

# District Notes & News



**South Indian River  
Water Control District™**

Established 1923

Winter 2014/2015

## SUPERVISORS

**Michael Danchuk**  
*President*

**Tom Rice**  
*Vice-President*

**Stephen Hinkle**

**Thomas H. Powell**

**Michael Ryan**

## STAFF

**Michael A. Dillon**  
*Manager of Operations*

**Holly Rigsby**  
*Office Administrator*

## DISTRICT OFFICE

15600 Jupiter Farms Road

Jupiter, FL 33478

(561) 747-0550

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

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

### Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Monday-Friday

*The Board of Supervisors  
meets the third Thursday of  
each month at Jupiter High  
School  
at 7:30 p.m.*

*Contact the District Office  
for an agenda.*

## Manager of Operations Annual Report (October 2013-September 2014)



*Michael Dillon*

South Indian River Water Control District is a special taxing District which serves the residents of Jupiter Farms, Palm Beach Country Estates, Egret Landing, and Jupiter Park of Commerce.

The District office currently employs thirteen people who handle the day to day operations. Positions include a Manager of Operations, Office Administrator, secretary, nine full-time operators, and a full-time mechanic.

The District office interacts on a regular basis with several other agencies including South Florida Water Management, Solid Waste Authority, the Town of Jupiter and a number of Palm Beach County Departments including, Road and Bridge, Environmental Resources, the Sheriff's Department, as well as Fire and Rescue.

In addition, the District participates as committee members with several agencies including Florida Association of Special Districts, Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council, Loxahatchee Preservation Initiative, Safety Council of Palm Beach County and the North County Land Managers Association. These interactions ensure good relationships with governmental department heads and also provide the best service and information possible to the people who live and work within our District.

Within the 12,500 acre service area, there are over 189 miles of paved and unpaved roads, 370 miles of road-side swales, and 60 miles of canals that are maintained by the District. This year provided many maintenance challenges as we faced yet another extreme wet season. In a ten-week span that began on June 1, we received over 27 inches of rain at the District Work Center! That's more than 40% of our average annual rainfall. It is during these periods of heavy rainfall that we receive

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*District staff and Board of Supervisors from left to right: Andy Billy, Holly Rigsby, Michael Danchuk, Gregory Gell, Dustin Brown, Michael Dillon, David Duckett, Maxx Tweedale, George McGarry, Matt Wood, C.J. Wilbur, Arie Raz, Stephen Hinkle, Tom Rice, Michael Ryan and Carol Wise*

## Manager of Operations Report

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the most calls for service regarding road and drainage issues.

The District's road maintenance operation includes two John Deere motor graders and two ten-foot box blades that grade the roads on a weekly basis. Maintenance includes adding road material when needed or recontouring and re-establishing the crown of the road by pulling in the dirt from the sides of the road. Both methods provide maximum stormwater runoff and keep the roads passable. Most District road easements are sixty to eighty feet wide and are for the purpose of maintenance. We do not advise or encourage residents to install any type of irrigation, electrical lines, plants, trees, or shrubs within the easement, for this could interfere with maintenance operations.

The District's drainage program consists of road-side swale and canal mowing and cleaning, canal culvert replacement, aquatic weed spraying, and quarterly inspections of water control structures. The District operates two John Deere 710 backhoes and one Kobelco trackhoe to remove blockages and debris from swales and canals. This year we purchased a mowing attachment for our trackhoe which allows us to cut back overgrown trees and shrubs along our canals and decrease the chance of culverts being clogged with debris after a storm event.

One of the most common factors that contribute to swale blockages is a construction plug. Over the past couple of years, the District has seen an increase in housing construction with many lots being developed. Because District policy prohibits any type of swale obstruction, contractors or homeowners must install a temporary culvert prior to construction. We do not advise installing the permitted culvert at this time due to damage that may occur to the culvert during construction. The temporary culvert should be no less than 12 inches in diameter and at least 20-feet long. If a culvert is not installed, then the plug will be removed and an attempt will be made to contact the contractor or homeowner.

