

# DICK GRUENWALD ASSOCIATES

561.622.3200 • [dgalle@bellsouth.net](mailto:dgalle@bellsouth.net)

## Public Information Monthly Report Mar. 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) Mar. 19 Monthly Meeting release

The following Board Meeting items were added to the website:

- 1) Monthly Meeting (Jan. 15, 2026) minutes
- 2) Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting (Mar. 19, 2026) information and Zoom registration invitation links
  - Agendas, Staff Reports and Slide Presentation for Monthly Meeting

**Attended monthly Board meeting and recorded minutes (Feb. 19) at the District office. Attended Team Meeting (Feb. 25) at the District office.**

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

**We worked with the District office on updated mission and vision statements and sent 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 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, the Financial chapter, and other potential policy changes or additions being considered.**

**The newsletter has gone to the printers and will be mailed out to the landowners shortly. 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).

**We will continue doing refinements and updates over the next few months.** Some PDFs that we have only recently received and others that are very lengthy will need remediation and will be updated once

completed. **The HB4099 and Turnpike pages were updated. We added a link on our Drought page to the National Integrated Drought Information System which continually updates drought conditions in Palm Beach County. We are also adding a link to South Florida Water Management District's interactive page with current conditions at the G-92 structure. The G-92 provides low water level flows to the Loxahatchee River and emergency discharge for Jupiter Farms during high water situations and this information may be of interest to the Board, staff and landowners. Revisions were made to the Water Quality Monitoring page per Bud Howard's suggestion, and we revised the navigation menu to make this page more easily accessible. We also are adding an Employee Highlight page to feature District employees.**

**We have utilized the new emergency/notification banners for issues such as drought conditions, phone lines not working, and holiday closures. Ms. Hammond reported that the Service Request Form was not working. This was reported to Streamline tech support, and the issue was fixed within an hour.**

**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 1031 views, 17 likes as of March 12, 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 February 20, 2026, through March 19, 2026  
**DATE:** March 11, 2026

### Resolution No. 2026-04

This resolution passed in February and authorized the South Indian River Water Control District (District) to engage a second engineering firm to support project specific work and grant funded initiatives. The District advertised the Request for Qualifications, *RFQ No. 2026-01: General Engineering Services*, on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.. *RFQ No. 2026-01: General Engineering Services* has a submission deadline of Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in Demand Star. The review panel is comprised of Karen Brandon, Dustin Fazio, and Chad Kennedy, with legal support from Janice Rustin (District Attorney Team).

*Action Requested:*

Receive and file. No Board action required.

### Florida Turnpike Expansion Storm Water Concerns

The District received an email reply from the Florida Turnpike Enterprise on March 2, 2026, and dismissed the District's requirement for the Florida Turnpike Enterprise to obtain a permit from the District. The Florida Turnpike Enterprise also stated, "*If you and your team believe a fundamental disagreement persists regarding the legal interpretation of the Florida Statutes governing our work, we recommend engaging our respective legal teams to resolve the matter.*"

The Executive Director, District Attorney, and District Engineer have had several discussions, including one conversation with the President of the Board of Supervisors, to develop a response to the Florida Turnpike Enterprise email and develop a path forward. The path forward includes persistent communication with the South Florida Water Management District to ensure the regulator authority understands the stormwater situation and can provide the District with protections. These protections are needed to ensure the stormwater management of The Jupiter Park of Commerce, Egret Landing, and The Palm Berach Country Estates Community are not adversely affected by the increased impervious area and the decreased stormwater retention/detention and conveyance indicated in the 40% designs.

*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 the contractor Crowder Gulf, and they will restart the Phase 2 work in Jupiter Farms Canal 7 (south parameter canal) as soon as conditions and water depth allows.

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

*Background:*

<b>National Resources Conservation Services</b>	<b>Construction</b>	<b>Technical</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
Original Award	\$638,753.00	\$63,875.30	\$702,628.30
Amendment (Additional Construction Funds)	\$846,737.00	N/A	\$846,737.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,485,490.00</b>	<b>\$63,875.30</b>	<b>\$1,549,365.30</b>
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.

