

# District Notes & News



Established 1923

December 2007

## 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

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### 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.*

## General Manager's Annual Report (October 2006-September 2007)

Thank goodness! We have had no hurricanes in our area for the last two years. This respite has provided a much needed restoration and repair opportunity that has virtually returned the District to its previous condition and beyond.

The \$1.102 million agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a division of the federal Department of Agriculture, for funding of continued rip-rap installation on major canal intersections has been completed. This project included twenty sites in Jupiter Farms and seven sites in Palm Beach Country Estates. In addition, some canal cleaning was included in the agreement. Immediately following that restoration project with NRCS, we entered into another \$465,000 agreement with them that enabled the District to enhance the completed installation at one site and add ten new sites – eight in Jupiter Farms and two in Palm Beach Country Estates.



*Rip-rap installation in Palm Beach Country Estates funded by NRCS*

This project agreement also has been completed. Following that agreement, the District entered into yet another agreement with NRCS for \$409,760. This project agreement enabled the District to add five new sites in Palm Beach Country Estates. Several of the sites for the last two agreements were within Palm Beach County right-of-ways and have resulted in Palm Beach County contributing \$160,000 as cost sharing for those improvements. We are hopeful that Palm Beach County will assist the District in all of the remaining projects benefiting their structures.

The final project amendment with NRCS is for \$287,635 and is being used for perimeter levee repairs on C-12 abutting Pal-Mar in Section 33. This repair is essential to ensure against flooding from Pal-Mar, which would result if the levee was breached. The repairs also provide a secure work platform for maintenance equipment. The total of all grant monies received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and NRCS since the 2005 hurricanes is approximately \$4,341,035.00, which has been used to protect and preserve many of the District's canal crossings, as well as for removal of hurricane debris.



*Gale English*

The new Verizon Wireless Tower installation has been completed at the District's Work Center compound. In addition to providing enhanced Verizon mobile phone capacity, an on-site generator is available for providing uninterrupted power for the District's communication system requirements during emergencies. The lease agreement between the District and Verizon for available facilities space includes provision for a \$2000.00 monthly payment from Verizon to the District. This figure will increase over time.

Following a series of delays that were out of the District's control, the long-awaited OGEM paving of 28 Jupiter Farms roads was started with the contractor, North Florida Emulsions, finally given the notice to proceed. The District's compound was utilized on this project as a staging area to avoid landowners' complaints on Randolph Siding road and to ensure better security for the contractor's equipment and supplies. The project is complete and has attracted many favorable comments for the benefits of a stable, dustless, dry, and safe road surface, as well as providing better access for emergency and service delivery vehicles.

*(continued pg. 2)*

## General Manager's Report

(continued from pg. 1)

As of September, the Palm Beach Country Estates Potable Water Project is approximately half completed with Phases 1A and 1B certified and ready for landowner service hook up. Some roadway and shoulder disturbances have been noted by landowners and the District would like to ask the landowners to be patient during the construction process. It is intended that the contractor will restore the swales to their original invert elevations and that they will restore the road shoulders as closely as possible to their original contours. This is a work in progress and is not scheduled for completion until early 2008.



The new Verizon cell tower at the District's compound

Routine maintenance continues to include placement of more permanent headwall structures around District road crossings and outfall swale culvert installations. The same higher standards continue to be included for landowner

driveway culvert installation. District approval will not be given, nor will Palm Beach County inspectors grant a Certificate of Occupancy until the driveway is properly head-walled. Headwall standards for landowner and District culverts have been temporarily suspended in Palm Beach Country Estates due to road and swale disturbances caused by the \$18 million Potable Water Project that is still under construction.

Office personnel continue to be busy with Palm Beach Country Estates water project issues, Annual Landowners meeting, the Board of Supervisors election, record keeping, and processing requests for reimbursement pertaining to the governmental grants we are receiving. This is in addition to activities such as inventory, auditing, invoice processing, personnel records, and insurance. Ten of the District's thirteen full and part-time employees are responsible for operating the motor graders, backhoes, and mowers necessary to the maintenance program. Our employees bring a combined total of 146 years of experience to the District. Two employees, Greta Rayman and Earl Smith, celebrated twenty-nine years of continuous service to the District. These two employees represent the values of commitment, faithful service, and work ethics that are encouraged in all our employees. On-going training is regularly provided for all personnel and several take advantage of the opportunity to improve their performance levels. Regularly scheduled safety meetings are conducted jointly by the District's Safety Committee and management to ensure an accident and injury-free work place for employees, residents, and equipment.

