

# District Notes & News



Established 1923

June 2010

## 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

Jupiter, FL 33478

(561) 747-0550

[www.sirwcd.org](http://www.sirwcd.org)

[sirwcd@sirwcd.org](mailto: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 Guidance Office  
at 7:30 p.m.*

*Contact the District Office  
for an agenda.*

## Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvement Project Referenda Sent Out on June 9

The District has received petitions from landowners to apply asphalt on certain roadways in Palm Beach Country Estates. The following roads have met the requirements for a referendum:

- 64th Way N between 143rd Street N and Donald Ross Road
- 67th Avenue N between 141st Lane N and Donald Ross Road
- 70th Trail N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 71st Drive N between 150th Place N and 154th Road N
- 72nd Drive N between 150th Place N and 154th Road N
- 72nd Drive N between 155th Drive N and 159th Court N
- 73rd Terrace N between 155th Drive N and 159th Court N
- 75th Avenue N between 165th Street N and 169th Street N
- 75th Avenue N between 150th Court N and 154th Road N
- 75th Way N between 165th Street N and 167th Court N
- 82nd Terrace N between 150th Place N and 154th Court N
- 82nd Terrace N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 83rd Way N between 150th Place N and 154th Court N
- 84th Avenue N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 85th Way N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 140th Lane N between 64th Drive N and 69th Drive N
- 141st Drive N between 64th Drive N and 69th Drive N
- 151st Court N between 69th Drive N and 69th Trail N
- 154th Road N between 69th Drive N and 89th Avenue N
- 165th Street N between 75th Avenue N and 79th Terrace N
- 167th Court N between 75th Avenue N and 78th Drive N

In addition, the following roadways have met the requirements for a referendum to apply open-graded emulsified mix (OGEM) in Jupiter Farms and Palm Beach Country Estates:

- 80th Drive N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 92nd Way N between 150th Court N and 154th Road N
- 98th Trail N between 150th Court N and 154th Road N
- 101st Terrace N between 150th Court N and 154th Road N
- 151st Lane N between 133rd Terrace N and Canal 13
- 159th Street N between 133rd Terrace N and Canal 13

A previously-issued referendum on the application of open-graded emulsified mix to 187th Place N between 126th Terrace N and 129th Terrace N and 129th Terrace N between 186th Court N and 187th Place N, was returned by the Supervisor of Elections Office as they now require agreements with Special Districts and municipalities prior to any referenda or elections. As a result, this referendum also has been sent out.

The referenda were sent out to affected landowners on **June 9** and must be received by the Supervisor of Elections **on or before July 14**. As with any election or referendum, you must cast your ballot, whether yes or no, to have your vote count. **The outcome of the referendum is determined by a majority of votes cast.**

*If you have any questions, have not received your ballot, or have misplaced it, please call the District Office at 561-747-0550. Do not call the Supervisor of Elections office.*

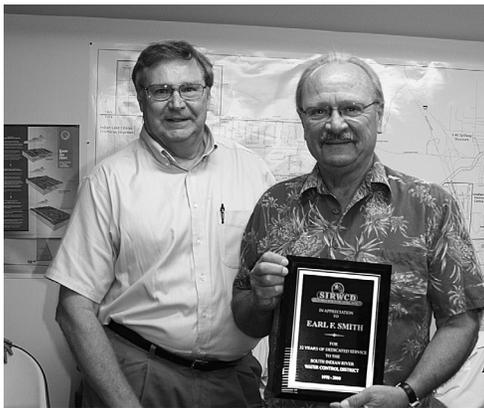
# Board Works to Ensure Levee Stability Between Palm Beach Country Estates and Palm Beach County Natural Area

At the Board of Supervisors meeting in May, District Engineer Lennart J. Lindahl reported on the status of the monitoring on the SIRWCD levee located between Palm Beach Country Estates and the Palm Beach County Natural Area. An interlocal agreement between SFWMD, SIRWCD, City of Palm Beach Gardens, and Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District was developed to address the phased operational schedule for the SFWMD G-160 structure and potential mitigation measures to protect existing facilities. SFWMD has begun operation of the G-160 structure and has been incrementally increasing water level elevations since June of 2009 and are currently at an elevation of 16 feet. SFWMD continues to operate the structure to maintain flood protection and is committed to coordinating with the communities adjacent to and east of the Loxahatchee Slough to implement additional monitoring to determine impacts of increased water levels to the communities. As a result of the increasing water levels, SFWMD has installed monitoring wells in the levee between Palm Beach Country Estates and the Palm Beach County Natural Area to measure surface and groundwater levels in conjunction with the operation of the G-160 structure.