## 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.

The 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, and
- Collaboration – working with partner agencies.

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.

When an organization has a clearly defined mission and vision, it helps provide organizational focus 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.

## **Administration – Employment Agreement Adjustments**

I am requesting the Board's consideration and approval of several updates to my employment agreement, originally executed on May 16, 2024. These updates are intended to align the agreement with current District policies, maintain an appropriate organizational compensation structure, and support continuity of leadership.

### **Key Requested Updates**

**Transition to Paid Time Off:** The District has moved from separate vacation and sick leave categories to a unified Paid Time Off system. I am requesting that my agreement be updated to reflect this policy change.

**Compensation Alignment:** To maintain a logical and consistent compensation structure, I am requesting an adjustment that keeps the Executive Director's salary appropriately aligned above that of the Chief Financial Officer, who reports directly to this position.

**Agreement Term Extension:** I am requesting a one-year extension of the agreement, shifting from a five-year to a six-year term. This supports leadership continuity and aligns the agreement with the District's six-year retirement plan vesting period.

## **Rationale and Recent Progress**

Under the Board's guidance, the District has made meaningful operational, financial, and technological advancements over the past year. Updating the employment agreement will help maintain momentum and support organizational stability as these initiatives continue.

I respectfully request the Board's review and consideration of these updates at an upcoming meeting and remain available to discuss any element in more detail.

### *Action Requested:*

Board of Supervisors' approval.

## **Office Administrator Update**

### **Employee Safety Training**

All District full-time employees attended a mandatory Illicit Discharge Safety Video Training in order to comply with the District's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements on February 26, 2026. Maintaining staff awareness in this area supports the District's regulatory compliance obligations and helps protect local water quality.

All District full-time employees attended a Heat-Stress Safety Video Training on February 26, 2026. This training was provided as a proactive safety measure to reinforce best practices for working safely in elevated temperatures and to remind staff of proper heat-stress prevention strategies as seasonal temperatures increase throughout Florida.

Additionally, six employees have successfully completed a Heat-Related Illness Safety Training class presented by an Occupational Safety and Health Administration instructor through the Safety Counsel of Palm Beach County on March 6, 2026. This training provided employees with critical knowledge on recognizing the early signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke, proper hydration practices, and preventative measures that reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses. Because District operations require extensive outdoor work in Florida's high heat and humidity, this training is an important component of protecting employee health and maintaining safe field operations.

### *Action Requested:*

Receive and file. No Board action required.

## **Chief Financial Officer Update**

### **Internal Financial Operating Procedures**

Final revisions to the District's internal financial operating procedures are currently being completed. Office staff have successfully implemented digital recordkeeping for invoices, payroll, and cash receipts (bank deposits). Financial documents are now reviewed and approved electronically using PDF digital signatures, improving documentation retention and internal controls.

### **Bank and Credit Card Reconciliations**

Bank reconciliations for January and February 2026 are currently in progress. The Chief Financial Officer is working with the Office Administrator to obtain the support needed for the reconciliations. The goal is to have all reconciliations current prior to the April 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Regions Bank Access, The Chief Financial Officer has been added to the Regions Bank accounts with access to the bank's iTreasury module.

### **Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Import into MIP**

The District's Fiscal Year 2025–2026 budget has been successfully imported into the MIP accounting system. Budget-to-actual reporting is currently being developed and will be shared with management and the Board of Supervisors once finalized.

## **Permit Revenue and Escrows**

District office staff met with the District Attorney and District Engineer to review the District's current permit review process and evaluate the potential for franchise or license agreements with utility companies utilizing District easements. The objective of the discussion was to identify opportunities to increase District revenue and improve oversight of utility activities within District rights-of-way. Based on the discussion, the recommendation is for the District to continue issuing permits rather than pursuing franchise or license agreements at this time. However, the District will review and compare its permit policies and procedures with those of other Special Districts in Florida to ensure its approach remains consistent with industry practices.

