

District Notes & News



**South Indian River
Water Control District™**

Established 1923

Winter 2016-2017

SUPERVISORS

Stephen Hinkle
President

Michael Ryan
Vice-President

Michael Howard

John Meyer

Thomas H. Powell

STAFF

Michael A. Dillon
Manager of Operations

Holly Rigsby
Office Administrator

DISTRICT OFFICE

15600 Jupiter Farms Road
Jupiter, FL 33478
(561) 747-0550

www.sirwcd.org
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
Jupiter High School
at 7:00 p.m.
Contact the District Office
for an agenda.*

Manager of Operations Annual Report (October 2015-September 2016)



Michael Dillon

South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD) is a special taxing District that encompasses 12,000 acres including Jupiter Farms, Palm Beach Country Estates, Egret Landing, and Jupiter Park of Commerce.

The District's stormwater discharge system essentially functions as a dual basin system. Palm Beach Country Estates, Egret Landing and Jupiter Park of Commerce are east of South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) Canal 18, where 15 miles of canals drain west to east through four set weirs prior to entering the Florida Turnpike's East Borrow Canal system. Waters are then routed towards the Southwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. Jupiter Farms is west of the SFWMD's Canal 18, where 45 miles of canals drain west to east through five water control structures to the District's Canal 14, then north to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River.

During heavy rainfall events, we receive assistance from SFWMD to drain excess water through Canal 18 by way of the SFWMD's G-92 structure.

Day to day operations include road maintenance, mowing, and water control. Operational staff includes nine heavy-equipment operators, one mechanic, and two office personnel. Equipment includes two motor graders, two combination backhoes, three boom mowers, three tractors, four batwing mowers, one trackhoe, one mini excavator, two dump trucks and four fleet vehicles. Other areas of maintenance that are subcontracted include aquatic weed control, repair and restoration for paved roads, major canal construction, tree service, and park maintenance.

The District grades on average over 100 miles of dirt roads every week. Throughout the year, roads are monitored, and when needed, material is brought in to restore road surfaces. This year, we made improvements to main feeder roads in Jupiter

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*District Staff (left to right) - Front row - Holly Rigsby, JP Rivera, Andy Billy, David Duckett, Jim Powell, Carol Wise
Back row: CJ Wilbur, Matt Wood, Mike Dillon, George McGarry, Jeff Borus, Board President Steve Hinkle*

Manager of Operations Annual Report

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Farms and Country Estates. These roads were re-contoured, crowned, and capped with DOT-approved shell rock. "Crowning" the road is a method we use to provide proper stormwater runoff and minimize standing water, which can create ponding and deterioration.

There are approximately 50 miles of District roads that are paved with Asphalt or Open-Graded Emulsion Mix (OGEM), which is a cold-mix asphalt base. Paved roads are inspected each year, and when needed, resurfaced with asphalt, micro-overlay or fog seal. This year, four miles of existing OGEM roads were resurfaced with micro, and another four miles with fog-seal application. The District does not pave roads – all paving projects are initiated by the landowners.

Our mowing operation includes 60 miles of canals and 378 miles of roadside swales and outfalls. It takes an average of six to eight weeks to complete the mowing schedule, with June through October being the busiest months. For those landowners who choose to mow their own swale easements, the District created a "Do Not Mow" list. This list is checked by the operators each day to ensure that these properties are bypassed by our machines. However, if a property on the list is not maintained, the operator will mow the easement and attempt to contact the landowner. If you are interested in getting placed on this list, please call our office.

There have been significant changes in our drainage program this year. But first, I want to take you back to 1996 when I started with the District. A lot has changed in my 20 years here, most notably, the landscape. In 1996, there were numerous vacant lots that acted as retention areas for drainage. The elevations of some of these lots were low enough to collect water from



The District's new John Deere 6110M Boom Arm Mower is designed to mow canal banks and roadside ditches - it replaces the John Deere 6420 Boom Mower previously used by the District

neighboring properties that had been developed. As the District population grew and more of these vacant properties were developed, the topography of the land changed. This was evident this winter, when we recorded 31.48" of rain. Through that period, we received numerous calls regarding poor drainage and were able to trace the problem to the fact that these former vacant lots were no longer acting as retention areas for stormwater drainage. Now, stormwater may be directed onto properties that in the past never had a drainage issue. Something else became evident during this time, and that is the importance of having fully functional drainage swales and driveway culverts.

As part of the District's secondary drainage system, swales were designed to collect stormwater from roads and properties. The swales have three main functions: drainage, retention, and percolation. We estimate about 10,000 driveway culverts have been installed in the swales, most dating to the 80s and 90s. Most of these culverts are corrugated metal with a lifespan of about 25 years.

As a result, we could see potential problems with the District's secondary drainage system. These issues were discussed by the Board of Supervisors, and in March of this year, the Board passed a policy to implement a Driveway Culvert Replacement Program. This program allows the District to install culverts on District roads for the landowners at a cost of \$300.00. This fee includes the culvert, rip-rap headwalls, and sod along the

culvert ends. A few months later, with approval from Palm Beach County, the Board approved a policy to install driveway culverts on County roads at a cost of \$750.00. This fee includes a County-approved 24" mitered end culvert with poured concrete end-walls. These new policies accomplish many goals. First, the cost is very affordable. Many residents complained that it was too expensive to replace their inoperable culverts. Second, installation of the culvert and headwall are done according to District specifications. Third, the culvert is set at the proper elevation for drainage. Fourth, we learned that a majority of landowners did not know the culvert was their responsibility to maintain. The culvert installations allow us to distribute a brochure detailing what needs to be done to properly maintain the culvert. And finally, it's an opportunity for us to inspect the drainage area as a whole, and make improvements, if needed. As of August, 91 culverts were installed with 26 more scheduled through November 7. We feel over time, this will have a positive impact on the District's drainage system. If you would like more information about this program, you can visit our website.

