

DICK GRUENWALD ASSOCIATES

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**Public Information Monthly Report Apr. 2026**

**TO: Board of Supervisors  
South Indian River Water Control District**

**FROM: Dick Gruenwald Associates  
District Public Information Specialists**

News releases/Notices were sent out to local newspapers and community publications:

- 1) Apr. 16 Monthly Meeting release

The following Board Meeting items were added to the website:

- 1) Monthly Meeting (Feb. 19, 2026) minutes
- 2) Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting (Apr. 16, 2026) information and Zoom registration invitation links
  - Agendas, Staff Reports and Slide Presentation for Monthly Meeting

**Attended monthly Board meeting and recorded minutes (Mar. 19) at the District office.**

**We are preparing the minutes of the March Board of Supervisors meeting and will send them to the Board and Staff for review.**

**We remediated the Request for Qualifications document for engineering services and put the information on the website. We also remediated the Temporary Culvert Installation form and added it to the website.**

**We assisted Mr. Kennedy in the creation of a flow chart for staff regarding service ticket processing.**

**We will be working with Mr. Kennedy on updates to the Policies and Procedures manual, including the Chief Financial Officer position, Board Secretary and Recording Secretary, organizational chart, roadway petition form, driveway culvert forms, the Financial chapter, and other potential policy changes or additions being considered.**

**The newsletter has been delivered to landowners. It features highlights of the Annual Reports, election results and naming officers and committees, grant information, the new website featuring the interactive Water Quality Program, drought conditions update, Florida Turnpike update, HB4099 status, updated roadway improvement petition, updated dirt road maintenance program, and introductions of the new Chief Financial Officer and Office Assistant.**

**Streamline Website Update**

We went live with the new website on Thursday, November 26, 2025. We timed this to coincide with the long holiday weekend when website and email traffic was lower. An SSL certificate has been issued (this is for security purposes).

**Refinements and updates will be ongoing.**

**This past month we utilized the emergency/notification banners for the canal washout in Jupiter Farms and Areal Flood Watch this past week. Changes were made to the Temporary Driveway Culvert form, Driveway Culvert page, Service Request page, and Drought page. We created an**

**April 15 Selection Committee meeting page. The Request for Qualifications information seeking an engineering firm for grant implementation was uploaded to the site and taken down once the due date was reached. Changes and updates are in the process of being made to the home page and other pages as well.**

**We will be working with the District office and District Engineer to implement a new internal webpage with a GIS-based form for Operations and Maintenance staff to document and track utility strikes encountered during Operations and Maintenance activities. Similar to the Service Request Form, this would be embedded in a password-protected, staff-only page on our website.**

We will have the capability to create forms and surveys as needed. And in the future, should the District wish to allow credit card payment for permits and driveway culverts, we can add this capability as well.

The premier of the Drainage in the District Video was shown at the Annual Landowners' Meeting in September 2022, and links to the You-Tube video were provided to community social media. **The video has received 1044 views, 17 likes as of April 9, 2026.** The video has also been run on Jupiter Farms Resident's social media a number of times, which has increased views.



# South Indian River Water Control District™

*Established 1923*

A Florida Special District

15600 Jupiter Farms Road • Jupiter, Florida 33478-9399 • (561) 747-0550

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

[sirwcd@sirwcd.org](mailto:sirwcd@sirwcd.org)

## Memorandum

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Report for March 20, 2026, through April 16, 2026  
**DATE:** April 6, 2026

### Administration:

#### The District Mission and Vision Statements

The District administration has drafted a mission and vision statement for publication on the District website. A District Mission and Vision Statement are not simply formalities; they are foundational tools for disciplined leadership and effective governance. They establish purpose, direction, and focus to ensure that the District remains aligned, transparent, and committed to serving the community in both the present and the future. The drafts of the statements are:

#### Mission Statement

South Indian River Water Control District's mission is to responsibly and effectively provide stormwater, roadway, and related infrastructure management for the benefit and safety of District landowners in Jupiter Farms, Palm Beach Country Estates, Egret Landing, and the Jupiter Park of Commerce, while promoting environmental stewardship, regulatory compliance, and long-term resilience.

#### Vision Statement

South Indian River Water Control District's Board and staff are committed to providing reliable, financially sustainable infrastructure and services that meet the needs of landowners, now and in the future.

The District will continue to be proactive in planning and implementing current and future maintenance, operations, and capital improvements as detailed in the comprehensive Water Control Plan.