The District Engineer is expected to include permit subtask codes on its March 2026 invoice. In addition, the District will implement a permit tracking spreadsheet to monitor permit payments and associated costs.

## **Paved Roads vs. Unpaved Roads Cost Comparison**

The Executive Director, Supervisor of Operations, and the Chief Financial Officer have drafted net present value cost comparison of grading roads versus paving roads. According to the District Engineer, there are ninety-two (92) miles of unpaved roads throughout the District (Palm Beach Country Estates – twenty-nine (29) miles; Jupiter Farms – sixty-three (63) miles). The Chief Financial Officer completed some preliminary calculations, and the District obtained a paving quote per mile from a professional paving consultant who indicated that a new asphalt road will require resurfacing after fifteen years of life.

The Chief Financial Officer provided an Excel worksheet to the Board for reference. (Contact the District Office for a copy of this worksheet.)

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

The District's auditors, Grau & Associates, have been contacted to schedule fieldwork for the Fiscal Year 2024–2025 financial statement audit. A finalized trial balance is expected to be available for the auditors by Friday, April 3, 2026. Audit workpapers reconciling all balance sheet accounts have been prepared and will be provided to the auditors along with any additional documentation requested during the audit process.

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

The Chief Financial Officer has held two preliminary budget meetings with the Executive Director, Supervisor of Operations, and Office Administrator (Treasurer declined the budget meeting invitations). During these discussions, management provided the CFO with some new equipment and capital projects they wish to complete during Fiscal Year 2026-2027. During this discussion, the organization of the chart of accounts was determined to have several fund codes and general ledger codes that need to be changed, added, or removed from the chart of accounts. Office staff discussed where current invoices are being coded and whether they should be coded to other accounts for better financial reporting transparency. In addition, potential changes to the allocation of the Internal Service Fund (Fund 500) were discussed regarding the expenses being billed to the water control and road maintenance funds. The Chief Financial Officer has scheduled a biweekly meeting with the above professional staff to continue preparation of the budget.

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

Assessment Calculations & Truth in Millage (TRIM) process – The CFO has requested to meet with the Treasurer to go over the calculation of the assessment rates and the TRIM process and is awaiting dates and times from the District Treasurer to schedule the meeting.

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Open Items – Several balance sheet accounts contain outstanding balances from prior fiscal years. Clarification has been requested from the District Treasurer regarding these balances.

## **CFO Action Items**

- Finalize the Fiscal Year 2024-25 trial balance, year-end adjusting entries, and audit work papers
- Finalize the Internal Financial Operating Procedures
- Complete outstanding monthly bank reconciliations
- Generate budget vs. actual reports for management and Board of Supervisors,
- Create permit tracking spreadsheet
- Prepare preliminary Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget spreadsheet

*Action Requested:*  
Receive and file. No Board action required.

*William C. Kennedy*

William Chad Kennedy  
Executive Director



# 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:** Supervisor of Operations  
**SUBJECT:** Supervisors Report for February 20, 2026, to March 19, 2026  
**DATE:** March 10, 2026

### Water Control

- 1) There were 0.81 inches of rain in this reporting period.
- 2) South Indian River Water Control District's Culvert Crew has installed the District's first "100-Year Culvert." Historically, the District has utilized Corrugated Metal Pipes for culvert installations, and these pipes have an estimated service life of 25–30 years. The District has begun transitioning to Advanced Drainage Systems High Performance Storm Dual Wall Pipe for future installations.

This pipe provides several advantages over traditional CMP, including:

- Minimum 100-year design service life,
- Smooth interior wall resulting in increased flow capacity,
- Resistance to chemicals, abrasion, hot soils, and effluent, and
- Approved for use by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Aviation Administration (Under Runways), and Florida Department Of Transportation.

This installation represents the District's first step toward implementing longer-lasting culvert infrastructure.

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

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.