In addition to the District's day to day operations, we interact with agencies and municipalities who also serve the community. They include Palm Beach County Road and Bridge, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Wildland Taskforce, Palm Beach County Fire and Rescue, South Florida Water Management District, Solid Waste Authority, Town of Jupiter, and The Loxahatchee River District. The District also participates as committee members with the Florida Association of Special Districts, The Loxahatchee River Coordinating Council, The Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative, and The Safety



Driveway culvert installation on District roadway

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Council of Palm Beach County. These interactions ensure good relationships with governmental department heads to provide service and information within the District.

One agency that has provided much needed support has been the Wildland Taskforce. According to Florida Statutes, unauthorized motor vehicles are prohibited on District canal right-of-ways. Trespassing by vehicles creates a liability for the District because there is potential for property damage, injuries or even fatalities. Unauthorized vehicles also degrade the quality and integrity of the canal banks and the adjacent natural lands. These vehicles are subject to citations and confiscation if apprehended. If you notice any type of vehicles on the canals, please call the Sheriff's Office.

This year, District employees participated in educational and safety programs sponsored by Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Safety Council of Palm Beach County. They also attend regularly scheduled safety meetings held at the District work center. This year, Superintendent Greg Gell and Operator Arie Raz completed the *Stormwater Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector Training Program*. This course is logged as a part of our annual report for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES report also includes inspections of illicit discharge in the District's drainage system, structural inspections of canal culverts, flood control structures and weir structures, and field reports for construction projects. Also, several employees received certificates for



Culvert installation across Canal 8 just east of Canal 10 allows for additional access to the canal system - it included the installation of approximately 60 feet of 48-inch diameter pipe, fill material, rip rap, and sod

completion of a First Aid and CPR course and attended the seminars *Back Talk* and *Heat: Effect on Workers*. We are also very proud to have received two awards from the Safety Council for outstanding achievements in driver and employee safety.

The District receives numerous calls requesting services that we do not provide. The most frequent request is landscape debris removal. Solid Waste Authority is responsible for debris pick up. The debris must be properly cut and placed in front of your property. They will not pick up debris in front of vacant lots, and they do not transport tree stumps.

The District office is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Please call or stop by if you have questions or concerns regarding road or drainage issues. We will be happy to assist you.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE

It is illegal to dump trash or other materials into the District swales or canal system, or Palm Beach County catch basins. Landowners should report any infractions regarding illicit discharges to the District Office at 747-0550.

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 Army Corps of Engineers
- Jupiter Inlet District
- United States Fish and Wildlife Services
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Florida Department of Transportation
- South Florida Water Management District
- Palm Beach County

- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council
- Town of Jupiter
- Loxahatchee River Ecosystem Management Area Committee
- Martin County
- Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
- City of West Palm Beach
- Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District
- Loxahatchee River Preserve Initiative
- Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District
- Indian Trail Improvement District
- United States Geological Survey
- City of Palm Beach Gardens
- Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County (SWA)
- Numerous Citizen Interest Groups & Committees



Amy Eason, P.E.

District Engineer's Annual Report (October 2015-September 2016)

Formed pursuant to Chapter 298, Florida Statutes in 1923, South Indian River Water Control District's (SIRWCD or the District) initial focus was flood control and drainage canals, mostly focused on the local agriculture industry. Due to the land use changes over the years from more of an agricultural use to more of a residential use, today, the District not only provides drainage and flood control, but also maintains and improves roads, bridges, and even a park to serve its landowners. SIRWCD will strive to continue serving its landowners with ongoing operation and maintenance plans, as well as implementing capital improvement projects and landowner initiated improvements when required.

SIRWCD is positioned in Northern Palm Beach County as a strategic entity in the planning and management of water resources to the surrounding area. Approximately 12,500 acres of SIRWCD discharges in the Loxahatchee River Basin, and therefore, as plans are being developed and implemented, the geographic location of the District is an element in any water management plan for the Loxahatchee River Basin.



South Indian River Water Control District encompasses over 12,500 acres and is responsible for maintenance of canals, swales and roadways

The potential impacts from development, such as water quantity and quality, are being monitored by agencies and/or individuals that have a focused interest on maintaining a healthy ecosystem within the Loxahatchee River Basin and, specifically, the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. The Board of Supervisors and staff actively engage in the many external dealings that are influencing the

District from a water supply, flood control, water quality, and ecosystem management perspective. The Board of Supervisors and staff are focused on making sure that the goals and expectations of these external activities do not conflict with the District's best interests with regard to the functioning of SIRWCD's system and the ability to deliver an appropriate level of service.

With regards to operations and maintenance, the District continues activities involving site specific drainage improvements that impact landowners, canal and culvert maintenance, and replacement or renewal of facilities that affect the works of the District. The District also continues to operate and maintain roadways and a park, as well as plan new capital and landowner-initiated improvements.

Throughout the year, landowner-initiated roadway improvement petitions for the application of Palm Beach County Standard Asphalt or Open-Graded Emulsified Mix (OGEM) are received and reviewed by District staff. Additionally, staff investigates whether improvements should be made to other existing infrastructure, such as canals, bridges, or drainage structures.