For the benefit of new landowners in the District, the following is a brief overview of our function as a Special Taxing District. The District provides water control and road maintenance functions for the landowners and operates under

limitations imposed by Chapter 298 of the Florida Statutes. Assessments are levied in the amount necessary to provide those services and are closely monitored with monthly reports and annual audits to ensure accountability of available funds.

Within the 12,000-acre service area of the District, which includes Palm Beach Country Estates, Jupiter Farms, Egret Landing, and Jupiter Commerce Park, there are 60 miles of primary drainage canals and 185 miles of roadways that are maintained on a regular basis. Of the 185 miles of roads, 25 miles are paved to Department of Transportation standards and approximately 35 miles are surfaced with OGEM, putting most residents within one-half mile of a paved road.

The District continues to be concerned with the illegal and reckless use of ATVs and dirt bikes on roadways and public right-of-ways such as canals and other restricted areas. Several injuries, property damage, and even fatalities have occurred as a result of this behavior.

Landscape debris that is deposited on the side of the road must be cut correctly before the Solid Waste Authority will remove it. If the debris is not removed in a reasonable time, Palm Beach County Code Enforcement will tag the pile as illegal dumping and the landowner may be cited. Please note that they will not transport tree stumps. Be advised that debris deposited within the traveled portion of the road right-of-ways are subject to citation as well. If landowners witness anyone dumping materials into the District swales or canal system or see any blockages, please report this to the District office.

The District's office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Landowners are welcome to stop by with any questions or concerns and we will do our best to assist you in any way we can.

## SIRWCD AND REGULATORY AGENCIES

Each year, a summary of regulatory agencies affecting SIRWCD is listed in the Annual Report to help landowners be aware of the number of regulatory agencies and cooperative associations the District deals with and their potential impact on District capital improvements, operations, and maintenance:

- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- United States Fish and Wildlife Services
- Florida Department of Community Affairs
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
- Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District
- Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District
- Seacoast Utility Authority
- Seminole Improvement District
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Department of Transportation
- South Florida Water Management District
- City of West Palm Beach
- City of Palm Beach Gardens
- Indian Trail Improvement District
- Loxahatchee River Ecosystem Management Area Committee
- Numerous Citizen Interest Groups and Committees
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Palm Beach County
- Town of Jupiter
- Jupiter Inlet District
- Martin County



# District Engineer's Annual Report (October 2006-September 2007)

South Indian River Water Control District has been involved in many activities that are both internal and external to the District's boundaries.

From an internal standpoint, the District continues to work with the landowners at improving conditions affecting the water management system and local roadways. We continue to assist the Board of Supervisors and General Manager with operation and maintenance involving site-specific drainage improvements that impact individual landowners and/or groups of landowners, canal and culvert maintenance, and restoration to facilities that affect the works of the District. In addition, the District is currently implementing two landowner-initiated capital improvement projects – the Palm Beach Country Estates Potable Water Project, known as the Thirteenth Plan of Improvements and a roadway improvement project located in Jupiter Farms, known as the Fourteenth Plan of Improvements.

With the increase in population, many of whom are either new to South Florida or are first time homeowners in a rural residential community, there are many inquiries as to the performance standards designed into the surface water management system and roadways in the District. While the District attempts to respond to the needs expressed through these inquiries, many times expectations of new landowners far exceed the level of service and performance standards represented by the existing system, which to a large extent is regulated by local, regional, state, and federal agencies. This aspect of the District's operation and maintenance is always discussed thoroughly at the Annual Landowners meeting with the goal of informing residents about operation and maintenance expectations and realities

associated with the water management system and roadways.

The District also is involved in external activities to the District boundary, since the District is positioned as a strategic entity in the planning and management of water resources in the surrounding area. As plans are being developed and implemented, the geographic location of the District is a strategic element in any water management plan for the Loxahatchee River Basin. External activities have included participation in the Northern Palm Beach County Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CEERP), the Town of Jupiter Well-field Recharge Program, Palm Beach County Pine Glades Natural Area, and the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) planning process for meeting water supply needs for the Lower East Coast of Florida.