#### he District strives to ensure these core values:

- Resilience – preparing for storms, floods, and changing conditions
- Responsiveness – serving landowners efficiently
- Reliability – dependable drainage and maintenance
- Stewardship – protecting natural resources
- Transparency – open communication and governance
- Collaboration – working with partner agencies



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## Memorandum

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Supervisor of Operations  
**SUBJECT:** Supervisors Report for March 20, 2026, to April 16, 2026  
**DATE:** April 8, 2026

### Water Control

- 1) There was 3.84 inches of rain in this reporting period.
- 2) Two dump trucks were sent to public auction via GovDeals.com. The 1996 International Dump Truck sold for \$10,700.00, and the 2000 International Dump Truck sold for \$7,700.00. Both have been removed from inventory.
- 3) The District is working with South Florida Water Management District to establish a formal agreement that will provide the District with indefinite access to the C-18 right-of-way. This access, which separates Jupiter Farms and Palm Beach Country Estates, is critical to the District's operations, as it supports routine maintenance, inspection, and emergency response activities within the canal and road system.

The agreement is currently under review by South Florida Water Management District's legal department. Upon completion of the review and execution of the agreement, the District will be able to ensure consistent and reliable access to this corridor, improving operational efficiency and long-term maintenance capabilities.

- 4) The District has completed excavation on a 2.30-mile stretch of the East Borrow Canal to deepen and widen the canal to improve conveyance capacity. This canal serves as the primary outfall for Palm Beach Country Estates, Egret Landing, and the Jupiter Park of Commerce.

As part of the excavation work, vegetation overhanging the canal was removed and the resulting debris was stockpiled between the East Borrow Canal and the Florida Turnpike guardrail. Due to the large volume of material generated, the District reached out to three contractors to submit bids to contract the grinding and removal of the debris using a forestry mulcher to process the debris in place.

**The District has awarded a contract to forestry mulch approximately 2.30 miles of vegetative debris, and this work has since been completed. Additionally, approximately 1.50 acres of the East Borrow Canal bank have been stabilized through hydroseeding.**

Hydroseeding is an erosion control method that involves spraying a mixture of seed, mulch, fertilizer, and water onto the soil, promoting rapid germination, and providing quick stabilization.

- 5) Canal Cutbacks continue in Jupiter Farms which involves using an excavator with a mulching head attachment. First, the excavator reaches across the canal to cut back any vegetation hanging over or in the canal. Second, once a canal is cut, the mulching head is changed out with a rake attachment to remove any vegetative debris from the bottom of the canal. Third, the debris that has been removed is then left on the top of bank to dry down. Last, a District tractor and wing mower then mulches the debris into smaller pieces which is then left on the canal bank to decompose.

**Cutting on Canal 2 is in progress. Cutbacks and raking have been completed on Canals 3 and 4. Cutting, raking, and mulching have been completed on Canals 5 and 6.**

- 6) The District Swale cleaning crew continue digging in Jupiter Farms and Palm Beach Country Estates; this crew typically operates full-time in the dry season. Before a section of swales are dug, the crew will take an assessment of every culvert in that swale section. If a culvert does not meet District standards (incorrect elevation, incorrect diameter, impaction, etc.) a letter will be sent to the landowner via the District's Enhanced Outreach Program.
- 7) Crews have installed one driveway culvert, inspected three new construction culverts, completed one culvert cutout, and installed two temporary construction culverts.

## **Road Maintenance**

- 1) Shell rock roads are inspected weekly during the dry season and are graded on an as-needed basis to address wash boarding (corrugation). As the District enters the wet season, the grading schedule will transition to more frequent maintenance, as conditions require.

*Dustin Fazio*

Dustin Fazio  
Supervisor of Operations

A good Mission Statement is a clear, concise declaration of why the organization exists and what it is fundamentally here to do. It identifies the District's core purpose, the people it serves, and the essential services it provides. A strong mission statement helps everyone to align the daily priorities and ensures that actions, programs, and resources stay focused on fulfilling that core purpose.

A good Vision Statement describes what the organization aspires to become in the future. It describes a long-term image of success and what the District is working toward, what it hopes to achieve, and how it wants to be viewed by the community and stakeholders. A vision is forward-looking and inspirational and serves as a guide for growth, strategic planning, and decision-making.

## **Provide Organizational Focus**

When an organization has a clearly defined mission and vision, it helps to prevent scope drift. Staff, leadership, and stakeholders can consistently evaluate decisions by asking: Does this support our mission? Does this move us toward our vision? This alignment keeps the District disciplined and purpose driven.

### **A. Guide Strategic Planning and Resource Allocation**

A mission sets the boundaries of what the organization should do; the vision points to where it is headed. Together, they help determine priorities, guide long-term investments, and ensure that both financial resources and personnel resources are directed in ways that advance the District's goals.

### **B. Strengthening Accountability**

The mission and vision act as benchmarks for the board and leadership. They provide a clear standard against which progress and performance can be measured, helping the District stay transparent and accountable to the community.

### **C. Unify Staff and Stakeholders**

A good mission and vision create a shared understanding of District's purpose and help build a cohesive organizational culture where employees understand how their roles contribute to a larger goal, which can increase morale, engagement, and effectiveness.

### **D. Communication with Intent to the Community**

For the community, the mission and vision articulate what the District stands for, what it is committed to, and where it is headed. This strengthens trust and helps ensure that expectations are clear and well understood.