Each year, it is appropriately restated and recognized in the engineering report that the SIRWCD Board of Supervisors, through its policies and procedures, is responsible for formulating direction regarding District operations and intergovernmental issues. This is accomplished through a respected structure in which the District is managed through its Board of Supervisors and supporting staff. The Board of Supervisors establishes policy and provides direction to staff concerning budget, priorities, relationship with other

public entities, and landowner issues. Staff is responsible for implementing Board policy. Accordingly, staff responds pursuant to the Board's direction. Engineering tasks continue to be formulated to respond to the Board of Supervisors by implementing their policies and directives, as well as supporting the Manager of Operations in resolving various landowner issues. The relationship between the Board of Supervisors and District staff has been extremely

effective in both the delivery of services to residents and landowners in the District, and prospective management in response to requirements that are imposed upon the District by other governmental entities.

With regard to the current status of the District, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the District is in compliance with all regulatory requirements that affect works of the District and their operation, and the works of the District continue to be operated and maintained in a manner that achieves the available level of service.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 18th Plan of Improvements

Based on a landowner initiative, a referendum was prepared by SIRWCD and verified by the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections to implement the application of Palm Beach County Standard asphalt on the petitioners' roadway surfaces as a roadway improvement project. On May 14, 2015, the Board of Supervisors authorized staff to develop the *Eighteenth (18th) Plan of Improvements*. A public hearing was held August 20, 2015 where the plan was approved and the Board authorized the Engineer's Report for the *18th Plan of Improvements*. The public hearing for the Engineer's Report was held October 15, 2015 and the plan was approved. This plan includes the Unit of Development RI-18, which consists of the application of Palm Beach County Standard asphalt on approximately 3.8 miles of roadway in Palm Beach Country Estates:

- 64th Way N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 67th Trail N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 68th Drive N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 74th Avenue N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 75th Way N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 77th Trail N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 78th Drive N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 81st Terrace N between 150th Court and 154th Court N
- 149th Place between 69th Drive N and 64th Way N
- 163rd Court N between 75th Avenue N and 79th Terrace N
- 163rd Ct N between 75th Avenue N to East End

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On May 20, 2016, an advertisement for bid on the project was published in the Palm Beach Post and the bids were due on June 27, 2016. After negotiations with the low bidder, contract documents were finalized and construction is anticipated in September 2016. *Construction was delayed due to weather and other considerations, please see update on page 11.*

Proposed Plan of Improvement

The District has received petitions from landowners to apply asphalt on certain roadways within the District. Landowners on the following roadways are petitioning to distribute a referendum for applying asphalt in both Palm Beach Country Estates and Jupiter Farms (approximately 3.6 miles):

- 70th Trail N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 76th Trail N. between 160th Lane N and 162nd Court N
- 76th Trail N between 163rd Court N and 165th Street N
- 78th Drive N between 165th Street N and 167th Court N
- 93rd Lane N between 155th Road N and Sandy Run N
- 154th Court N between 75th Avenue N and 81st Terrace N
- 159th Court N between 78th Drive N and 84th Avenue N
- 160th Street N between 72nd Drive N and 75th Avenue N and 72nd Drive N from 160th Street N to 160th Lane N
- 175th Road N between Jupiter Farms Road and West End
- 179th Court N between Mellen Lane N and Alexander Run

At the May 19, 2016 meeting, the Board authorized the engineer to move forward with identifying the benefitted area and preparing the engineer's estimate of probable cost for the development of the referendum. *The referendum for the proposed 19th Plan of Improvements is expected to be mailed in October 2016. See updated information on this project on page 10.*

Resource Regulation

■ National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

The current Palm Beach County Municipal NPDES Permit was issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on March 2, 2011.

SIRWCD is a co-permittee along with 34 municipalities, the Department of Transportation, Palm Beach County, and four special districts. In order to complete the permit-related activities that are performed collectively by the co-permittees, an NPDES Steering Committee was formed. The Steering Committee meets on a regular basis to evaluate the program, to provide training and resources to the co-permittees, and to assist with the preparation of the annual reports. Staff continues to attend the Committee Meetings as a Steering Committee Board member. This past year, which is the 6th year of the Cycle 3 Permit, the meetings included a discussion of Waters of the United States rule, Total Maximum Daily Load's (TMDLs) for the next permit cycle, public education, the Annual Reports and Joint Report, and required refresher training videos on illicit discharges and sediment and erosion control. Staff also attended the two-day *Stormwater, Erosion & Sedimentation Control Inspector Training* program on behalf of SIRWCD. The fifth year Annual Reports were submitted to FDEP in January. In addition, FDEP presented their comments on the previous year's Annual Report.

■ Waters of the United States Rule

On April 21, 2014, the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers proposed draft rules revising the definitions of Water of the United States or "WOTUS". The stated intent of the changes is to clarify what is and what is not a WOTUS. After many agency comments on the proposed rule, it was revised and the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers published final rules revising the definitions of WOTUS that became effective on August 28, 2015. However if implemented as adopted, the new regulations will result in significant impacts on the NPDES program and municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit holders because most ditches, stormwater conveyances, and certain flood control devices will be considered to be "WOTUS" and subject to permit conditions and numeric nutrient criteria.

On August 27, 2015, a federal judge in North Dakota granted a petition filed by 13 western states to enjoin implementation of the rules – making implementation and application of the rules throughout the rest of the country even less certain. Additionally, other states including Florida have filed lawsuits challenging the rule. On October 9, 2015, the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court of Appeals issued a nationwide injunction stopping the WOTUS rule from being implemented. Over the past year, there have been several discussions by the

courts as to which court has the authority to decide the matter. The rule has not been implemented due to the court process. Staff will continue to monitor the proposed rule and provide updates to the District.