At the May Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Tom Powell expressed concern about the increased water levels on the levee as a result of the operation of the G-160 structure and the impacts that could occur if a hurricane or severe storm were to hit. The Board passed a motion to direct the District Engineer to investigate and analyze the impacts to the existing levee and provide detailed technical documentation should the District need to reinforce the existing levee or build a new structure.

In addition, Lindahl reported that FEMA is currently in the process of updating Palm Beach County's floodplain mapping and staff has been contacted by FEMA representatives to provide any modeling information concerning the area. Landowners within the Palm Beach Country Estates area have expressed a need for SIRWCD to change the FEMA floodplain in the area. Staff has researched the process for revising a FEMA floodplain map and the Board of Supervisors has directed staff to draft and send a letter to the affected landowners and determine if they would like SIRWCD to pursue changing the floodplain map. It is planned that a letter be sent this month to landowners within the affected area to gauge their interest.

## Earl Smith Retires After 32 Years with SIRWCD



Board President Tom Powell and Earl Smith



General Manager Gale English and Earl Smith



Earl celebrates with his family and co-workers

Earl Smith, the first employee hired by the District in 1978, was honored with a retirement party at the District's offices on May 21. Tom Powell, president of the Board of Supervisors, honored Earl's 32 years of distinguished service to the District with a black, beveled glass engraved plaque. District Manager Gale English

presented Earl with a watch and thanked him for years of faithful service and acknowledged his dedicated work ethic. He also thanked him for being an excellent role model for other District employees.

Board members Mike Danchuk and Bob Berman also were in attendance, as well as Earl's fellow equipment operators,

Operations Superintendent, Mike Dillon, Office Administrator Greta Rayman, who has also been with the District for 32 years, office staff Holly Rigsby and Carol Wise, and Tom Powell's wife Karen. Earl's wife Joan and his daughter and son-in-law were also on hand to celebrate with Earl. Best of luck in the future Earl...you will be missed!

## Bond Call to Save Palm Beach Country Estates Landowners on Assessments

At the May 20 Board of Supervisors meeting, District Treasurer Chuck Haas reported that they are working on a bond call for the 2006 Series B Palm Beach Country Estates (PBCE) Water Distribution System bonds. The source of the

funding for this call is Town of Jupiter Water connection fee reimbursements and monies remaining in the construction and cost of issuance account that are no longer needed for their intended purpose.

The call is expected to redeem an

estimated \$2,150,000 in bonds, resulting in a reduction in debt service payments over the remaining 20 years of approximately \$4,300,000, which will save landowners in Palm Beach Country Estates an estimated \$30-\$35 per year in assessments.

# 19th Annual Landowners Family Day



## *A Day of Fun for the Whole Family*

### *Nearly 650 Landowners Enjoyed Barbecue, Music, Community Exhibits and More*

Nearly 650 landowners took part in the 19th Annual Landowners Family Day on Saturday, March 13. Everyone enjoyed a barbecue lunch by Wishbone Bar-B-Q of Jupiter Farms, as well as Cock-A-Doodle-Do Petting Zoo, pony rides, and face painting, a clown creating balloon sculptures for the kids, and live music from the Untold Riches Bluegrass Band.

Exhibits from local community organizations and governmental agencies included Community Connections, CMH Swim School, Florida Blood Centers, Jupiter Farmer, Jupiter Farms

Residents, Safety Council of Palm Beach County, The Loxahatchee River Center, Division of Forestry, Solid Waste Authority, South Florida Water Management District, Jupiter Farms Citizens Observer Patrol, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, the Sheriff's office, and Jupiter High School JROTC.

General Manager Gale English and his staff were on hand to greet the landowners, as well as members of the Board of Supervisors. Make plans to attend next year with your family and get to know your neighbors!

## **EPA Begins Review of Science for Florida's Water Quality Standards**

District staff attended a public hearing by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on February 18 on Proposed Water Quality Standards for the State of Florida that would set numeric limits on the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen pollution that would be allowed in Florida's lakes, rivers, streams, and springs, and in South Florida, canals. After a brief presentation by EPA staff, public comments were received. Over 50 representatives of special districts, agriculture, environmental groups, utilities and municipalities provided comments.