#### *Action Requested:*

Board of Supervisors' approval of the Mission and Vision Statements.

## **Consideration of Employment Agreement Updates – Executive Director**

The Board has been requested to consider updates to the Executive Director's employment agreement dated May 16, 2024. The proposed modifications align the agreement with current District policies, maintain appropriate organizational compensation structure, and support continuity of leadership.

#### Proposed Updates:

- **Paid Time Off:** Update the agreement to reflect the District's transition to a unified Paid Time Off system in place of separate vacation and sick leave categories.
- **Salary Adjustment:** Adjust the Executive Director's salary to maintain appropriate compensation alignment above the Chief Financial Officer, who reports directly to the Executive Director, ensuring consistency with the District's organizational structure and responsibilities.
- **Term Extension:** Extend the agreement term by one (1) year, from five (5) to six (6) years, to support leadership continuity, ongoing strategic initiatives, and alignment with the District's six-year retirement vesting period.

**Justification:**

During the Executive Director's tenure, and under Board policy direction, the District has achieved significant operational, financial, and technological improvements. These actions have strengthened internal controls, modernized operational systems, improved service delivery, and enhanced transparency. The proposed updates are intended to preserve institutional momentum, maintain organizational stability, and ensure consistency with current District policies and procedures.

*Action Requested:*

Board motion to approve the requested updates to the Executive Director's employment agreement, including the transition to the District's Paid Time Off system, a salary adjustment for organizational alignment, and a one-year extension of the agreement term.

**Operations:****Canal C Reshaping Project – Palm Beach Country Estates**

Staff requests Board approval to authorize the advertisement for a Request for Proposals for the remaining construction work associated with the Canal C reshaping project in Palm Beach Country Estates. This request is time-sensitive due to recent changes in federal permitting requirements, pending budget considerations, and the need to coordinate the associated special assessment.

Canal C reshaping is required to provide additional stormwater storage capacity as documented in the District Engineer's Drainage Study and is necessary to maintain system performance and reduce long-term flood risk. The engineering design is complete, and the Board has previously approved the full Canal C project. However, due to unexpectedly high construction costs, only a portion of the originally approved work has been completed. The remaining work is necessary to fully achieve the project's intended drainage benefits.

Timing is critical due to changes in Section 404 permitting. The initial work proceeded under a State-issued exemption; however, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has since resumed direct Section 404 permitting authority. Further delays could subject the remaining work to federal permitting, increasing regulatory risk, costs, and schedule impacts.

Staff evaluated completing the work in-house but determined that, due to staffing constraints, equipment needs, dredged material disposal requirements, and schedule and regulatory risks, in-house construction would not provide a meaningful advantage. Approximately three feet of dredged material must be removed and hauled off-site, which would require a separate trucking contract regardless of construction approach. Accordingly, staff recommend contracting the full scope of work through a competitive Request for Proposals process while pursuing grant funding opportunities where feasible. Grant funding remains uncertain and a special assessment is anticipated.

The preliminary construction cost estimate is approximately \$2,000,000.00. The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer will work jointly to secure funding to allow construction to proceed in Fiscal Year 2026–27. Based on current estimates, the assessment to Palm Beach Country Estates landowners is projected at approximately \$88.00 per year for 15 years and will be incorporated into the Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget cycle for Board consideration.

This project will be sequenced with other drainage improvements under the District's Water Control Plan to ensure coordinated implementation and fiscal responsibility.

**Proposed Schedule (pending Board approval):**

- Request for Proposals advertised: May 2026
- Proposals due: June 2026
- Board consideration of award: July 2026
- Construction starts: October 2026

## **Request for Qualifications, Request For Qualifications No. 2026-01 General Engineering Services**

The District advertised the Request for Qualifications, Request for Qualifications No. 2026-01: General Engineering Services, on Thursday, March 5, 2026. Five firms met the submission deadline on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in Demand Star. The public meeting for the selection committee is April 15 at 1:00 p.m. at the District Work Center.

The Firms are:

- Craig A. Smith & Associates, LLC
- Kimley-Horn
- South Florida Engineering and Consulting LLC
- Engenuity Group, Inc.
- Mock-Roos

The review panel consists of Karen Brandon of AECOM (District Engineer), Dustin Fazio, and Chad Kennedy, with legal support from Janice Rustin of Lewis, Longman, & Walker PA (District Attorney).

### **Florida Turnpike Expansion Storm Water Concerns**

Monday, April 6, 2026, 2:30 p.m. meeting between the District and Florida Turnpike Enterprise resulted in continued communication about Palm Beach Country Estates permitting stormwater discharge volumes and a mutual commitment to continue communication. The District Engineer committed to provide the Florida Turnpike Enterprise with the PBCE drainage model to ensure the District and Florida Turnpike Enterprise have it as a tool to “true up” calculations that will be used to design the Turnpike expansion’s stormwater system. The delivery of the model to Florida Turnpike Enterprise has been delayed due to ongoing refinements being made to the Palm Beach Country Estates drainage model by the District Engineer’s staff.