■ Public Facilities Report/Water Control Plan

Chapter 189 of the Florida Statutes, the Uniform Special District Accountability Act, requires the preparation and submission of a Public Facilities Report to governmental jurisdictions in which the District resides, such as Palm Beach County, the Town of Jupiter, and South Florida Water Management District. Special Districts are required to submit an update to this report every five years and, at a minimum, the report 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 ongoing process to provide for better and more accurate mapping of the works of the District. The Public Facilities Report is continually modified as each Plan of Improvement is added to the District's facilities. The current modification includes the *18th Plan of Improvements*. In accordance with Chapter 298.225 Florida Statutes, the Water Control Plan has been amended consistent with the preparation of the proposed Plan of Improvements during the last year.

Intergovernmental Coordination

■ Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council

SIRWCD continues to participate as an active member of the Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council (LRMCC). This Council was established by Chapter 83-358, F.S. and is comprised of federal, state, and regional agencies and local representatives. It advises the FDEP and SFWMD on matters that affect administration of the Loxahatchee River, to identify and resolve inter-governmental coordination problems and to enhance communications. SIRWCD participates as a member of the Coordinating Council due to the fact that the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River is the primary stormwater outfall for the entire portion of SIRWCD lying west of the SFWMD C-18 Canal, and the area east of the SFWMD C-18 discharges into the middle of the Loxahatchee River. SIRWCD and the LRMCC also have several mutual issues and interests.

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Over the past year, the LRMCC has been actively monitoring projects that could affect the Loxahatchee River. These projects include an update on the Lainhart and Masten Dam, the development of Avenir within Palm Beach Gardens, the C-51 Reservoir Concept, the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Plan, and the development of TMDLs for the Loxahatchee River.

On March 28, 2016, the FDEP approached the LRMCC on the proposed development of a TMDL within some waterbody identification (WBID) units within the Loxahatchee River that have shown impairments. FDEP suggested that instead of development of a TMDL through the state process, LRMCC could take the lead on developing a Reasonable Assurance Plan (RAP), which would replace the TMDL and subsequent Basin Action Management Plan. The RAP is a stakeholder driven plan that examines the impairments and prepares solutions to aid in restoring the Loxahatchee River from impairment. FDEP would still develop a TMDL but it would be included in the RAP instead of a state process. Staff will continue to follow this process throughout the next year.

■ Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative

The Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative (LRPI) is the outgrowth of a watershed management effort that the FDEP spearheaded in 1996. This multi-agency and stakeholder based advisory group was organized primarily for the purpose of soliciting, ranking and submitting to the Florida Legislature a list of projects focused on the preservation and restoration of the water quality and habitats of the Loxahatchee River and its watershed. Agencies and stakeholders are given an avenue to apply for funding on several key projects that are critical to preserving the long-term health of the Loxahatchee and have not been implemented due to lack of resources and other regional priorities taking precedence.

SIRWCD participates as a member of the LRPI due to its location within the Loxahatchee River watershed. This year, SIRWCD applied for grant funding for a drainage improvement project on 127th Drive North located north of Indiantown Road and clearing several outfalls. A presentation for the approval of these projects is anticipated in October 2016 with funds being distributed for the fiscal year 2018. SIRWCD will continue to apply for grants in the future.



The CERP project is intended to restore and sustain the overall quantity, quality, timing and distribution of freshwaters to the federally-designated "National Wild and Scenic" Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River

■ South Florida Water Management District (SWFMD) Everglades Restoration Strategies

SWFMD's Everglades Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan has been developed in order to address water quality-based effluent limits for Stormwater Treatment Areas to meet NPDES permitting requirements by EPA. Under these strategies, SWFMD is implementing a technical plan to complete several projects that will create more than 6,500 acres of new stormwater treatment areas (STAs) and 116,000 acre-feet of additional water storage through construction of Flow Equalization Basins (FEBs). FEBs provide a more steady flow of water to the STAs, helping to maintain desired water levels needed to achieve optimal water quality treatment performance.

Design and construction of the treatment and storage projects in the Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan will take place in three phases with completion of all projects set for 2025. As part of the program's Technical Plan, both STA expansions and Flow Equalization Basins (FEB) upstream of STA's are proposed. The plan includes designation of the L-8 Reservoir as a 45,000 ac-ft FEB that will have a multi-purpose function to capture, store and deliver water to STA-1 East, STA-1 West, and the Loxahatchee River and for other restoration purposes. When the STA-1 West expansion is completed and in-basin storage for the Loxahatchee River comes online, the L-8 FEB will transition to primarily delivering consistent flows needed to optimize performance of STA-1 East and STA-1 West as part of the plan. The L-8 Flow Equalization Basin is expected to complete

construction in December 2016. The STA-1 West Phase 1 Expansion is expected to be completed by 2018.

■ Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Program

In December 2014, SWFMD and the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) kicked off the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project (formerly known as North Palm Beach County – Part 1), which is part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The renewed purpose of the project is to restore and sustain the overall quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of freshwaters to the federally designated "National Wild and Scenic" Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. This project also seeks to restore, sustain, and reconnect the area's wetlands and watersheds that form the historic headwaters for the river and its tributaries. Planning efforts for the project were put on hold in 2011 and have now been restarted. Currently, the project is being re-scoped under ACOE's New Planning Paradigm and existing plan formulation data and analysis will be used in the development of a final plan, known as a Project Implementation Report and Environmental Impact Statement, to prepare for congressional authorization. Over the past year, SWFMD and the ACOE have been conducting the alternative formulation and analysis process of the plan formation. This consisted of meeting to discuss alternative plan selections to determine modeling scenarios for determining the best project scenarios. SIRWCD has been attending these meetings and participating in the modeling subteam to ensure that SIRWCD's operations are being represented correctly within the modeling effort.