Engineering tasks continue to be scoped and formatted so as to respond to the Board of Supervisors by implementing their policies and directives, as well as supporting the General Manager in resolving various landowner issues. With regard to the current status of the District, (1) to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is in compliance with all regulatory requirements that affect works of the District and their operation, and (2) the works of the District continue to be operated and maintained in a manner that achieves the available level of service. As always, the District continues to undergo internal and external changes that create new challenges, policies, procedures, and systems to meet the needs of the landowners and the external influences, and/or mandates that affect the District.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS Thirteenth Plan of Improvements

Based on a landowner initiative in 2003, the District prepared and sent a ballot to landowners in Palm Beach Country Estates for the construction of a potable water distribution system, with water to be supplied by the Town of Jupiter. The measure passed 754 "for" and 442 "against". District staff negotiated terms that would not require annexation by the town and on October 7, 2003, the Jupiter Town Council voted unanimously to draft an interlocal agreement with SIRWCD. After meetings with Town of Jupiter Utilities

Department staff to discuss details for the planning and design of the system, the first public hearing for the project was held in July 2004, and the second public hearing was held in October 2004. In December 2004, a Notice of Consistency was issued by SFWMD for the plan.

Throughout 2005, District staff worked with the town on the interlocal agreement to provide water service to Palm Beach Country Estates and to coordinate the project's design aspects. The agreement was finalized and accepted in May 2005. Staff completed construction plans and contract documents for the project, which includes approximately 45 miles of pipe, a crossing under both I-95 and Florida's Turnpike, sixteen sub-aqueous and elevated canal crossings, and 445 fire hydrants. The project required coordination with adjacent property owners and utilities, such as FPL, BellSouth, and Adelphia, to avoid potential conflicts. In addition, all required permits from jurisdictional agencies were obtained for the project.

Nine contractors prequalified for the project, of which eight purchased bidding documents and attended a pre-bid meeting on August 10, 2005. Two contractors ultimately submitted bids, however, based on recommendations from staff after a review, it was decided at the September 1, 2005 Board of Supervisors meeting to reject both bids and to re-bid the project. On October 20, 2005, three contractors submitted bids ranging from \$14,206,239 to \$16,250,100. District staff negotiated with the low bidder, Felix Associates, LLC, for a final bid amount of \$13,570,000, which was accepted by the Board of Supervisors at the February 14, 2006 monthly meeting. When first proposed, the estimated cost of the project was \$11,000,000. The increased construction costs were due to dramatic increases in construction materials costs in South Florida (60% increase for pipe, 50% increase for fittings, valves, appurtenances, and fire hydrants, and a 31% increase for in-kind restoration, such as driveway repair and sod replacement).

On April 20, 2006, a Chapter 197 public hearing was conducted for the project before bonds were issues and the bonds were closed on May 24, 2006. Felix Associates, LLC, was given the Notice to Proceed on June 14, 2006 and has begun construction. As of September, two of the three Phases of water main installation are completed and Phase 3 is anticipated to be completed by January 2008.

*(continued pg. 4)*



*The District has an on-going swale and canal maintenance program*

(continued from pg. 3)

A package was developed by District staff that allows Palm Beach County Estates residents to finance the Town of Jupiter hook-up charges. A mailer was sent to all residents regarding the finance package and hook-up information. This mailer also provided feedback to the District on whether the residents were interested in hooking up to the system and whether they intended to sign up for the District's financing package. Phase 1 has been released by the Palm Beach County Health Department to be placed into service. A second mailer was sent out to the residents within this area notifying them that their area was ready for hookup and they have begun hooking up to the system. A number of residents have signed up for the District's financing program. The same process will be followed for Phases 2 and 3. *(Please see page 7 for an update on this project.)*

## Fourteenth Plan of Improvements

### 2005 Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvement Program - OGEM

Based on a landowner initiative, landowners throughout SIRWCD petitioned for the application of OGEM on their roadway surfaces as a roadway improvement project for Jupiter Farms. These roads total approximately 13 miles of new OGEM surface within the District. *(A list of these roadways was previously published in an edition of the newsletter and also is available at the District office.)* The amended Plan of Improvements was submitted and accepted by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The Engineer's Report was filed at the District Office for public review and comment. The Notice of Filing of the Engineer's Report was published and the Final hearing to approve the proposed Plan of Improvements was held February 15, 2007. The contract was awarded to North Florida Emulsions and construction began August 2007. Anticipated contract completion is December 2007 *(see update on page 6)*.