The path forward includes persistent communication with the South Florida Water Management District to ensure that the regulator authority understands the stormwater impacts and provides the District with the protection needed. This ensures the stormwater management of The Jupiter Park of Commerce, Egret Landing, and the Palm Beach Country Estates Community at not adversely affected by the increased impervious area and the decreased stormwater retention/detention and conveyance indicated in the 45.00% designs.

A notable change is that the Florida Turnpike Enterprise planning staff have acknowledged that the expansion project does qualify for a sound wall. However, it is far too early in the design process to discuss details about a sound abatement feature.

*Action Requested:*

Receive and file. No Board action required.

### **Storm Recovery – Hurricane Milton (October 2024) Reimbursement**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service grant reimbursement was received in the District bank account on March 3, 2026. The District has communicated with Crowder Gulf (contractor) that they will restart the work (Phase 2) in Jupiter Farms Canal 7 (south parameter canal) as soon as conditions (water depth) allow.

The District engineer has been directed by the Board to not exceed \$50,000.00 for additional monitoring.

*Background:*

	Construction	Technical	Award Amount
Original Award	638,753.00	63,875.30	702,628.30
Amendment (Additional Construction Funds)	846,737.00	-	846,737.00
	1,485,490.00	63,875.30	1,549,365.30
Amount Expended	636,867.00	61,152.74	698,019.74
Remaining Award	848,623.00	2,722.56	851,345.56

*Action Requested:*

Receive and file. No Board action required.

## Office Administrator Update:

### Human Resources/Safety

The District received two awards from the Safety Council of Palm Beach County on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026, for their 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Safety Awards Luncheon & Auction for the following:

- Award of Merit for Worker Safety
- Award of Excellence for Vehicle Safety

*Action Requested:*

Receive and file. No Board action required.

## Chief Financial Officer Update:

### Internal Financial Operating Procedures

Final revisions are currently in progress for the internal financial operating procedures, but no change in status has been made yet.

### Bank and Credit Card Reconciliations

Bank and credit card reconciliations for both January and February 2026 have been completed. Bank and credit card reconciliations for March 2026 are currently being finalized, which will bring the District fully up-to-date.

### Permit Revenue and Escrows

The District is awaiting the March 2026 invoice from AECOM, which will include a permit subtask code for each permit. Upon receipt, the District will implement a permit tracking spreadsheet to monitor permit payments and associated costs, but no change in status for the permit revenue and escrows has been made yet.

### Paved Roads vs Unpaved Roads Cost Comparison

The Chief Financial Officer has prepared a cost comparison of grading versus paving to be presented at the April 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting. The District Engineer identified approximately 92 miles of unpaved roads within the District (Palm Beach Country Estates – 29 miles; Jupiter Farms – 63 miles). The analysis expands on the version presented at the March 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting by extending the projection period to 60 years to reflect long-term resurfacing costs for paved roads. The comparison now includes the following:

- Per-mile costs for grading and paving
- Long-term lifecycle cost projections
- Estimated increases in annual landowner assessment for those benefiting from paving

Resurfacing costs were calculated using paving estimates received from Wynn & Sons that exclude the base layer. Please refer to the accompanying spreadsheet and PowerPoint presentation for additional details.

### **Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Financial Statement Audit**

The preliminary audit support and finalized trial balance were provided to Grau & Associates (District Auditors) by the April 3, 2026, deadline. The Chief Financial Officer will respond to any additional audit inquiries and assist with the preparation of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 financial statements which must be filed with the State of Florida by June 30, 2026.

### **Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Discussions**

The Chief Financial Officer has conducted several budget meetings with the Executive Director, Supervisor of Operations, and Office Administrator. Management has identified proposed equipment purchases, capital projects, and updated salary and benefit assumptions for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. In addition, the District Engineer has provided a list of recommended water control projects as a part of their water control plan development. These projects will be evaluated in the next budget meeting for potential inclusion in the upcoming fiscal year.

The District has received its assessment calendar from the County Property Appraiser and Tax Collector offices. The County will provide the District with the Non-Ad Valorem data file by May 27, 2026. The NAV data file includes all the District's parcel control numbers and acreage data.

### **Individual meetings with Board members – Financial Activities**

The Chief Financial Officer is conducting individual meetings with Board members to review the District's financial activities. Topics include:

- Chart of Accounts
- Internal Service Fund Allocation Methodology
- Budget vs. Actual Reporting
- Budget Process Overview
- Assessments
- Digital Financial Processes
- Road Cost Analysis

### **Interest rates on District Bank Accounts**

The Chief Financial Officer identified that the District's money market account and certificates of deposit at Regions Bank are currently yielding approximately 0.01% annually, resulting in banking fees exceeding interest earnings. Alternative investment options were evaluated, including Florida PRIME and the Florida Local Government Investment Trust (Florida Investment Trust). Both programs are compliant with Florida Statute 218.415 and invest in authorized securities and offer next-day liquidity. Current yields are approximately:

- Florida Prime – 3.83%
- Florida Investment Trust – 3.73%

Transitioning to one of these programs could generate over \$100,000.00 in additional annual interest income.