Another common occurrence that contributes to a swale blockage is when a homeowner fills in the swale to eliminate standing water. The swales were designed for three purposes: stormwater runoff, retention, and percolation. Depending on

where you live in the District can determine whether you will have standing water after rain events. And if you have standing water in your swale, that doesn't necessarily mean that you have a drainage problem. Over the years, the District has targeted areas where drainage improvements could be made. We have listened to landowners and their concerns regarding standing water and have made every effort possible to provide proper stormwater runoff control.

Another effort to improve drainage includes the inspection and replacement, if needed, of District drainage culverts. This year, we installed over 1,200 feet of culvert pipe followed by rip-rap headwalls and sod to reduce erosion and provide maximum flow. Please note, however, that it is the homeowner's responsibility to inspect their driveway culvert and remove any sediment build-up, if necessary.

We are making improvements and gaining access, with landowner cooperation, to canal right-of-ways and outfall drainage systems in order to better service them in the event of an approaching storm. If any landowner suspects that there is a possible drainage issue, whether it is a swale blockage or a collapsed culvert, they are advised to call our office to have it inspected.

The District continues to apply regulated and permitted herbicides in the canal and outfall systems for control of aquatic weeds. These systems are checked regularly and sprayed on an as-needed basis. The District's aquatic weed spraying contractor is Terra-Tech Environmental. Mike Martinez, a resident of Jupiter Farms, and his staff do a great job in minimizing aquatic vegetation in the canals.

There are ten water control structures that are checked and serviced on a quarterly basis. These inspections are recorded as part of our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. In addition, our operators are trained to monitor any type of illicit discharge entering the drainage system. If an illicit discharge is suspected, Palm Beach Environmental is informed of the situation



*District water control structures are checked and serviced on a quarterly basis*

and the area is investigated. If necessary, those responsible are notified to correct the issue and in some cases, may receive a notice of violation. This activity is illegal, and if witnessed, it should be reported immediately to the District office at 561-747-0550 so corrective action can be promptly taken.

The District's mowing schedule is perhaps the most challenging of all of our maintenance services. With three ten-foot wing mowers and three boom-arm mowers, the schedule is usually completed within six to eight weeks. However, the schedule can be delayed due to weather and mechanical or personnel issues. If a homeowner wishes to mow their own swale area, they can call our office to be put on the "Do Not Mow" list. This list is reviewed daily by the operators before beginning mowing operations in each section.

Landscape debris that is deposited on roadsides must be correctly cut and placed between the edge of the road and drainage swales before Solid Waste Authority will remove it. The debris must be in front of your property. Solid Waste will not pick up debris from in front of a vacant lot. Also, they will not remove tree stumps. And remember, it is illegal to dump any type of trash on right-of-ways or easements in the District.

The District's office is open and available to any interested landowners from Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm. You are invited to stop by and make us aware of any problems or concerns with which we can assist you within the scope of our responsibility and authority.

Landowners may also access more detailed information about the District on our website at [www.sirwcd.org](http://www.sirwcd.org).

# District Engineer's Annual Report (October 2013-September 2014)



Amy Eason, P.E.

South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD or District) was originally formed in 1923 pursuant to Chapter 298, Florida Statutes. The initial works of

the District were comprised of primary drainage canals, mainly used for agricultural purposes. Originally, the District's main purpose was to provide drainage infrastructure to its landowners, but since its formation, the District not only operates and maintains drainage but also roadways and a park. Today, it continues its role to serve the landowners with operation and maintenance duties on its infrastructure and implementing capital improvement projects and landowner initiated improvements to the District.

From an operation and maintenance standpoint, the District continues to work with landowners at improving conditions affecting water management and roadways. District staff continues to assist the Board of Supervisors with operation and maintenance involving site specific drainage improvements that impact landowners, canal and culvert maintenance, and replacement or renewal of facilities that affect the works of the District.

Annually, the District examines the need to implement capital improvement projects that could enhance the works of the District. Capital improvements may occur on existing infrastructure such as roads, canals, and drainage structures. Roadway improvements are usually initiated where the traffic volumes for a specific roadway necessitate the improvements or the improvements are undertaken as a result of landowner initiatives. Landowner initiated roadway petitions for the application of Palm Beach County

Standard Asphalt or Open-Graded Emulsified Mix (OGEM) are received and analyzed by Staff on a regular basis.