## Pending Capital Improvement Projects

### 2005 Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvement Program - Palm Beach County Standard Paving

Over the past year, the landowners within the East Side of SIRWCD have been choosing which roadway surface is preferred by submitting new petitions requesting that a County Standard Paving surface be considered. Petitions have been received from the landowners in favor of the execution of this capital improvement.

An Engineer's Estimate of probable cost for the construction of an asphalt surface over the existing dirt roadways was presented to the Board of Supervisors during the February meeting this year. After consideration and debate by the Board, they instructed staff to investigate available alternatives to reduce the project costs.

## Resource Regulations

■ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements for the improvement of the quality of stormwater discharges. SIRWCD is a co-permittee with 34 municipalities, the Department of Transportation, Palm Beach County, and four special districts. The current Palm Beach County NPDES permit was issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on November 18, 2002. The fourth annual report of the second 5-year term was submitted to FDEP in April 2007. Comments were received from FDEP in June 2007 and responses prepared in July 2007, prior to the FDEP's Inspector, SAIC, coming to Palm Beach County to meet with the Steering Committee and selected individual co-permittees. The next annual report term will end on September 30, 2007, with the annual report due in December.

■ Chapter 189 of the Florida Statutes, the Uniform Special District Accountability Act, requires preparation and submission of a Public Facilities Report to governmental jurisdictions in which the special district resides. Special Districts are required to submit this report by March 1 of each year and, at a minimum, must contain information as to the status of the District's public facilities and changes, or revisions to those facilities, that have occurred in the past year. Since 1991, when the District filed its first Public Facilities Report, data collection has been an on-going process to provide for better and more accurate mapping of the works of the District. The Public Facilities Report will be modified during the next year as required by Chapter 189.415, Florida Statutes. The modification will include Section 9 and 15 improvements, completion of the *Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, and Twelfth Plans of Improvements*, and include construction of the *Thirteenth and Fourteenth Plan of Improvements*. In accordance with Chapter 298.225 Florida Statutes, the Water Control Plan is amended consistent with the preparation of any proposed Plan of Improvements during the last year.

■ In late 1989, SIRWCD entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the Town of Jupiter regarding a cooperative arrangement that provides for implementation of a system to convey surplus surface waters to the town's surface water recharge program. The purpose of this interlocal program is to recharge areas impacted by the town's surficial wellfield withdrawals to aid in stabilizing the surficial aquifer and support water management systems serving the surrounding residential communities. Over the past few years, SIRWCD has been working closely with Jupiter to expand this program and increase the transfer of recharge water to the surficial wellfield system. The Town of Jupiter presented a plan to construct a pump station with a capacity of 4,514 GPM to transfer excess surface water from the Outfall Canal to SIRWCD's Canal H during extreme draw-down periods. From Canal H, flow will be directed into Egret Landing's surface water management system to help replenish the local groundwater table and the underlying surficial aquifer. Construction of these facilities is currently underway by the Town of Jupiter.

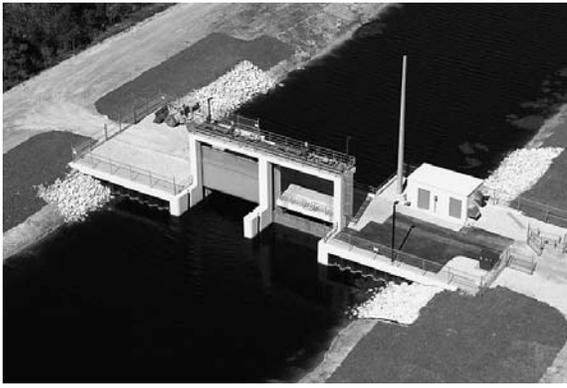


*Application of OGEM to voter-approved roadways in Jupiter Farms*

## Intergovernmental Coordination

■ SIRWCD continues to participate as an active member of the Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council. Discussions at council meetings this past year included issues dealing with the restoration of seasonal flows to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River, moving forward with detailed basin studies for the Pal-Mar and Cypress Creek areas, coordination of planning with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Ecosystem Management Area Program, and monitoring proposed development within close proximity to the Northwest Fork as it relates to potential water quantity and quality deliveries to the river. The Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River is the primary stormwater outfall for the portion of the District lying west of SFWMD C-18.