The majority of the concerns related to how the model was used and applied to develop the criteria, how the criteria is being applied to South Florida canals, how special districts do not have the authority to regulate water quality, impacts to reclaimed water systems, and impacts to stormwater treatment systems that have not been designed to meet nitrogen criteria. By far, the greatest concern was expressed with regard to the economic costs of the proposed rule and that the EPA has grossly underestimated those costs. Due to the overwhelming public response, the EPA extended the public comment period to April 28th. Palm Beach County and South Florida Water Management District have both sent letters regarding the issue to the EPA.

In a news release issued by the EPA on June 7, the agency announced that it plans to send its underlying data and methodologies that are being used to develop nutrient criteria for coastal

and estuarine waters to the Science Advisory Board (SAB) for peer review. The agency notes that it is extending the timetable by 10 months to propose nutrient criteria for coastal and estuarine waters, downstream protection values, and flowing waters in the South Florida region (including canals).

The District's Board of Supervisors has expressed concern that the new standards may negatively affect District operations and significantly impact the District's landowners economically. City and county governments note that the cost of meeting the standards would require building expensive systems and massive retrofits to treat rainwater running off of streets, parking lots, and lawns. There is concern that residents could see increases in taxes to meet standards for which the canals were never designed. Environmentalists say that despite being man-made, canals provide habitat for wildlife and people do fish in them, so the stormwater runoff draining into them should be controlled.

At the Board's May meeting, District Engineer Lennart J. Lindahl announced that some sampling of surface waters and raw well water for phosphorus, nitrogen and chlorophyll had been done by the Loxahatchee River District. Tests indicated there were times when the criteria was exceeded, even by treated water in central Palm Beach County.

The District will keep landowners apprised of the status of this issue as information becomes available.



15600 Jupiter Farms Road  
Jupiter, FL 33478

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## In this Issue...

- *Ballots sent out for Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvement Project - Due July 14*
- *Start preparing now for hurricane season!*
- *Earl Smith retires after 32 years with SIRWCD*

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

## Hurricane Season is Here!

District personnel have been trained in hurricane response procedures. Our staff was quick to assist the landowners and county after the 2004-2005 storms.

Get prepared now! Remove dead tree branches as soon as possible, though this should not be done just prior to a storm warning, as they won't be picked up. Toys, tools, garden decorations, and patio furniture should be brought inside or stored in a sturdy shed that has been secured against high winds.

Stock up on non-perishable food and water, batteries, flashlights and lanterns, first aid kits, prescription medications, gas for generators, propane for grills, tarps, and bug repellent. Secure your windows and doors with some type of protection if a hurricane warning is issued.

After a hurricane, there will be downed trees and power lines, high water levels and possible flooding. Avoid walking in high water due to bacteria and pollutants that may be present or downed power lines that may become active. Stay put until the all clear is given that it is safe to move about.

## Florida Stormwater Education Corner Protecting Florida's Water

As we've discussed in the story about the EPA setting water quality standards, stormwater runoff is a major problem in Florida. It is becoming increasingly important to manage stormwater runoff from residential, as well as commercial, agricultural, and industrial areas.

While the District uses swales to hold and filter stormwater, please remember that residential lawns create stormwater runoff, and what goes onto your lawn and streets can find its way into local water sources. A good way to help solve this problem is to plant a "Florida-Friendly Landscape."

**This issue's NPDES tip is about your landscape:**

- Plant the right plant in the right place to drastically reduce the need for water, fertilizer and pesticides, and group plants according to their water and sunlight needs
- Be sure to remove invasive exotics that steal water and nutrients from your Florida-friendly plants
- Avoid weed-and-seed products and

use slow release fertilizers only when needed to maintain plant health

- Keep 2-3 inches of mulch on your plant beds to help control weeds, retain soil moisture, and reduce runoff
- Leave lawn clippings on the lawn to recycle nitrogen and use fallen leaves as mulch under trees and shrubs
- If your property backs up to a waterway or canal, create a 10-30 foot "no fertilizer, no pesticide zone" along the water's edge to help minimize polluted runoff
- Efficient watering will help conserve water and create a healthier landscape, and it will also save you money
- If you live in Egret Landing where storm drains are installed, do not dump anything into the storm drain

### ILLICIT DISCHARGE

If landowners witness anyone dumping materials into the District swales or canal system, please report this to the District Office at 747-0550.