- 4) Field Operations staff are utilizing the District's Geographic Information System database to calculate elevations for swale cleanings, driveway culvert installations, and dump pipe installations. These grades provide greater

accuracy while requiring only one staff member to complete the work. Additionally, the data is stored online and can be accessed in the field using a phone or tablet, allowing staff to quickly reference elevations and project information during operations. Because of this, it has resulted in improved efficiency in the field, reductions in labor time, and cost savings for the District while maintaining a high level of accuracy in construction and maintenance activities.

Additionally, notes can be attached to individual data points within the Geographic Information System system. For example, when staff are shooting culvert inverts, they can document field observations such as damaged pipes, sediment impaction, damaged or missing headwalls, pipe material, and other obstructions. This information allows the District to identify locations that require culvert replacement, repairs, or swale cleanings, helping prioritize maintenance needs.

- 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. 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, raking, and mulching have been completed on Canals 5 and 6
  - Cutbacks on Canal 4 are complete, and raking is currently in progress
- 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 three driveway culverts, inspected five new construction culverts, completed two culvert cutouts, and installed two temporary construction culverts.

## **Road Maintenance**

- 1) Shell Rock Roads are inspected weekly in the dry season and are graded on an as-needed basis to combat wash boarding (corrugation).
- 2) Additional road material will be spread and compacted as needed on shell rock roads, and approximately 1,200.00 tons of road material has been delivered to the shop.
- 3) The District pulled-in four roads in Jupiter Farms and two in Palm Beach Country Estates.

*Dustin Fazio*

Dustin Fazio  
Supervisor of Operations

## Memorandum

To South Indian River Water Control District  
Board of Supervisors

---

CC William Chad Kennedy, Executive Director

---

Subject Engineer's Report for February

---

From Karen D. Brandon, PE, District Engineer

---

Board Meeting Date March 19, 2026

---

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.**

## 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.**

- 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. AECOM provided one on one training to the Supervisor of Operations and an additional field staff member on importing and reviewing field data in ArcGIS Pro to identify high spots, grading constraints, and other features affecting drainage**

**performance. Engineering also reviewed an Excel based culvert invert tool developed by the Executive Director.**

- 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.**

- 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. There has not been a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Steering Committee Meeting since our last report. The next meeting is scheduled for either September 17 or October 15, and items for discussion include the Program Budget Reports and the Public Education Program.

The District is scheduled for a Florida Department of Environmental Protection National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System audit this year. Required audit review records were submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on August 4, 2025. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection held an audit kick-off call on August 5, 2025. The records review portion of the audit will be scheduled sometime between September 5-22, 2025, and the Site Visit is scheduled for September 11, 2025, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Staff responded to a request for additional information from Florida Department of Environmental Protection regarding the audit records review on September 5, 2025. A call with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to discuss the audit records is scheduled for October 15, 2025.

Three outstanding items to address were identified by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on the October 15, 2025, call. Three revised Standard Operating Procedures were submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on October 24, 2025. The three revised Standard Operating Procedures included MS4 Inspections, Municipal Facilities and Pesticides, Herbicides and Fertilizer Application.

A site audit of South Indian River Water Control District facilities was conducted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on December 18, 2025. There was only one follow-up item identified as part of the site audit. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection will now issue a combined Audit Report for the records review and site visit.

Work will be proceeding on the 2024-2025 Annual Report. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2026.

A Steering Committee Meeting was held on January 21, 2026. Program activities discussed included the proposed meeting/training calendar for 2026, the program budget for 2026-27, annual report and Year 8 audits status, and having a Total Maximum Daily Loads meeting/workshop in anticipation of new requirements in the Cycle 5 Permit.

The 2024-2025 Annual Report is being finalized for submittal.

**A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Steering Committee Meeting was held virtually on February 18, 2026. The 2024-2025 Annual Report was submitted on February 23, 2026. The Year 9 Annual Report status, Annual Refresher Training and 2026-2027 Participation Fee notices were discussed.**

**The Annual Refresher Training is scheduled for March 18, 2026. The next Steering Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 15, 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.**

- 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 7th Plan of Reclamation, the South Florida Water Management District Permit for Palm Beach Country Estates and easement information for the Header Canal.**

- 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.