### **Chief Financial Officer Items Requiring Attention**

Access to iTreasury module through Regions Bank has been granted, however, the Chief Financial Officer's access levels remain limited compared to the Office Administrator. The Treasurer is coordinating with Regions Bank to resolve this issue.

An assessment calculations and TRIM process meeting has been requested with the Treasurer and is waiting to be scheduled.

### **Chief Financial Officer Action Items**

- Finalize the Internal Financial Operating Procedures.
- Complete the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 audit prior to the June 30, 2026, deadline.
- Prepare Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget versus actual reports for the May 2026 Board meeting.
- Develop a permit tracking spreadsheet.
- Prepare the preliminary Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget for the June 2026 Budget Workshop.
- Prepare preliminary Non-Ad Valorem Tax rolls for the July 2026 deadline.

*Action Requested:*

Request for a Budget Workshop in conjunction with the June 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting to review the draft budget.

Request for Board direction on whether to proceed with establishing a new investment account with either investment provider.

Receive and file all other Chief Financial Officer updates.

*William C. Kennedy*

William Chad Kennedy  
Executive Director

## Memorandum

To South Indian River Water Control District  
Board of Supervisors

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CC William Chad Kennedy, Executive Director

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Subject Engineer's Report for March

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From Karen D. Brandon, PE, District Engineer

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Board Meeting Date April 16, 2026

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The following is a summary of activities and communications that were of significance during the past month. Updated information is presented in **bold**:

### I. Current Capital Improvements And Other District Projects

- A. The Drainage Study for Palm Beach Country Estates was approved at the June Board meeting. The first task is to complete the survey work, which has been delayed in getting started.

Legacy Survey has been approved in AECOM's Procurement system, the survey Task Order has been sent to Legacy for execution, and Legacy is in the process of scheduling the work. Once started, the work should take two months to complete.

Legacy Survey began the survey field work on November 20, 2023, and the final survey data is expected to be delivered by the middle of February.

Legacy Survey is working to complete the survey deliverables, including the canal cross sections. They are expected to be done next week.

Legacy Survey has submitted the topographic survey, and AECOM has begun delineation of the subbasins. The next step will be to develop the other basin input data.

Work is being finalized on the Palm Beach Country Estates hydraulic model. Final Quality Assurance/Quality Control checks and calibration are being performed while the report is being drafted.

The stage data to be used in the calibration has been requested from the Town of Jupiter multiple times, however, has not been received. AECOM is following up again this week. The report has been drafted for internal review with the calibration section pending.

The Report is being finalized, and the plan is to present the results at the August Board meeting.

The Report is still in the process of being finalized. A Teams call was held on November 20, 2025, with AECOM's Climate Resilience Market Sector Lead in Florida to discuss future grant opportunities for a Vulnerability Assessment and how the Report can facilitate that process. The plan is to present the Report results at the January Board meeting.

The draft Report has been finalized and one-on-one meetings with Board members are scheduled in advance of the January 15th Board meeting.



AECOM received comments from Board members and has worked to make modifications to the report to address the comments. AECOM will present the results at the February Board meeting.

The Board of Supervisors approved the Report at the February Board meeting.

- B. The Executive Director has requested that AECOM work on compiling a list of recommended Capital Improvement Projects to be included in the Water Control Plan.

**A Teams meeting was held on April 2, 2026, to discuss potential projects and moving forward with the Amended Water Control Plan.**

## II. Operation And Maintenance

- A. A proposal for bridge inspections for the bridge over the C-18 Canal (old Reese Bridge) and the bridge over the C-14 Canal has been received and a Purchase Order is being processed through AECOM for a subconsultant to perform the work.

AECOM has issued a Purchase Order to Underwater Engineering Services, Inc. to perform the C-18 and C-14 Canal bridge inspections. Underwater Engineering Services, Inc. has been tasked with requesting a temporary access permit for the C- 18 Bridge from the South Florida Water Management District Right-of-Way permitting staff. They have tentatively scheduled the inspections for one day between February 25-27, 2026.

Underwater Engineering Services, Inc. is drafting the Bridge Inspection Reports for review and comments. However, based on preliminary observations from the inspection, there appears to be no major structural concerns, mostly maintenance items. The draft Inspection Reports are scheduled to be submitted by March 13, 2026.

