

District Notes & News



Established 1923

Winter 2004/2005

SUPERVISORS

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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



Gale English

abundant wildlife, has now been developed by man.

Recognizing that improvements on the landowners' behalf can have negative consequences in the decline of the natural system's ability to sustain itself, the Board of Supervisors approved the installation of a series of west basin structures (the *Ninth Plan of Improvements*). These structures will help regulate outfall water capacity and improve canal water quality by retention of available water supplies. The cost of constructing these structures is borne by grants from the South Florida Water Management District and the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative.

The Board has acted on landowners' initiatives on several roads to install enhanced stabilization material on their roads to improve ingress/egress to their properties. These improvements are at the behest of those landowners fronting the particular road and they will bear the cost of installation.

The District continues to be involved on a broader scale with the extended community of municipal and county governments, as well as support groups that serve all county units of government. The District participates as committee member, board director, or chair on several agencies, including the Florida Association of Special Districts, Loxahatchee Council of Governments, Palm Beach County League of Cities, Safety Council of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County Intergovernmental Coordinating Element, Loxahatchee River

It is often a challenge in a never-ending effort to provide perfect service in an environment where nature overrules man time after time. What was once a natural area with perennial ponds, sloughs, uplands, and

Management Coordinating Council, and ad hoc committees from time to time. These interactions ensure good relations with governmental department heads and community leaders and prove invaluable to the District's quality of service delivery. These agencies have the potential for major impact on District landowners and participation remains vital to ensure that our best interests are considered.

Our equipment inventory continues to be renewed and replaced in an annual program that is designed to maximize a favorable benefit/cost ratio in accordance with the Board's emphasis on low annual maintenance assessments. This year we added a tractor with side boom mower, two grader box implements using state purchasing contracts, and a 45-foot self-propelled backhoe.

Office personnel have been busy with several petitions, referendums, ballots, and records maintenance for several proposed road improvement projects. Eleven of our 14 full and part-time employees are responsible for operating the motor graders, backhoes, and mowers necessary to the maintenance program. Our staff brings a combined total of 158 years of experience to the District. Ongoing training is regularly provided for all personnel, offering an 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 workplace for all.

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.

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General Manager's Report

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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, 23 miles are paved to Department of Transportation standards

and approximately 6 miles are surfaced with open-graded emulsified mix (OGEM), putting most residents within one-half mile of a paved road.

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



SIRWCD crews assisted the county during cleanup after the hurricanes



Lennart Lindahl, P.E.

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S ANNUAL REPORT

SIRWCD has clearly been positioned as a strategic entity in the planning and management of water resources for northern Palm Beach County.

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. Concurrently, the District has experienced significant residential growth over the past year that has resulted in an increased number of landowner-initiated programs. In addition to the engineering support to District operations and maintenance, engineering activities have been primarily focused on the following two areas of interest:

- 1) The investigation and/or initiation of capital improvements involving water management facilities, roads, and water distribution systems for the delivery of potable water.
- 2) Existing and future water management issues that have a direct or indirect effect on works of the District and/or their operations.

With regard to the general topic of existing and future water management issues, the District continues to be engaged in various programs emanating from other governmental agencies, formal committees established for specific purposes, and/or special interest groups that have an impact on the future of water resources in northern Palm Beach County, southern Martin County, the Loxahatchee River Basin, and/or the Wild and Scenic Portion of the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. As examples, the issues include planning and constructing new water management facilities that would allow for interbasin transfers of surplus water supplies to the Loxahatchee Slough, modifying existing water control facilities

to enhance management plans for the Loxahatchee Slough, the establishment of minimum flows and levels for the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River, and additions to works of the District that will enhance and integrate the District's water management operations into the Regional Water Management System.

Engineering assistance to the Board of Supervisors and General Manager for operation and maintenance have involved site-specific drainage improvements that impact individual landowners or groups of landowners, roadway improvements utilizing OGEM, canal and culvert maintenance, and permitting of facilities that affect works of the District.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS Ninth Plan of Improvements

The purpose of the *Ninth Plan of Improvements* is to provide for the construction, operation and maintenance of five water control structures within SIRWCD canals. The structures are intended to improve groundwater recharge and reduce overdrainage during dry periods, as well as improve the quality of runoff eventually discharged into the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. The plan also includes a nonstructural component that establishes a definitive protocol between South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and SIRWCD for the operation of SFWMD structure G-92 for the purposes of improved flood control for SIRWCD and the delivery of freshwater flows to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. All of the lands that will benefit from the implementation of the *Ninth Plan of Improvements* are included in that portion of the District lying west of the SFWMD C-18 Canal. Construction had been delayed due to a nationwide cement shortage, however, the project is now complete.

Tenth Plan of Improvements

In April 2003, the Board authorized the preparation of a draft *Tenth Plan of Improvements* and the engineering investigations in support thereof in response to a landowner initiative. A ballot was distributed to affected landowners in Section 18, Jupiter Farms, for the purpose of applying OGEM to the four major east-west roads in the section and it passed by a vote of 190 "for" and 67 "against". After the final public hearing and required Letter of Consistency from SFWMD, construction was started in September 2003 and completed in October 2003.

Eleventh Plan of Improvements

Landowners within Section 22, Palm Beach Country Estates, petitioned for a roadway improvement project to construct approximately 1.7 miles of Palm Beach County standard roadway. The Board authorized preparation of a draft *11th Plan of Improvements* and the engineering investigation in support of the project in January 2004. A ballot was distributed to landowners in the benefitted area and it passed by a vote of 40 "for" and 13 "against". After the final public hearing and Letter of Consistency from SFWMD, a contract was executed with Charles S. Whiteside, Inc. for the construction of this project and it is currently underway.