In addition to its duties to its landowners, the District coordinates with several entities due to its position as a strategic entity for the planning and management of water resources within the North Palm Beach County area. Approximately 12,500 acres of SIRWCD discharge into the Loxahatchee River Basin, and therefore, as plans are being developed and implemented, the District is an element in any water management plan for the Loxahatchee River Basin.

Over the past several years, water quality has become a major focus in Florida. With the development of the Numeric Nutrient Criteria (NNC) and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL), the potential impacts from development are being monitored by agencies and/or individuals that have a focused interest on maintaining a healthy ecosystem within the Loxahatchee River Basin and, specifically, the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. The Board of Supervisors and staff actively engage in the many external dealings that are influencing the District from a water supply, flood control, water quality, and ecosystem management perspective. The Board and staff are focused on making sure that the goals and expectations of these external activities do not conflict with the District's best interests with regard to the functioning of SIRWCD's system and the ability to deliver an appropriate level of service.

Each year, it is appropriately restated and recognized in the engineering report that the SIRWCD Board of Supervisors, through its policies and procedures, is responsible for formulating direction regarding District operations and inter-governmental issues. This is accomplished through a respected structure in which the

District is managed through its Board of Supervisors and supporting staff. The Board establishes policy and provides direction to staff concerning budget, priorities, relationship with other public entities, and landowner issues. Staff is responsible for implementing Board policy and staff responds pursuant to the Board's direction. Engineering tasks continue to be formulated to respond to the Board of Supervisors by implementing

their policies and directives, as well as supporting the Manager of Operations in resolving various landowner issues. The relationship between the Board and staff has been very effective in both the delivery of services to the residents and landowners within the District, and prospective management in response to requirements that are imposed upon the District by other governmental entities.

With regard to the current status of the District, to the best of my knowledge, the District is in compliance with all regulatory requirements that affect works of the District and their operation, and the works of the District continue to be operated and maintained in a manner that achieves the available level of service. We continue to respond to the Board of Supervisors by implementing their policies and directives, as well as working with the General Manager in resolving various landowner issues.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS Seventeenth Plan of Improvements

Based on a landowner initiative, referenda were prepared by SIRWCD and verified by the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections to implement the application of OGEM and asphalt on the petitioner's roadway surfaces as a roadway improvement project.

The applications were divided into two units of development RI-17A and RI-17B. RI-17A consists of the application of OGEM on approximately 0.4 miles of roadway within Jupiter Farms and RI-17B consists of the application of Palm Beach County Standard Asphalt on approximately 1.5 miles within Palm Beach Country Estates. These roads are listed as follows:

### Unit of Development RI-17A (0.4 miles)

- 127th Drive N between 187th Place N and Old Indiantown Grade
- 90th Trail N between 165th Place N and 166th Way N

### Unit of Development RI-17B (1.5 miles)

- 73rd Terrace N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 79th Terrace N between 155th Place N and 162nd Court N
- 75th Way N between 163rd Court N and 165th Street N
- 77th Trail N between 165th Street N and 167th Court N



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

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For Unit 17A, construction began in November 2013 and ended in December 2013. The project was completed for less than the original engineer's estimate at \$76,567. For Unit 17B, construction began in January 2014 and ended in May 2014. The project was completed for less than the original engineer's estimate at \$424,780.

## Proposed Plan of Improvement

The District has received petitions from landowners to apply asphalt on certain roadways within the District. Landowners on the following roadways are petitioning to distribute a referendum for applying OGEM in Jupiter Farms (approx. 0.5 miles) and applying asphalt in Palm Beach Country Estates (approx. 6.4 miles):

### OGEM

- 164th Court N between Mellen Lane and Alexander Run

### ASPHALT

- 67th Trail N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 68th Drive N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 71st Drive N between 160th Street N and 155th Place N
- 74th Avenue N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 76th Trail N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 77th Trail N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 78th Drive N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 81st Terrace N between 150th Court N and 154th Road N
- 85th Way N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 88th Trail N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 154th Court N between 75th Avenue N to C-18 Canal
- 159th between 75th Avenue N to East End
- 163rd Court N between 75th Avenue N and 79th Terrace N
- 163rd Court N between 75th Avenue N to East End

See updated information on this project on page 11.