*(continued pg. 5)*



The G-160 Control Structure in the East Leg of the C-18 Canal

(continued from pg. 4)

■ The Project Management Plan (PMP) was completed and approved in June 2005. The PMP focuses on the development of the Project Implementation Report (PIR) for the North Palm Beach County Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Project - Part 1 components, which are scheduled to be completed in late 2007 or early 2008. The PIR will determine the appropriate quantity, timing, and distribution of water dedicated and managed for the natural system, as well as comply with water quality permitting requirements. SFWMD continues to work the Watershed Modeling (LECSR), with an anticipated completion before the end of this year.

■ Components of the Northern Palm Beach County Comprehensive Water Management Plan (NPBCCWMP) have moved forward this year. The intent is to bring about improvements to storage and water conveyance infrastructure that will capture water currently lost to the tides in the wet season, provide supplemental supplies in the dry season to meet environmental needs and the projected 2020 urban and agricultural demands.

■ The G-161 Structure is complete with the exception of minor landscaping and erosion issues. This structure will convey water under Northlake Boulevard (west of the Beeline Highway) to provide a connection for water deliveries from the Grassy Waters Preserve north to the Loxahatchee Slough, the C-18 Canal, and the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. A study by SFWMD is near completion for development of an operation plan. The study also may recommend revisions to the interim operational protocols for the G-160 (Loxahatchee Slough Structure). The structure should be operational within a few months, pending completion of the study.

■ SIRWCD's Board of Supervisors and staff continue to participate in the Florida Association of Special Districts. The association acts as a watchdog for codes, ordinances, rules and legislation that might

affect the activities of Special Districts. Regular meetings are held throughout the year, where information is shared with regard to policies, procedures, and operation and maintenance issues.

■ In January 2004, SFWMD completed construction of the G-160 in the east leg of the C-18 Canal, immediately south of the C-18's confluence with the west leg. The purpose of the structure is to provide for restoration of a more natural hydro-period for wetland

areas located upstream of the structure, while maintaining flood protection for adjacent developed areas. It also provides base flow augmentation to help restore freshwater flows in the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. An interlocal agreement executed in August 2005 between SIRWCD, the City of Palm Beach Gardens, and the Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District (NPBCID), addresses a future planned course of action regarding the phased operation schedule for the structure and a study of potential mitigation measures to protect existing facilities. In accordance with the agreement, a study has been initiated by the SFWMD and NPBCID to determine any potential mitigation measure requirements. Phase 1 of the study has been completed. SFWMD is currently reviewing a final draft of the scope of work for Phase 2 of the study. SFWMD staff wants to modify the interim operation of the G-160 Structure in the near future. This modification is still under review by the interested parties, including SIRWCD.

■ SIRWCD continues to work with Palm Beach County to implement a mitigation plan to restore the Pines Glades Natural Area, located immediately west of SIRWCD's western boundary and south of Indiantown Road. In order to restore the property to more natural conditions, an appropriate level of water management is needed to maintain environmental goals. Palm Beach County has requested to discharge water into SIRWCD to manage the water levels within the restoration area. District staff is working with the County to determine if a design can be developed that would allow for the release of water into the District during off-peak times without negatively impacting existing flood protection.

## Operation and Maintenance

■ Fortunately, the hurricane season of 2006-2007 did not produce any severe storms across SIRWCD's boundaries. To date, SIRWCD has received a total of

over \$4.3 million in grants from NRCS and FEMA for hurricane restoration efforts from the 2004-2005 storms. The grants covered the costs of removal of debris from SIRWCD's primary drainage canals and tertiary swale system and installation of rock rubble rip-rap around major canal crossing culverts, as well as canal areas approaching the telemetry-operated water control structures. This program has been very successful due to the efforts of the District staff, and especially Gale English, who has maintained contact with all the agencies and supervised all works that have been accomplished under these contracts.

