs will decrease from \$3,769,000 in 2004/2005 to \$3,046,000 for the 2005/2006 budget year. Haas explained this was a result of payoffs on road bonds.

New assessments for landowner-initiated improvements for roadways in Jupiter Farms and Palm Beach Country Estates, as well as a potable water distribution system in Palm Beach Country Estates, will be \$1,272,950 in 2005/2006. Total assessments for all programs will be \$4,318,950.

For additional information on the SIRWCD annual budget, contact the District office at 747-0550.