## Resource Regulation

### National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

The current Palm Beach County

Municipal NPDES Permit was issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on March 2, 2011. SIRWCD is a co-permittee along with 34 municipalities, the Department of Transportation, Palm Beach County, and four special districts. In order to complete the permit-related activities that are performed collectively by the co-permittees, an NPDES Steering Committee was formed. The Steering Committee meets on a regular basis to evaluate the program, to provide training and resources to the co-permittees, and to assist with the preparation of the annual reports. Staff continues to attend the committee meetings as a Steering Committee Board member. This past year the meetings included a discussion of EPA proposed water quality regulations, including a TMDL for Lake Worth Lagoon and tributaries and NNC for South Florida canals and estuaries, public education, TMDL updates and NPDES permit implications, the Annual Reports, and Joint Report. A training video session was also conducted to satisfy permit requirements.

### Environmental Protection Agency

#### Numeric Nutrient Criteria

On January 14, 2010, EPA proposed a rule entitled "Water Quality Standards for the State of Florida's Lakes and Flowing Waters." With this rule, the EPA has proposed water quality standards in the State of Florida that would set a series of numeric limits on the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen, also known as "nutrients," that would be allowed in Florida's lakes, rivers, streams, springs and canals.

After several public hearings, on April 22, 2011, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection submitted a petition to EPA requesting EPA to withdraw its January 2009 determination that NNC are necessary in Florida, repeal Federal rulemaking completed in November 2010 to establish such criteria for inland lakes and streams, and refrain from proposing or promulgating any further NNC. The petition outlined FDEP's plans to undertake its own rule-making for nutrient criteria for state waters. The projected rulemaking schedule called for a Notice of Rule Development in June 2011, a rule development and public outreach process through the summer/early fall of 2011, and adoption of a final rule was anticipated in January 2012, to be followed by a legislative ratification process under Florida law. EPA supported FDEP's commitment to recommence its rulemaking efforts for inland and estuarine waters. The EPA recognized that states have the



primary role in establishing and implementing water quality standards for their waters.

On September 29, 2011, FDEP published a draft of the proposed rule in the Florida Administrative Code, titled Chapter 62-302, regarding nutrient standards. The rule was then presented to the Florida Environmental Regulation Commission (ERC), the Florida Legislature, and the Governor, who signed House Bill (HB) 7051, ratifying the proposed rule. There was a challenge on the rule that was filed by Earthjustice, however an administrative law judge upheld the state's proposed new water quality rules on June 7, 2012.

On November 30, 2012, the EPA announced its approval of FDEP's NNC. However, EPA also proposed additional regulations that would apply EPA's criteria to those waters not covered by FDEP's NNC, such as urban stormwater conveyances, open ocean waters, and many estuaries where FDEP Total Maximum Daily Loads have already been adopted. Since EPA developed NNC on waters not covered by FDEP's NNC, EPA and FDEP entered into an agreement on March 15, 2013, known as "Path Forward," to develop a plan for FDEP to develop NNC for the remaining waterbodies before EPA's consent decree deadline of September 30, 2013.

Since the agreement, FDEP adopted a NNC Implementation Document on April 23, 2013; adopted criteria for additional estuaries such as the Loxahatchee River Estuary on June 20, 2013; and have developed a report titled, "Status of Efforts to Establish Numeric Interpretations of the Narrative Nutrient Criterion for Florida Estuaries and Current Nutrient Conditions of Unimpaired Waters" to the Governor as required by the "Path Forward" agreement with EPA and Chapter 2013-71, Laws of Florida on August 1, 2013.

On September 24, 2013, a hearing was held on EPA's motion to approve the Florida regulations. On January 7, 2014,

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2014, the US District Court granted EPA's motion to modify the Consent Decree between EPA and various environmental organizations. The action allows EPA's approval of FDEP's plan for NNC regulations in Florida to move ahead, and denies the environmental parties' motion to enforce the original Consent Decree. Earthjustice filed a motion on March 6, 2014 to appeal Judge Hinkles' order for allowing EPA to modify the consent decree to conform it to the "Path Forward" agreement between the FDEP and EPA. On April 2, 2014, EPA filed to withdraw their proposed rule on NNC in Florida and on June 20, 2014, Earthjustice and other environmental groups filed their initial appeal of Judge Robert Hinkle's Order allowing EPA to accept FDEP's plan for NNC in Florida.