■ The District's 60+ miles of canals are continuously being cleared, graded, and shaped, and if needed, restored, replaced, or enhanced with structural improvements. The overall objective of this program is to restore and maintain a canal section that is easily accessible, and to the extent possible, free from trees and other vegetation that could fall into the canal during major storm events, causing blockages that could aggravate flooding. For the forthcoming year, the Board has authorized the District Engineer and District Manager to identify areas within the District that could be improved as a conveyance and storage aspect in the swale maintenance program.

■ In accordance with the provisions of the Florida Statutes, the District maintains a Policies and Procedures Manual that is available to any landowner.

■ Currently, the District is in the process of implementing the *Fourteenth Plan of Improvements* for applying OGEM to approximately 13 miles of roadway in Jupiter Farms. Construction began in August 2007 and has been completed. During the past year, there were no roads constructed using Palm Beach County roadway standards. As with previous years, the District continues to maintain the existing dirt roads within its boundaries.

■ The District continues its efforts to control aquatic weeds within the primary canal system. In the future, more emphasis may be needed for this program to comply with NPDES water quality programs, the Ecosystem Management Area Plan, and other intergovernmental activities.

## Rainfall Totals

Total rainfall, as measured at the District's office for the 12-month period from September 2006 through August 2007 amounted to 55.91 inches. This is lower than the historical average of 67.34 for the same time period. (continued pg. 6)

## District Engineer's Report

(continued from pg. 5)

### General Comments

As stated in every annual report, the District's surface water management system is designed, operated, and maintained for a rural, residential community. Accordingly, certain low lying areas within the District will experience ponding and storage of water during the wet season and following significant storms. Swales will have standing water and many areas will be saturated for extended periods of time during the wet season. The continued development of low-lying areas in the District will result in a commensurate consumption of storage within the District's watershed. When lots are excavated to supply fill for housepads and related improvements, the consumption of available storage is not as severe because the ponds serve as a compensating factor. The level of service and expected performance of the system is discussed by the Board of Supervisors and District staff at regular monthly Board meetings. The District's Board of Supervisors and staff work to assure that the surface water management system functions to the extent of its design capabilities. Also, the District must work within the regulatory requirements imposed by other agencies. All this must be implemented within the adopted budget and utilization of existing manpower, equipment, and any other resources available to accomplish the tasks.

SIRWCD has an obligation to its landowners and to the surrounding area due to its strategic location within naturally sensitive conservation areas. SIRWCD is no longer an entity that can just look within its boundaries with regard to its authorized activities. To the contrary, a major portion of SIRWCD's activities require participation in activities that look at infrastructure needs and ecosystem management for the overall area and region. The District and its landowners share in the continued responsibility of being good stewards in maintaining compatibility with these natural systems.

### JUPITER FARMS OGEM APPLICATION COMPLETED

North Florida Emulsions has completed the application of open-graded emulsified mix (OGEM) to approximately 13 miles roadways in Jupiter Farms. Originally, landowners on 68 roadways had petitioned SIRWCD for the improvement project in Jupiter Farms, and 28 of those passed in a referendum.

## LENNART E. LINDAHL HONORED FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE AS DISTRICT ENGINEER



Left to Right: Supervisors Dave Beane, Mike Danchuk, Tom Rice, Len E. Lindahl and Supervisor Bob Berman

At the Annual Landowners Meeting held on September 20, the SIRWCD Board of Supervisors presented Lennart E. Lindahl with an engraved crystal sculpture honoring his 30 years of exceptional service and dedication as District Engineer. Lindahl had been engineer of the District since 1980. His many responsibilities included engineering design, permitting, and compliance monitoring. His firm, Lindahl, Browning, Ferrari and Hellstrom, Inc. (LBFH), acquired in 2006 by Boyle Engineering Corporation, provides professional engineering and surveying services along the Treasure Coast. Specific services provided include water and wastewater, water resources, civil and agricultural and transportation engineering services, as well as surveying, mapping and Geographic Information systems (GIS). The firm serves as district engineer for more than 12 special districts, all located within Palm Beach, Martin, and St. Lucie counties.