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■ Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD)

SIRWCD's Board of Supervisors and staff are active participants in the Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD). FASD is the recognized, collective voice of special purpose government across the State of Florida. This diverse network of both Independent and Dependent Special Districts have come together to provide resources uniquely developed to meet the needs of Florida's Special Districts. The purpose of the FASD is to keep the public informed of the benefits of Special Districts, update members with information useful to themselves and their community, review all government activities as they affect the interest of Special Districts, and to forward requests and comments to the Florida Legislature. FASD provides primary education and training to satisfy the educational requirements of Ch. 189, Florida Statutes. The purpose of the education program is to ensure that elected boards and district managers comply with Florida Statutes governing special districts. The Department of Economic Opportunity, Division of Community Development, assists with educational programs for board members and the annual conference by partnering with the Association.

The FASD holds regular meetings throughout the year where information from other water control districts, improvement districts, community development districts, and special taxing districts can be shared with regard to policies, procedures, operation, and maintenance issues. In addition, members of the Association are "watchdogs" for codes, ordinances, rules, and/or legislation that can either help or hinder the activities of Special Districts. To this end, a significant effort is put forward during the annual legislative session. FASD members continue to benefit from each other's experiences and FASD will continue to follow this order and represent the interests of its members and provide information on pertinent legal requirements, sunshine laws, economic challenges, environmental, emergency management, and homeland security issues.

Operations and Maintenance

■ 128th Trail N Drainage Improvement Project

In 2014, the District submitted a grant funding application to the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative (LRPI) committee for constructing roadside swales on both sides of 128th Trail North beginning

at the intersection of Indiantown Road to approximately 0.5 mile north along with clearing existing outfall ditches that extend from 127th Drive to Canal 11 and replacing existing cross drains across 128th Trail North. This project was included in the approved list to receive funding from the Florida Legislation, but no funds became available for fiscal year 2016. The District moved forward with the project this year, which improved the water quantity and water quality of the area. To date, the outfall ditches and the cross drains have been completed.

■ Driveway Culvert Replacement Program

Culverts under driveways have been aging over the years. These culverts have been the landowner's responsibility to maintain and replace them when their life span has ended. These culverts, when not maintained, are collapsing and blocking the secondary drainage system of the District. The District has instituted a culvert replacement program which allows the landowners to pay the District for the replacement of their culverts. In addition to driveway culverts, the District inspects the outfall culverts to the canals, cross drain culverts under roadways, and other culverts that the District operates and maintains. The District assesses the condition of these culverts and replaces them as needed.

■ Culvert Installations in Canal 6 and Canal 8

The District has been investigating options for the potential of reducing its operation and maintenance costs. One way those costs could be reduced would be to add additional access points to the canal system. The first location is across Canal 6 and Canal 13, just west of 129th Place N, and the second location is across Canal 8 just east of Canal 10. The project includes the installation of approximately 60 feet of 72-inch diameter pipe across Canal 6, approximately 60 feet of 48-inch diameter pipe across Canal 8, fill material, rip rap, and sod. The construction cost is estimated at \$78,000.

■ Canal Clearing & Maintenance

The District's canal network consists of over 60 miles of canals that are continuously in need of being maintained, restored, and enhanced. The canal clearing and maintenance program's objective is to keep the canal sections easily accessible



Reese Bridge improvement and restoration

and, to the best extent possible, free from trees and other vegetation that may potentially enter the canal during a major storm and thereby create a restriction that would aggravate flooding.

The canal clearing and maintenance program provides services that include clearing, grading and shaping of the canals as well as restoring, replacing or enhancing structural improvements. The program is an ongoing effort and the District has continued to work to maintain and achieve the desired goals.

The Board has authorized an ongoing swale maintenance program which allows the District Engineer and Manager of Operations to identify areas within the District that could be improved for conveyance and storage. District staff will continue to work toward the desired goals of the District in the swale maintenance program.

■ Reese Bridge

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) approached SIRWCD about taking over operation and maintenance of the bridge (Reese Bridge) that crosses the C-18 Canal. This bridge provides access for SIRWCD to transport maintenance equipment to operate and maintain SIRWCD facilities within Palm Beach Country Estates. The SFWMD has transferred the Right of Way Occupancy Permit to SIRWCD.

Improvements and restoration to extend the life span and safety of the bridge included signage, expansion joint repair, curb repair, rip rap slope protection, cleaning and sealing the substructure, pedestrian railing, and right-of-way gates. The construction was completed in August 2016 and the total costs were \$59,386.

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■ Policies & Procedures Manual