Neither EPA nor FDEP have NNC for South Florida waterbodies, especially the canals. FDEP drafted the "South Florida Canal Aquatic Life Study" and presented the study to stakeholders on November 1, 2012. This study proposes to perform a comprehensive assessment of South Florida canals and the aquatic life associated with those canals. The objectives of the study are:

1. Assess aquatic life in South Florida canals;
2. Determine interrelationships between aquatic life in canals and other variables that affect aquatic life;
3. Evaluate the differences in conditions for South Florida canals; and
4. Collect information that can be used to guide management decisions.

Eventually, this study will be used to determine if NNC are necessary for these waterbodies.

### ■ Waters of the United States Rule

On April 21, 2014, the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers proposed draft rules revising the definitions of Water of the United States (WOTUS). The stated intent of the changes is to clarify what is and what is not a WOTUS. However, the new regulations will result in significant impacts on the NPDES program and municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit holders because most ditches, stormwater conveyances, certain flood control devices, and retention ponds in floodplains will be considered to be WOTUS and subject to permit conditions and numeric nutrient criteria. Comments on the proposed rules will be received by EPA through October 20, 2014.

### ■ Public Facilities Report/Water Control Plan

Chapter 189 of the Florida Statutes, the Uniform Special District Accountability Act, requires the preparation and submission of a Public Facilities Report to governmental jurisdictions in which the District resides such as Palm Beach County, the Town of Jupiter, and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). Special Districts are required to submit an update to this report every five years and, at a minimum, the report must contain information as to the status of the District's public facilities and changes or revisions to those facilities that have occurred in the past year.

Since 1991, when the District filed its first Public Facilities Report, data collection has been an on-going process to provide for better and more accurate mapping of the works of the District. The Public Facilities Report is continually modified as each *Plan of Improvement* is added to the District's facilities. The next modification will include the *Seventeenth Plan of Improvements*, and proposed capital improvements for next year. In accordance with Chapter 298.225 Florida Statutes, the Water Control Plan is amended consistent with the preparation of any proposed Plan of Improvements during the last year.



Aerial view of Canal 2

### Intergovernmental Coordination

#### ■ Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council

SIRWCD continues to participate as an active member of the Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council. This Council was established by Chapter 83-

358, F.S. The Council is comprised of federal, state, and regional agencies and local representatives. It advises the FDEP and SFWMD on matters that affect administration of the Loxahatchee River, to identify and resolve inter-governmental coordination problems and to enhance communications. SIRWCD participates as a member of the Coordinating Council due to the fact that the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River is the primary storm-water outfall for the entire portion of SIRWCD lying west of the SFWMD C-18 Canal, and the area east of the SFWMD C-18 discharges into the middle of the Loxahatchee River. SIRWCD and the Coordinating Council also have several mutual issues and interests.

#### ■ South Florida Water Management District Everglades Restoration Strategies

SFWMD's "Everglades Restoration Strategies" program has been developed in order to address water quality-based effluent limits for Stormwater Treatment Areas to meet NPDES permitting requirements by EPA. As part of the program's Technical Plan, both STA expansions and Flow Equalization Basins (FEB) upstream of STA's are proposed. The plan includes designation of the L-8 Reservoir as a 45,000 ac-ft FEB for STA's 1W and 1E. As a "replacement feature", the plan proposes to acquire and construct replacement storage to capture flows from the western C-18 Basin and discharge those flows down via "Flow-way 2" (C-18 West Canal through C-18 and Loxahatchee Slough) to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River to meet Minimum Flows and Levels. The SFWMD approved acquisition of the 1800-acre Mecca Farms property in October 2013.

To date, the SFWMD has not made available the modeling assumptions or results in support of the Plan. AECOM will be participating in a Technical Advisory Committee as the Plan moves forward.