Lindahl is a member of the Florida Engineering Society, Palm Beach chapter, and was named the 1991 "Engineer of the Year." He belongs to the National Society of Professional Engineers, Florida Engineering Society, American Water Resources Association, Florida Association of Special Districts and the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. He received the special recognition award from Florida Section ASAE in 1985, was ASAE Officer in the State section; chairman in 1993, and was an ASAE Consulting Engineers Committee chairman.



Left to Right: District Attorney William Capko, Len E. Lindahl and District Treasurer Charles Haas

Lindahl has served on many municipal and county task forces involving zoning, traffic, subdivision regulation, environmental preservation, and utilization of natural resources. He has served as a director and chairman of the Palm Beach County Economic Council, as a director on the board of South Florida Water Management District, as director and president of Palm Beach County Business and Industry Development Board, as chairman of Palm Beach County Beach and Park Acquisition Task Force, and as treasurer and chairman of Florida Inland Navigation District.



Left to Right: Len J. Lindahl, Len E. Lindahl, Amy Eason and Larry Lardieri of Boyle Engineering Corp.

Lindahl thanked the board and District Manager Gale English for the opportunity to work for the District. Lindahl cited the professionalism of the board and District staff and was grateful for the opportunity to serve the landowners for three decades.

Lindahl will continue to serve the District in an advisory capacity, however, Lennart J. Lindahl now serves as Engineer for the District. Lennart J. Lindahl was recently named District Vice President of Boyle Engineering Corporation.



# PALM BEACH COUNTRY ESTATES POTABLE WATER UPDATE



The installation of the Palm Beach Country Estates potable water system remains on schedule. Phase 1A and 1B have been released by the Palm Beach County Health Department to be placed into service. On October 31, the pressure tests were conducted for Phase 2A and bacteriological testing took place during the week of November 5. All documents, test results, and certification forms for Phase 2A were submitted to the Town of Jupiter prior to the Thanksgiving holiday and the Palm Beach County Health Department has just released Phase 2A to be placed into service. Residents in Phases 1A, 1B and 2A have been sent information on hooking up to the system. It is expected that Phase 2B will follow within a few weeks. The contractor, Felix Associates, LLC, has been moving quickly and is currently installing pipe in the final sections of Phase 3. Plans call for all Phases of the project to be complete by February 2008.

All residents have received an initial mailing to gauge landowners' interest in hooking up to the potable water system and to advise them of the availability of a voluntary finance program offered by the District. As a reminder, residents are not required to hook up to the system.

After each Phase is tested and certified by the Town of Jupiter and the Palm Beach County Health Department, it will be released and placed into service. Residents in the approved Phases then receive a second mailing indicating that their Phase is ready for hook-up. This mailing includes a cover letter describing the hook-up rates for a 3/4" or 1" meter service, financing information, and the steps to take to hook up to the system. In addition, a map of your Phase, a frequently asked questions sheet and a pre-printed Declaration of

Restrictive Covenant is included for those wishing to use the District's financing program. *Please note that the financing program is voluntary and that you may secure your own financing for the hook up or pay the Town of Jupiter up front.*

For landowners wishing to connect, the Town of Jupiter will charge a fee of \$3,892.18 for homes less than 4,000 square feet (air-conditioned area) using your well for irrigation, or less than 3,500 square feet (air-conditioned area) using Town water for irrigation. Larger homes would require 1" meter service and the hook-up fee would then increase to \$9,367.95. The Town also requires that everyone pay a security deposit of \$50.00 up front and a processing fee of \$10.00, which will appear on your first bill from the town. *Please note that the original size meter was listed as a 5/8", however, the town has notified SIRWCD that they will now be using the 3/4" meter as its typical residential size.* The town also has had a small increase in their meter fees. If you do not know the square footage of your home, go to the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's web site at [www.pbcgov.com/papa](http://www.pbcgov.com/papa) and click on Records Search. On your records page, select "Structure Detail" to see your air-conditioned square footage. The Property Appraiser's Records Office also can be reached at 561-355-2881.