**The draft Inspection Reports were received on March 20, 2026. Recommendations for repairs were provided for both the C-18 and C-14 bridges. Repair recommendations include concrete deck repairs (patches), joint repairs in deck joints and abutment concrete sheet piling, guardrail post repairs, and load posting signs.**

- B. The District's Geographic Information System based asset management system is now operational. Efforts this month focused on refining system performance and enhancing usability for both office and field staff. The online resident ticketing portal is live and actively used, with positive feedback received from residents and staff for its ease of use and improved coordination of responses.

All field equipment, including the Emlid RS3 Geographic Information System unit and field tablets, are active and functioning. Geographic Information System locates are being refined to further improve horizontal and vertical accuracy, and new construction permits and field verified assets are being added to the system as they become available. Ongoing work continues to streamline data organization and optimize field workflows to increase efficiency and reliability across all user levels.

AECOM has been supporting the Supervisor of Operations in expanding use of the Emlid RS3 Geographic Information System unit beyond basic asset location by providing training and guidance on collecting spot elevations throughout the system. The Supervisor of Operations is performing the field data collection, while AECOM reviews the incoming Geographic Information System shots as they are logged into the District's Geographic Information System -based asset management system and provides engineering support to help identify localized grading constraints and high spots that affect conveyance. This effort also supports improved driveway and culvert installations by confirming appropriate culvert inverts and roadway/ditch tie-in elevations to improve hydraulic efficiency and reduce localized ponding.



**AECOM continued supporting the Supervisor of Operations with review of roadway and swale elevation data collected using the District's Geographic Information System based workflow to assist in identifying hydraulic deficiencies and localized drainage issues. Based on the field data, AECOM also assisted with refinement of proposed driveway culvert and swale elevations to improve hydraulic performance and system flow.**

**In addition, AECOM worked with KDT and District staff on development of a Power Automate workflow to generate automatic email notifications from the District's Survey123 service ticket system when tickets are completed. Final implementation is currently being completed by KDT.**

- C. Natural Resources Conservation Service Grant Application for Hurricane Damage – A meeting was held on November 1, 2024, with Natural Resources Conservation Service staff at their office in Royal Palm Beach. A draft Damage Survey Report was prepared and presented at the meeting to obtain submitted on November 8, 2024. A few additional comments were received and addressed on November 21, 2024. Once the application has been “approved” by the local Natural Resources Conservation Service staff, it will go to the State Engineer for final approval prior to formal submittal as a request for funding.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service confirmed on February 14, 2025, that the funds approved for the District have been frozen indefinitely through the Presidential executive order.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has sent the Grant Agreement to South Indian River Water Control District for execution. Once it is executed and returned by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, a pre-design conference will be scheduled.

A Pre-Design conference was held on July 16, 2025, at the District's office. A field visit with the Contractor was held on August 12, 2025, along with a conference call with Natural Resources Conservation Service to clarify options for proceeding with the work items.

The Contractor was issued a Notice to Proceed on September 8, 2025. Work has been progressing along Canal 7 with approximately 4400 cubic Yards of vegetative debris being removed and 1.5 miles of canal banks cleared. Work is also being done on Canal 3. A request for an amendment to the District's agreement with Natural Resources Conservation Service for additional work in Canal 3 has been approved by Natural Resources Conservation Service, however, the funding for that work has not yet been approved.

Crowder Gulf (Contractor) has completed debris removal activities authorized under the current round of Natural Resources Conservation Service funding. On November 12, 2025, the Contractor submitted a pay request in the amount of \$636,867, which is within \$1,886.00 of the current contract value of \$638,753. Once the District pays the Contractor, a Request for Reimbursement will be submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Service funding.

Natural Resources Conservation Service funding has approved additional funding for the District at a 100% Federal cost share, providing an additional \$846,737. Including construction inspection and technical assistance, the total Natural Resources Conservation Service funding grant award to the District is now \$1,549,365.30. We are currently awaiting the Natural Resources Conservation Service funding to release the additional funds before authorizing Crowder Gulf to resume work, which is anticipated to occur after the first of the year.

The executed Natural Resources Conservation Service Agreement for the approved additional funds was received on January 6, 2026. A coordination call with the Natural Resources Conservation Service Grant Manager is being scheduled to discuss starting work. A Request for Reimbursement in the amount of \$680,673.73 is being prepared for submittal to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The Request for Reimbursement for the completed work in the first phase in the amount of \$698,019.74 is being processed for payment by Natural Resources Conservation Service. A Request for Time Extension has been submitted to Natural Resources Conservation Service for processing. The Request extends the current grant period from April 10, 2026, until November 6, 2026, allowing time to complete the second phase of work on Canals 3 and 7, for which additional funding has been approved.

The Request for Reimbursement was processed and paid by Natural Resources Conservation Service, in the amount of \$698,019.74 on March 3, 2026. The Request for Time Extension was approved on February 9, 2026, extending the current grant period from April 10, 2026, until November 6, 2026. The Executive Director is coordinating with Crowder-Gulf to determine when they may be able to start work again. However, low water levels in the canals may delay the start of work.