Twelfth Plan of Improvements

Based on a landowner initiative, a number of landowners throughout the District petitioned for the application of OGEM on their roadway surfaces as a roadway improvement project. A total of approximately 16.1 miles of roadway in Jupiter Farms and Palm Beach Country Estates was included. In June 2004, the Board authorized preparation of a draft *12th Plan of Improvements* and the

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District Engineer's Report

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engineering investigation in support of the project. A ballot was distributed to the affected landowners and passed by a vote of 333 "for" and 145 "against". The final public hearing on this project was held in October and the Letter of Consistency was received from SFWMD in December. The construction of this project is currently underway.

Thirteenth Plan of Improvements

During 2003, the District 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 without an annexation requirement. The measure passed 754 "for" and 442 "against". On October 7, 2003, the Jupiter town council voted unanimously to draft an interlocal agreement with SIRWCD.

The implementation of this capital improvement project involves construction of approximately 45 miles of pipe, two crossings under both Florida's Turnpike and Interstate 95, multiple subaqueous and elevated canal crossings and 475 fire hydrants. Throughout this year, District staff and Board members have been communicating with the town of Jupiter regarding the interlocal agreement and specific design aspects of the project. A finalized agreement is expected shortly.

The second of two scheduled public hearings on this project was held in October 2004 and on December 3, 2004,



New water control structure on Canal 14

SFWMD sent SIRWCD a Notice of Consistency for the plan. Staff continues to work on the construction plans and contract documents, with a focus on completing the plans for Section 9 and the Turnpike and I-95 crossings. The staff also has begun the process of preparing draft permit applications for the Palm Beach County Health Department and Palm Beach County.

Pending Capital Improvement Projects

The staff has been working with landowners as they investigate the formulation of a "Swales to Trails" program in Palm Beach Country Estates and Jupiter Farms. The project involves creation of sodded areas on one or both sides of a road to provide room for pedestrians and equestrian activities. It also would include stabilization of roadway surfaces and drainage improvements as needed. Landowners along Haynie Lane in Jupiter Farms petitioned the Board to initiate a Swales to Trails project along their roadway. At a December 3, 2004 special meeting, the Board directed the staff to develop final design recommendations and report back to the Board for consideration.

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 became a co-permittee along with 39 other agencies in 1997. The EPA delegated authority to administer the NPDES program in the state to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in October 2000. The Annual Report for the 7th Permit Year was finished in December and the final report was submitted to the Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District in January 2005.

- The Loxahatchee River Ecosystem Management Area Committee is comprised of several state, county, and local entities within the region. SIRWCD has participated on this committee since its inception. Of the \$5,920,000 requested from the Florida Legislature this year, approximately \$2,500,000 was funded to implement the programs and projects outlined in the plan and further enhance and protect the natural resources of the Loxahatchee River and the watershed.

- The Town of Jupiter Wellfield Recharge Program is considering expanding this program to provide for increased transfer of recharge water through the system. They have initiated discussions with SIRWCD to possibly modify certain system structures now in place. More investigation is needed to determine the benefits and impacts of the proposal. The program provides a mechanism to replenish the local groundwater and underlying aquifer, as well as mitigate extreme drawdowns in manmade lakes.

Intergovernmental Coordination

- SIRWCD continues to participate as an active member of the Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council.

- Several Project Delivery Team (PDT) meetings were held this past year as work progressed on the Project Implementation Report for the North Palm Beach County Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Project. In May, the initiation of Regional PDTs (RPDTs) was announced to provide consistency among various CERP projects and improve policy guidance and technical support for individual restoration efforts.

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

- 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.

Operation and Maintenance

- The District's 60+ miles of canals are continuously being cleared, graded, and shaped, and as needed, restored/replaced or enhanced with structural improvements.

- As discussed, a number of roadways in the District were, or are in the process of being improved with OGEM. In addition, a number of roads in Section 22 are being constructed to Palm Beach County roadway standards. The District also will take over operation and maintenance of 128th Trail (Windsong Way) located in Section 34.

- The District continues efforts to control aquatic weeds within the primary canal system. Low water levels last year contributed to excessive weed growth. 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 coordinating activities.

- SIRWCD has worked with the U.S. Geological Survey Department on a water quality monitoring program for the last ten years. This program has been discontinued by the USGS due to a lack of funding. The Board has authorized the Engineer to implement a water quality and surface water gauging plan for the District.

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15600 Jupiter Farms Road
Jupiter, FL 33478

PRSR STD
U S POSTAGE
PAID
WEST PALM BCH FL
PERMIT # 611

New Landowners

Please call or visit
the District Office
to meet the staff and
ask for your copy of
SIRWCD's
Overview and
Reference Guide!

Visit www.sirwcd.org
for news updates!

Rainfall Totals

Total rainfall, as measured at the District's office for the 12 month period from September 2003 through August 2004, amounted to 50.79 inches. The current year rainfall data is lower than the historical average of 68.10 for the same time period.

Board of Supervisors Approves Financing Package for 10th, 11th and 12th Plans of Improvement

At a special meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District held on December 3, 2004, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a financing package for the *10th, 11th, and 12th Plans of Improvement*. The three separate notes were offered together to lenders in order to secure a better overall rate for the smaller notes. As a result, the financing package annual cost is below the original estimate, which will result in a lower assessment to landowners than previously estimated. The Board adopted the three resolutions authorizing issuance of the promissory notes and special assessments.

2004 Annual Landowners Family Day



Despite a downpour, the 14th Annual Landowners Family Day was a fun time for the families of the District. Face-painting, balloon animals and a petting zoo provided fun for the kids, while the adults enjoyed the barbeque, exhibits and a live bluegrass band. Please make plans to join us next year for the 15th Annual Landowners Family Day!