SIRWCD has arranged that the negotiated hook-up fees for Palm Beach Country Estates be available for a period of seven years. The meter fee portion of the hook-up fees are subject to change at

the discretion of the Town of Jupiter. After seven years, fees will be assessed at going rates. Please keep this in mind if you plan to hook up to the system at a later date.



*The installation of pipe to provide potable water to Palm Beach Country Estates is on schedule for completion in February 2008*

Also, please note that the SIRWCD voluntary finance plan is only available through June 30, 2009. District Treasurer Charles Haas has noted that if landowners hook up to the system quickly, assessment costs could be reduced for everyone.

Please note there would be an additional cost to run plumbing from the system to a home, which is the responsibility of the homeowner. A permit and inspection are required by Palm Beach County for the installation of the service line from your home to the meter.

If you have any engineering questions regarding the project, please call the District Engineer, Boyle Engineering at (772) 219-2953 and leave a detailed voice mail message. For other questions, please call the District Office at (561) 747-0550.



## Bob Berman and Mike Danchuk Re-elected to Board of Supervisors

Robert Berman and Michael Danchuk have been re-elected to three-year terms on the Board of Supervisors of South Indian River Water Control District. Berman has served on the board since 1999 and Danchuk since 2001. Both Berman and Danchuk ran unopposed.

Certified totals from the Supervisor of Elections office show that Berman received 966 votes, while Danchuk received 1,040 votes.

The certified results of the election were accepted at the November 15 Board of Supervisors monthly meeting and Berman and Danchuk were duly sworn in by William Capko, the District's attorney.



15600 Jupiter Farms Road  
Jupiter, FL 33478

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*Happy Holidays!*

*Mark your Calendars...*

Bring the family to  
SIRWCD's  
17th Annual Landowners  
Family Day  
Saturday  
March 15, 2008!

Visit [www.sirwcd.org](http://www.sirwcd.org)  
for news updates!

## BOARD APPROVES 2007/2008 BUDGET

The Board of Directors of South Indian River Water Control District approved the 2007/2008 budget at their monthly meeting on Thursday, August 16, which was held immediately after the required public hearing on the budget.

The board approved a resolution adopting the budget and the levying of special assessments for 2007 on all lands within the District, pursuant to Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes.

District Treasurer Charles Haas stated that the District's annual budget will increase from \$4,605,000 in the 2006/2007 budget year to \$5,069,000 for the 2007/2008 budget year. Haas noted that most of the increase was a result of a Jupiter Farms landowner-approved plan of improvement for the application of open-graded emulsified mix (OGEM) to roadways.

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

## Florida Stormwater Education Corner Protecting Florida's Water

It might have seemed that we had a lot of rain over this summer's "rainy season". However, while the east coast of Florida did receive substantial amounts of rain, the area around Lake Okeechobee did not and therein lies the problem. Lake Okeechobee provides the back-up drinking water source for our area when water stores drop during the "dry season".

As evidenced this past year, water sources dropped to record lows and one-day-a-week watering was instituted for much of our area. At the time this newsletter was written, talks were about to get underway on the possibility of reinstating the once-weekly watering schedule.

Florida is not alone when it comes to water shortages. According to a recent report, in the next five years 36 states will be under drought conditions. Areas of Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee are under severe drought conditions, with water sources at record low levels.

As a result, the EPA is encouraging best management practices, such as infiltration, that not only manage stormwater runoff,

but also help to recharge groundwater resources. Everyone needs to do their part to conserve water and use it wisely.

We've already listed a number of ways you can conserve water and reduce the impact of stormwater runoff on our environment in previous issues of our newsletter. Perhaps you can try using rain barrels to trap and store water for re-use around your yard. Or adopt Xeriscape™ concepts for your yard, using native and drought-tolerant plants that require less water. The "country club" landscape that features an expansive lawn and water-hungry plants is not only more expensive to maintain, but also requires more time and effort and it contributes to more runoff than natural landscapes.

The more land is impacted by development, even on a residential scale, the more runoff and standing water there will be – the natural perviousness of the land has been changed and will not infiltrate the amount of water it once did. Don't be part of the problem...be part of the solution. Please do your part to conserve.