#### ■ Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Program (Part 1) – North Palm Beach County Project – Part 1 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

SFWMD plans to continue the Corps' planning process and recently held an internal team kick-off meeting. They are in the process of forming a list of Project Delivery Team members and letters to stakeholders, including SIRWCD, will be mailed in the near future. It is anticipated

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that a charrette will be held in the November or December timeframe to begin work on developing the Project Implementation Report.

In addition, components of the Northern Palm Beach County Comprehensive Water Management Plan (NPBCCWMP) continue to move forward. Accepted by the SFWMD Governing Board on May 2002, the NPBCCWMP proposed improvements to store and convey water that would otherwise be lost to tide in the wet season and provide supplemental supplies in the dry season, thus meeting environmental needs, and the projected 2020 urban and agricultural demands. Activities on components located outside of the Loxahatchee River Basin that are integral to the NPBCCWMP include:

1. SFWMD has proceeded with a Design-Build Contract for construction of a new permanent L-8 Reservoir 450 cfs outflow pump station, slope protection, and a new 2000-3000 cfs inflow structure from the L-8 Canal. Although high chlorides have been an issue with the water discharged from the 45,000 acre-foot L-8 reservoir in the past, especially because the M-Canal and the City of West Palm Beach's Grassy Waters Preserve are designated Class I waters and must meet drinking water standards, the theory is that once dredging is completed, and the pits are "exercised" with fresh water being stored and released from the pits, the chloride levels will decrease. The current design-build contract includes provisions for delivery of the reservoir with water that meets drinking water standards for chlorides.

The soil cement slope protection on the L-8 Reservoir is almost complete with only the sod remaining. The G-358 inflow spillway is approximately 70% complete. The G-539 pump station is approximately 60% complete. Earthwork and installation of riprap for the connections between cells is ongoing and 50% complete. Substantial completion is scheduled for April 2015.

2. The City of West Palm Beach has nearly completed the construction of a new 300+/- cfs Control No. 2 pump station. The Control No. 2 pump station lifts water from the SFWMD's L-8 Tie-back Canal to the City's M-Canal where it flows eastward to the City's water supply lakes. The previous pump station capacity was limited to 165 cfs. Under the current Murray Logan contract, the new pump station is complete and operating and the old pump station has been demolished.

## ■ Review of G-160 Impact Analysis Study

In January 2004, the SFWMD completed construction of the G-160 or Loxahatchee Slough structure in the east leg of the C-18 Canal, immediately south of the C-18 Canal's confluence with the west leg. The purpose of the G-160 structure is to provide for restoration of a more natural hydroperiod for wetland areas located upstream of the structure, while maintaining flood protection for adjacent developed areas and providing base flow augmentation to help restore freshwater flows in the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. During the process of conducting an Impact Analysis Study and subsequent discussions between the interested parties, the structure remained open until execution of an interlocal agreement between SIRWCD, the City of Palm Beach Gardens, and Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District (NPBCID) in August 2005. The agreement addresses a future planned course of action regarding the phased operation schedule for the structure and a study of potential mitigation measures to protect existing facilities. The original agreement authorized operation of the G-160 structure in a limited range from 15.0 feet to 15.5 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD).

In February of 2009, FDEP issued a letter to SFWMD requiring permit compliance by incremental increases in control elevation of the G-160 structure, with monitoring, to begin by June 1, 2009. SFWMD initiated the incremental operating schedule on June 1, 2009, with a wet season G-160 headwater stage of 16.5 feet NGVD (e.g., open 16.7 feet, close 16.3 feet) and a dry season G-160 head-water stage of 15.5 feet NGVD. In conjunction with this incremental operating schedule, SFWMD coordinated with NPBCID, the City of Palm Beach Gardens, and SIRWCD staff to establish a plan to monitor the impacts of the increased G-160 levels on communities adjacent to the east side of the Loxahatchee Slough. Regular meetings with SFWMD and the interested parties have been held since June 2009 to discuss implementation of the monitoring program. The monitoring wells were completed in March 2010 and water level data has been collected since July 12, 2010. SFWMD is working on finalizing a report of the compiled data through March 2013.