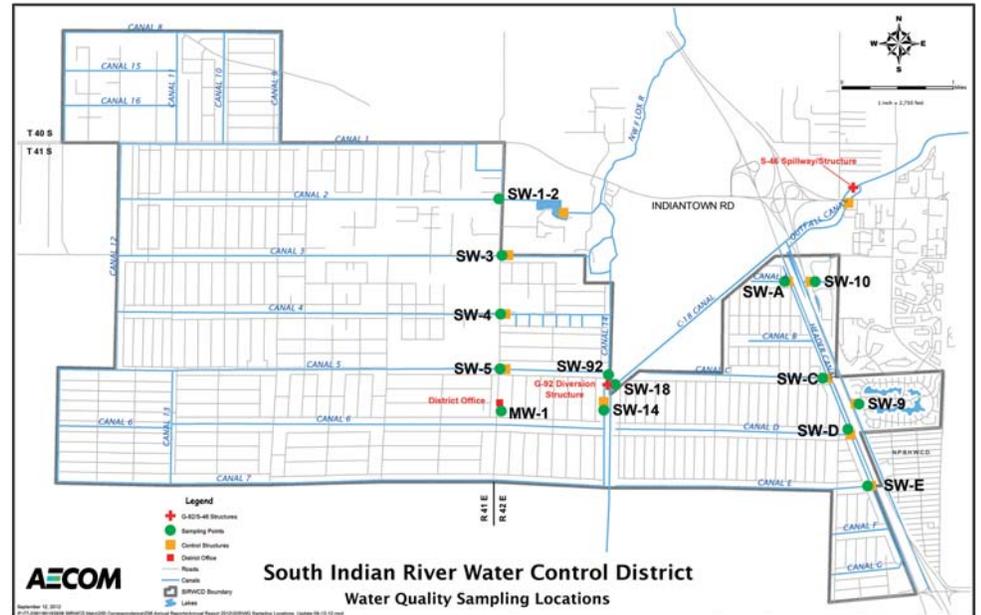
In accordance with the provisions of the Florida Statutes, the District maintains a Policies and Procedures Manual that is available to the public. The Manual presents and discusses items including: District organization, agenda formulation and execution, processing of permits that affect works of the District, the budget process, etc. Periodic revisions including deletions, additions, and amendments are made to maintain consistency with Florida Statutes and other codes and rules. This year, the entire manual is being updated to a digital format to include new policies and revisions. The update will continue through next year.

■ Roadways

There are approximately 189 miles of roads within SIRWCD. These roads give access to each subdivided parcel of land. Currently there are 89.9 miles of improved roads (paved and OGEM) and 98.1 miles of unpaved roads in SIRWCD. The improved roads include roads that are operated and maintained by Palm Beach County, the Town of Jupiter, and private, which consist of approximately 42 miles of roadway.

■ Aquatic Weed Control Program

SIRWCD implements an Aquatic Weed Control Program in order to maintain the primary canals throughout the District. This program is an ongoing process aimed at reducing and managing the amount of weeds in the canal network to allow unobstructed drainage following



rain events. The Aquatic Weed Control Program is necessary to prevent canals from becoming overgrown and to provide a clean channel through the canal system to the outfall.

The program controls emergent vegetation growth through the use of herbicides approved in permits obtained from the State of Florida, as well as mechanical removal of dead or accumulated vegetation that may present a potential for impeding the flow of storm water through the primary canal system.

In the future, greater emphasis may be needed for this program as a result of NPDES water quality programs, the FDEP and EPA proposed storm water criteria, the Ecosystem Management Area Plan, and other intergovernmental coordinating activities.

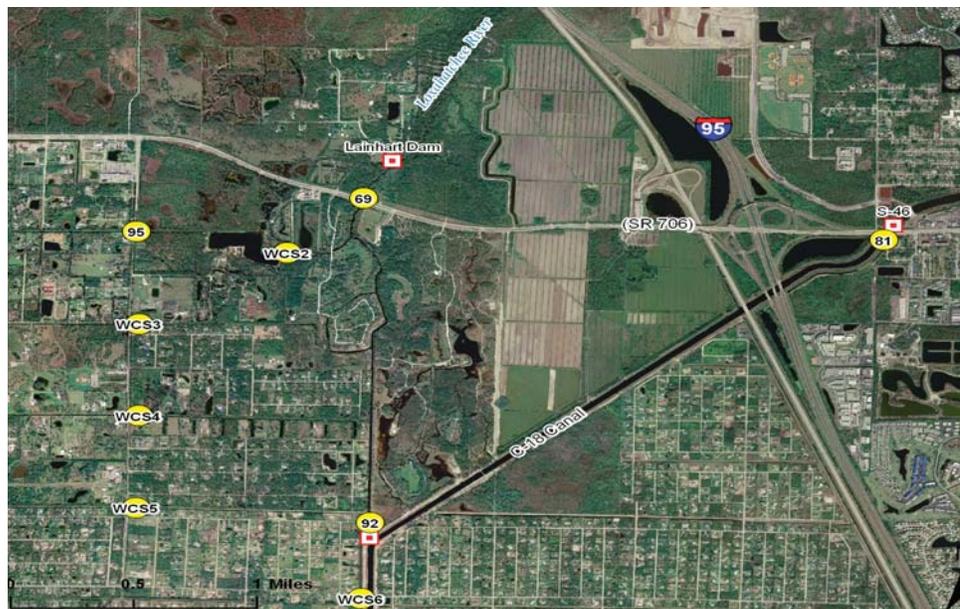
Water Quality Monitoring

Due to the many ecological and regulatory pressures being exerted over the Loxahatchee River Basin area, it was recommended that the District sample and monitor water quality within and adjacent to its boundaries. SIRWCD had historically taken samples through a co-operative agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), but due to reduced funding by the federal government, the program was abandoned. The Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District (LRD) has been obtaining water quality samples in recent years. The existing locations sampled by LRD are shown. Due to the new water quality legislation, the Board of Supervisors instructed staff to implement a water quality monitoring program that augments and expands the current LRD program.

In July 2011, SIRWCD entered into a contract with a water sampling and testing firm. The samples are tested to analyze the surface water and groundwater for various metal, organic and inorganic contaminants as well as water quality criteria. The Lateral Control Structures constructed as part of the 9th Plan of Improvements have provided the District with a significant amount of water level monitoring data that is very valuable to the District to better manage the system for flood protection and environmental benefits.

Rainfall Totals

The SIRWCD work center monitors and records the total rainfall the District receives throughout the year. For the



LRD Water quality monitoring stations

continued on pg. 9

continued from pg. 8

twelve month period from September 2015 through August 2016, the District received 68.38 inches of rainfall. The average annual rainfall for SIRWCD is 65.22 inches. The 2015-2016 year rainfall was higher than the historical rainfall average within the District.