**A meeting is scheduled with the Contractor, Crowder-Gulf, on April 15, 2026 to discuss their remobilization and schedule.**

- D. On November 14th, staff conducted a field visit with the Executive Director and Supervisor of Operations to review site conditions for the design of pre-storm drainage control structures at the west ends of Canal C and Canal E. These structures will improve the operations of the Palm Beach Country Estates drainage network by enabling South Indian River Water Control District to direct water westward through existing connections to the South Florida Water Management District C-18 Canal during pre-storm drawdown, assuming South Florida Water Management District lowers stages in the C-18 Canal, ahead of a major storm. This will provide additional storage capacity within S South Indian River Water Control District's system and enhance stormwater conveyance during the event.

Staff is currently working on the design of the control structures and has been coordinating with Contech on the control structure gate and walkway.

Staff is preparing a design memorandum describing work completed to date for future use, should South Indian River Water Control District decide to move forward with these structures.

Staff is finalizing the draft design memorandum for submittal to the District for review and comments.

The draft design memorandum is undergoing internal Quality Control review and editing.

A conference call was held with Jesse Markle with South Florida Water Management District to discuss whether a permit will be required for internal structures and culverts within South Indian River Water Control District. He said a riser and culvert structure to lower the stage in Canal E to the west would require a General Permit. A proposed operation schedule should be submitted indicating what stages upstream and downstream would be experienced for the flashboards to be pulled and under what conditions the boards would be put back in. All operations would be coordinated with and subject to approval by South Florida Water Management District's Operations Control Center.

- E. **The Annual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Refresher Training took place on March 18, 2026. The next Steering Committee Meeting is being tentatively scheduled for a date in June 2026.**
- F. Staff continues to monitor and participate in the activities of the Loxahatchee River Ecosystem Management Committee, the Loxahatchee River Initiative, and the Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council.



Staff assisted the Executive Director with preparation of a PowerPoint presentation regarding a grant application for easement surveys and Geographic Information System services for the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative meeting on August 5, 2024.

Staff attended the April 7, 2025, Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative meeting where the District's Executive Director presented a vision for improving the District's operational flexibility for water management to benefit water conservation, flood protection and potential benefits to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River.

A Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative meeting was held on August 4, 2025. The District's Executive Director presented an application for exotic removal along the C-14 Canal and tributaries within the District.

The District applied for and was awarded grant funding in the amount of \$75,000 for the Loxahatchee River Headwaters Easement Mapping in Jupiter Farms project, with \$75,000 in proposed matching funds by the District. The District is waiting on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for final execution of the Grant Agreement.

The Grant Agreement was executed December 9, 2025, and has a Task End date for Easement Mapping of October 31, 2028, and an expiration date of April 30, 2029. AECOM has requested a proposal from the surveyor for the remaining survey work in Jupiter Farms.

Legacy Surveying submitted a proposal dated February 12, 2026, with a total fee of \$78,000 (to be billed monthly based on progress). The District's Executive Director approved proceeding with the survey on February 12, 2026. Staff has transmitted the required documentation to Procurement to initiate the work, and field activities are anticipated to begin before the end of the month.

AECOM issued a purchase order to Legacy Surveying for the Survey work. A kick-off meeting was held on March 11, 2026. Legacy will be providing a schedule within the next two weeks.

**As of this week, Legacy Survey is nearly complete with Section 9. A deliverable and an invoice will be submitted before the May Board meeting.**

- G. Staff met with representatives from the Turnpike Authority and Florida Department of Transportation on April 7, 2025, to discuss maintenance of the canal/ditches on the east and west sides off the Turnpike. Topics discussed included the importance of clearing the canals and outfall route for flood protection and access for District maintenance staff.

As a follow-up to the meeting on April 7, 2025, the Turnpike Authority's consultant forwarded some old as-builts from 1955 and a typical section of the proposed Turnpike widening. These plans will not be sufficient to design a culvert crossing for South Indian River Water Control access on the east side of the Turnpike or for designing a platform on the west end of the box culvert under I-95. Therefore, as a next step, a survey quote has been requested from Legacy Survey.

A site meeting with the Turnpike Authority consultants was held on July 9, 2025, to review the vegetation removal work completed by the District on the west Turnpike canal. The work was determined to be satisfactory from a maintenance standpoint.

A meeting was held on December 15, 2025, with the Turnpike Enterprise's consultants to discuss preliminary drainage design for the proposed widening of the Turnpike from PGA Blvd. to Jupiter, from four to six lanes. They are proposing piping the West Borrow canal and having manholes at intervals for maintenance access to the pipe(s). The final design started the end of November, with plans anticipated by the Fall of 2026 and bidding in the Spring of 2028. Indian River Water Control District's concerns are any increase in discharge which will impact



tailwater for Palm Beach Country Estates control structures, water quality, and operation and maintenance of the proposed pipe.