SFWMD has expressed interest in the potential for reconnecting Project Culvert PC-10 to allow water to return to the C-18 canal through the culvert located at the west end of SIRWCD Canal E. SFWMD would like to explore an opportunity to



*Aerial view of Canal 14*

capture excess water from end of wet season or dry season storm events to contribute flows to the Loxahatchee River. An initial meeting was held at SFWMD on July 30, 2013 to discuss the possibility; however, there have been no further communications on this during the past year.

## ■ Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD)

SIRWCD's Board of Supervisors and staff are active participants in the Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD). The purpose of the FASD is to keep the public informed of the benefits of Special Districts, update members with information useful to themselves and their community, review all government activities as they affect the interest of Special Districts, and to forward requests and comments to the Florida Legislature. FASD provides primary education and training to satisfy the educational requirements of Chapter 189, Florida Statute. The purpose of the education program is to ensure that elected boards and district managers comply with Florida Statutes governing special districts.

FASD holds regular meetings throughout the year where information from other water control districts, improvement districts, community development districts, and special taxing districts can be shared with regard to policies, procedures, operation, and maintenance issues. In addition, members of the Association are "watchdogs" for codes, ordinances, rules, and/or legislation that can either help or hinder the activities of Special Districts. To this

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end, a significant effort is put forward during the annual legislative session. The FASD continues to benefit from each other's experiences.

FASD will continue to follow this order and represent the interests of its members and provide information on pertinent legal requirements, sunshine laws, economical challenges, and environmental, emergency management, and homeland security issues.

## Operations and Maintenance

### Canal 2 (Hatcher Bridge) and Canal 12 and Canal 1 Bank Improvements

In order to aid in flood control and minimize erosion, the District worked with Palm Beach County Environmental Resource Management Department on bank restoration under the Hatcher Bridge located in Canal 2. The Hatcher Bridge is Palm Beach County's connection from Riverbend Park to the new restoration area.

In addition to Canal 2, the corner of Canal 12 and Canal 1 was repaired with rip rap to correct erosion caused by the discharge pipe from the Pine Glades Area.



Canal 2/Hatcher Bridge embankment restorations

The District's canal network consists of over 60 miles of canals which are continuously in need of being maintained, restored, and enhanced. The canal clearing and maintenance program's objective is to keep the canal sections easily accessible and, to the best extent possible, free from trees and other vegetation that may potentially enter the canal during a major storm event and thereby create a restriction that would aggravate flooding.

The canal clearing and maintenance program provides services that include

clearing, grading and shaping of the canals as well as restoring, replacing or enhancing structural improvements. The program is an on-going effort and the District has continued to work to maintain and achieve the desired goals.

This year, the District completed some major clearing on Canal 3 and Canal 6. Due to the location of the canal rights-of-way in relation to landowner's property lines, the District requested and received cooperation from the landowners in order to clear canals to improve drainage.

Just recently the District improved its maintenance capability by expanding the canal bank along Canal 1 to gain access to Canal 2 and proposes to install a culvert on the south end of Alexander Run at Canal 7. These improvements will help in transporting equipment to the canal rights-of-way for maintenance.

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

In accordance with the provisions of the Florida Statutes, the District maintains a Policies and Procedures Manual that is available to the public. The Manual presents and discusses items including: District organization, agenda formulation and execution, processing of permits that affect works of the District, the budget process, etc.

Periodic revisions with deletions, additions, and amendments to maintain consistency with Florida Statutes and other codes and rules enable the District to function properly.

There are approximately 189 miles of roads within SIRWCD. These roads give access to each subdivided parcel of land. Currently there are 51.5 miles of roads paved to Palm Beach County standards, 34.5 miles of roads which are surfaced with OGEM material, and 10 miles of OGEM roads which have been overlaid. Approx-



Canal 3 extension to Riverbend Park

imately 93 miles of roads within SIRWCD are currently unpaved.

SIRWCD implements an Aquatic Weed Control Program in order to maintain the primary canals throughout the District. This program is an ongoing process aimed at reducing and managing the amount of weeds in the canal network to allow unobstructed drainage following rain events. The Aquatic Weed Control Program is necessary to prevent canals from becoming overgrown and to provide a clean channel through the canal system to the outfall.