The 2015-2016 monthly rainfall data from SIRWCD, the Loxahatchee River District, and Town of Jupiter Water Department have been averaged to determine the rainfall for an area referred to as North County. The average total year rainfall in North County from September 2015 to August 2016 was 69.92 inches. Detailed tables are available in the full Engineer's Annual Report on the District's website.

General Operation and Maintenance

The District's Manager of Operations Annual Report is included in this newsletter. It offers a summary of significant events and issues that have been identified by the Manager of Operations, who along with District staff, are the agents for day to day activities. They are primarily focused on maintaining the primary and secondary elements of the surface water management system and the graded roadways throughout the District. Further, the Manager of Operations facilitates interagency coordination with other public entities that operate and maintain assets within the District such as Palm Beach County Road and Bridge Division, Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation, Palm Beach County Fire Control, Palm Beach County School Board, Florida Department of Transportation, South Florida Water Management

District, Town of Jupiter, the Loxahatchee River District, and others.

Each year, a portion of this report is utilized to state that the District's surface water management system is designed, operated, and maintained for a mostly rural residential community with some commercial, industrial, and urban residential areas. 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. Where ponds are excavated on individual lots to supply the fill for house pads and related improvements, the consumption of available storage is not as severe because the pond serves as a compensating factor. These factors are regularly discussed by the Board of Supervisors and District staff at the monthly meetings, with individual landowners, in forums and meetings within the District, and within the District's newsletter and other publications distributed by the District.

The District's Board of Supervisors and staff work to assure that the surface water management system functions to the extent of its permitted capacity while recognizing the regulatory requirements imposed on the District by other agencies.

All of the District work must be implemented within the adopted budget and utilization of existing manpower, equipment and any other resources available to accomplish the tasks.

General Comments

The goals and objectives of SIRWCD are consistent with those for the Loxahatchee River Water Restoration Project, the Loxahatchee Basin Ecosystem Management Area, and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The District will continue to work with South Florida Water Management District and other agencies in developing and implementing compatible plans for the District and the Loxahatchee River Basin to serve its landowners and its surrounding community. SIRWCD has an obligation to its landowners and to the surrounding area due to its strategic location within naturally sensitive conservation areas. Clearly, SIRWCD is not 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 will share in the continued responsibility of being good stewards in maintaining compatibility with these natural systems.

SIRWCD will continue to serve its landowners by providing support during emergency situations, maintaining and operating the surface water management system at optimal levels, and providing services that coincide with the system capabilities, board policies, and the community.

AECOM is honored to work with the Board of Supervisors and staff, and we will continue to respond to the Board of Supervisors by implementing their policies and directives, as well as working with the Manager of Operations in resolving various landowner issues.

Former Supervisor Michael Danchuk Honored for 15 Years Service

Michael Danchuk was acknowledged with a crystal engraved award honoring him for 15 years of distinguished service to the District as Supervisor and past President on December 15 in a celebration at the District offices. Board President Steve Hinkle noted "Mr. Danchuk has provided the landowners of this District with exemplary service and has worked tirelessly on their behalf." He added that he had nominated him for Board President in 2013 as he felt he would be well suited to the job.

Mr. Danchuk thanked the Board for the award and said "Palm Beach Country Estates was a great place to raise my family and despite sometimes having differing opinions, I will miss working with the members of the Board, as well as staff and office personnel." He thanked Manager of Operations Michael Dillon for his hard work and felt that Michael Howard, who was elected this year, will be a great addition to the Board.



Board President Steve Hinkle (right) congratulates former Supervisor Michael Danchuk who was honored for his 15 years of service to the District



Michael Ryan (left) was re-elected and Michael Howard was elected for the first time to the South Indian River Water Control Board of Supervisors

Board of Supervisors Election Results and Election of Officers

The Annual Landowners Meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District was held on September 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Jupiter High School, at which time voting was closed for the two seats up for election this year. Certified results received from the Supervisor of Elections on October 18, 2016 are as follows:

- Kevin L. Baker - East Side Resident - 847
- Tony Capute - East Side Resident - 663
- Michael "Mike" Howard - West Side Resident - 1,998
- Michael "Mike" Ryan - East Side Resident - 1,915

All candidates this year signed the Oath of Candidate, which states they will resign from office within 30 days if their residency changes and causes the District's Board of Supervisors to no longer be in compliance with Chapter 2001-313, Laws of Florida.

The certified results were accepted by the board and Mr. Howard and Mr. Ryan were sworn in by Terry Lewis, District Attorney, at the November 17, 2016 Board of Supervisors meeting. Election of officers for 2016-2017 are as follows: Stephen Hinkle, President; Michael Ryan, Vice President and Jane Woodward, Recording Secretary.

Michael Ryan was appointed Chair of Parks and Recreation; Tom Powell Chair of Budgeting; John Meyer Chair of Communications and John Meyer and Michael Howard Co-Chairs of Policies and Procedures.

Andy Billy Celebrates 15-Year Anniversary with SIRWCD

Andy Billy was awarded a certificate for 15 years of service to the South Indian River Water Control District on November 7, 2016. Andy serves as the District's head boom mower operator.

"He does an excellent job in instructing our other equipment operators in proper mowing procedures," said Mike Dillon, Manager of Operations for the District. "Before coming to South Indian River Water Control District, Andy ran his own mechanic shop for 30 years, so his knowledge of equipment has been a great benefit to the District."

Board of Supervisors President Steve Hinkle added "The District is fortunate to have employees like Andy Billy, who are dedicated and knowledgeable and we thank him for his continued service."

Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvement Project

The District has received petitions meeting the minimum 50+% requirement from landowners to distribute a referendum for applying asphalt in both Palm Beach Country Estates and Jupiter Farms (approximately 3.6 miles):

- 70th Trail N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 76th Trail N. between 160th Lane N and 162nd Court N
- 76th Trail N between 163rd Court N and 165th Street N
- 78th Drive N between 165th Street N and 167th Court N
- 93rd Lane N between 155th Road N and Sandy Run N
- 154th Court N between 75th Avenue N and 81st Terrace N
- 159th Court N between 78th Drive N and 84th Avenue N
- 160th Street N between 72nd Drive N and 75th Avenue N and 72nd Drive N from 160th Street N to 160th Lane N
- 175th Road N between Jupiter Farms Road and West End
- 179th Court N between Mellen Lane N and Alexander Run

Pursuant to Board direction, District staff prepared a referenda for this landowner-proposed project, which was mailed on October 17, 2016, with ballots due back to the District office on or before December 9, 2016.

If the landowners of a majority of the parcels within the area to be benefited vote in favor of the project, all landowners within the benefited area will be assessed the cost of the project. The total estimated annual payment per parcel for parcels that have not been previously assessed for a landowner-initiated roadway improvement is approximately \$1,575.

Pursuant to current District policy, parcels adjacent to two or more roadways are assessed the full amount for the first roadway to be improved and 50% of the amount if the second roadway is improved. The total estimated annual payment per parcel for a lot already assessed on a previous landowner-initiated roadway improvement is approximately \$787.50. These estimates are based upon current interest rates over a term of up to 10 years.

The results of the referenda will be presented to the Board for their consideration at their monthly meeting on January 19, 2017. For updates on this proposed *Plan of Improvement* as they become available, please visit our website.



Manager of Operations Mike Dillon and Board of Supervisors President Steve Hinkle congratulate Andy Billy on 15 years of exceptional service to the District

26th Annual Landowners Family Day March 18, 2017



Mark your calendars and plan to join us for South Indian River Water Control District's 26th Annual Landowners Family Day to be held on Saturday, March 18, 2017. There will be live entertainment, as well as free barbecue, drinks and a petting zoo, pony rides and face painting for the kids! Community organizations and state and local agencies will be on hand with free give-a-ways and information. Watch for the next newsletter with event information – we hope to see you there!

District Work Center from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm



18th Plan of Improvements Update

Construction is underway on the application of Palm Beach County Standard asphalt on approximately 3.8 miles of roadway in Palm Beach Country Estates:

- 64th Way N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 67th Trail N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 68th Drive N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 74th Avenue N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 75th Way N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 77th Trail N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 78th Drive N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 81st Terrace N between 150th Court and 154th Court N
- 149th Place between 69th Drive N and 64th Way N
- 163rd Court N between 75th Avenue N and 79th Terrace N
- 163rd Ct N between 75th Avenue N to East End

Please check the website for updated information on this project.



South Indian River Water Control District™

15600 Jupiter Farms Road
Jupiter, FL 33478

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In this Issue...

**Manager of Operations
and District Engineer
Annual Reports**

**Landowner-Initiated
Roadway Improvement
Projects**

Election Results

**Public Hearing on
Proposed Roadway
Paving Policy Change**

Note the Public Hearing for the Proposed Roadway Paving Policy Change date has been changed to January 26, 2017.

*Visit www.sirwcd.org
for news updates!*

Proposed Roadway Paving Policy Change Public Hearing to be held on January 19, 2017

The South Indian River Water Control Board of Supervisors is considering a proposed new road paving policy.

Currently, the District utilizes a petition process whereby 50+% of the landowners on a roadway must sign an approved petition form to request a referendum to apply either asphalt or open-graded emulsified mix to the roadway. If approved by the Board, it goes to referendum whereby if a majority (50+%) of affected landowners vote in favor, it passes. The Board then may direct the Engineer to proceed with the project, and the District holds two public hearings, arranges for the financing and assessment of the benefitted landowners, solicits bids by qualified contractors and awards the project to the low bidder for construction.

The Board discussed proposed changes to this policy at their November 17, 2016 monthly meeting. The Board had previously directed Manager of Operations Michael Dillon to investigate the road paving policies of other Special Districts. He found most do not provide road construction and those that did, such as Indian Trails Improvement District, do not finance construction costs.

Some of the proposed policy changes discussed include:

- A simple majority (50+%) or more of the property owners must agree to have the roadway paved via petition
- No roadway will be considered for paving unless the drainage swales and road base are considered suitable for paving by the District's Manager of Operations and Engineer

- Petitions are for one road
- Should a roadway need additional work, landowners may either pay the additional costs of improvements or wait until the roadway has been completed as part of the District's operations and maintenance program
- The District must receive 100% of the cost of the paving, including grading, road base materials, asphalt, and labor in advance of the work being undertaken
- Funds would be held in escrow in a non interest-bearing account until all monies are collected – if all funds are not collected within a year of approval, funds would be returned, minus administrative/staff fees
- The District will no longer provide financing
- Those landowners who do not want the improvement are not required, nor can be forced to provide funding
- Paving a road does not abandon or reduce the District's annual maintenance assessment on a landowner's Non-Ad Valorem assessment

After extensive discussion, the Board decided to schedule a public hearing for January 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Jupiter High School Media Center, prior to the regular monthly meeting, to provide landowner input on the issue. In addition, the Board voted to place a moratorium on new petitions until the policy can be reviewed. For more information and updates, please visit our website: www.sirwcd.org/petitions.html.