District staff held a Teams meeting with South Florida Water Management District Regulatory staff to communicate the concerns, so that they are aware during the Environmental Resource Permit review process.

On January 28, 2026, the District received a Florida Turnpike Enterprise response letter to our concerns. Staff assisted with drafting a letter, which the Executive Director sent to Florida Turnpike Enterprise on February 5, 2026. The letter clarified the need for the Florida Turnpike Enterprise to apply for a District Permit, cross-drain pipe maintenance, as well as some action items to move forward.

Additionally, staff is completing a review of the 45% plans.

Staff has supported the Executive Director and District Attorney with information from the 7<sup>th</sup> Plan of Reclamation, the South Florida Water Management District Permit for Palm Beach Country Estates and easement information for the Header Canal.

**A Teams meeting was held on April 6, 2026 with Florida Turnpike Enterprise, Florida Department of Transportation and their consultants to discuss the Turnpike Widening project status and to review how South Indian River Water Control District's East Basin drainage system functions. The hydrologic and hydraulic model will be provided to the Florida Turnpike Enterprise consultant who is in charge of modeling the system. The 45% Drainage Plans are scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.**

**Also discussed, was that the Operation and Maintenance agreement will need to be revisited based on the type of proposed improvements (culverts vs. canals) and that based on the correspondence, we were informed that there is every indication there will be a sound wall constructed on the west side of the Turnpike in the section from Donald Ross Road to Indiantown Road.**

- H. Staff had a conference call with South Florida Water Management District staff members Beth Kacvinsky and Jeff Buck on February 10, 2022, to discuss the G-92 Agreement between South Indian River Water Control District and South Florida Water Management District for operation of the structure. Beth will discuss with South Florida Water Management District operations staff and others to initiate the process of developing an updated agreement. Staff received an email with flow graphs for G-92 on March 9, 2022, for review. An update on the status of internal discussions at South Florida Water Management District regarding a new G-92 agreement was requested on March 11, 2022.

Staff attended the Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force Meeting on March 31, 2022, and had the opportunity to speak with Jennifer Reynolds, who is the Director of Ecosystem Restoration and Capital Projects for South Florida Water Management District. The South Florida Water Management District is proposing to amend consumptive use permitting criteria to protect water made available by the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project. This water resource protection is a prerequisite for the South Florida Water Management District signing a Project Partnership Agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers for the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project by September 2022. Ms. Reynolds is not authorized to begin drafting agreements, such as the new G-92 Agreement, until after the rule is final.

Staff reached out to Jeff Buck on December 2, 2022, to request an update as to when South Florida Water Management District will be ready to start discussing a new G-92 Agreement.



Staff had a conference call with Jeff Buck, Adnan Mirza (Operations), and Matt Alexander (Lead Engineer for Flow-way 2) of South Florida Water Management District on January 6, 2023. South Florida Water Management District is currently working on the C-18 West Impoundment design, and it is scheduled to take 2-3 years. No discharge through the G-92 structure is proposed during rainfall events. However, there may be the need for emergency releases from the reservoir. Staff explained that keeping the stages in the 13-13.5 ft National Geodetic Vertical Datum range in the C-14 Canal works best for South Indian River Water Control District. The C-14, C-4, C-5 and C-6 Canals are the most impacted when South Florida Water Management District discharges through the G-92 structure. The stages in the South Indian River Water Control District canals come up very quickly, especially when the ground is saturated. For now, South Florida Water Management District recommended that South Indian River Water Control District continue to work with Operations. More detailed modeling information will become available during the C-18 W Impoundment design process. South Indian River Water Control District can coordinate with Jeff Buck and Matt Alexander.

Staff requested an update from Jeff Buck in September 2025. A detailed update was received from Jeff Buck and included in the Annual Report of the Engineer.

- I. Staff was contacted by the Palm Beach County Building Dept regarding the Policies and Procedures Manual for Regulation of Lot Filling and Grading Activity. As a result of comments from both homeowners and contractors, they are considering making some changes. The Engineer for Indian Trail Improvement District is going to suggest some edits based on the Village of Wellington's policy and send them to South Indian River Water Control District to review.

The Engineer for Indian Trail Improvement District forwarded some suggested edits based on the Village of Wellington's policy to South Indian River Water Control District, and the revisions are under review.

Doug Wise, the Building Director for Palm Beach County, requested that South Indian River Water Control District attend a Palm Beach County Workshop on July 9, 2024. The workshop included a discussion on Stormwater and Floodplain Management.

- J. We continue to receive, review, and comment on various permit applications for projects to be constructed within the District. Additionally, we attend site meetings and inspections related to permit applications and landowner requests.
- K. We continue to provide engineering assistance to the Executive Director, as needed, on operation and maintenance items, as well as landowner requests, utility requests, and inquiries from other governmental entities on issues that involve engineering support.

Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me for more detailed information on any of the above subjects.