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

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

## Water Quality Monitoring

Due to the many ecological and regulatory pressures being exerted over the Loxahatchee River Basin area, it was recommended that the District sample and monitor water quality within and adjacent to its boundaries. SIRWCD had historically taken samples through a co-operative agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and the Loxahatchee River District (LRD) has been obtaining water quality sampling in recent years.

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Due to the new water quality legislation being proposed, the Board of Supervisors had instructed staff to implement a water quality monitoring program that augments and expands the current LRD program.

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

## Rainfall Totals

The SIRWCD work center monitors and records the total rainfall the District receives throughout the year. For the twelve month period from September 2013 through August 2014, the District received 72.43 inches of rainfall. The average annual rainfall for SIRWCD is 65.40 inches. The 2013-2014 year rainfall was higher than the historical rainfall average within the District.

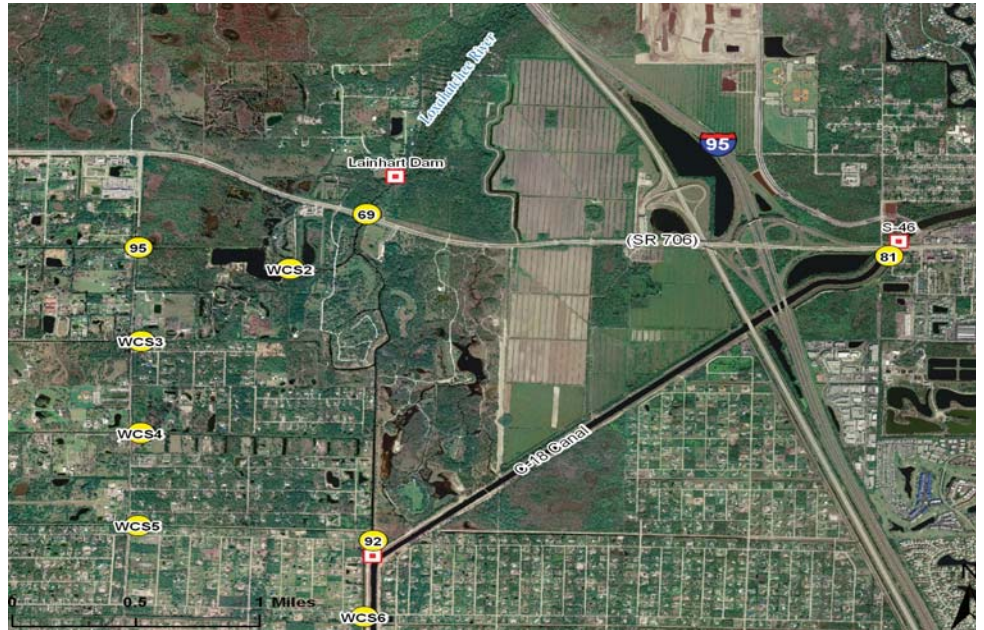
Historical rainfall data obtained by the Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District, the Town of Jupiter Water Department, and the South Florida Water Management District can be found in the complete Engineer's Annual Report on the SIRWCD website or you may obtain a copy at the District's offices.

## General Operation and Maintenance

The District's Manager of Operations Annual Report is included in this news-



Palm Beach County Standard Asphalt on 67th Avenue in Palm Beach Country Estates



LRD Water quality monitoring stations

letter. The Manager of Operations and staff of the District are the agents for day-to-day activities. They are primarily focused on maintaining the primary and secondary elements of the surface water management system and the graded roadways throughout the District. Further, the Manager of Operations facilitates interagency coordination with other public entities that operate and maintain assets within the District such as Palm Beach County Road and Bridge Division, Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation, Palm Beach County Fire Control, Palm Beach County School Board, Florida Department of Transportation, South Florida Water Management District, Town of Jupiter, the Loxahatchee River District, and others.

Each year, a portion of this report is utilized to state that the District's surface water management system is designed, operated, and maintained for a mostly rural residential community with some commercial, industrial, and urban residential areas. Accordingly, certain low-lying areas within the District will experience ponding and storage of water during the wet season and following significant storms. Swales will have standing water, and many areas will be saturated for extended periods of time during the wet season.

The continued development of low-lying areas in the District will result in a commensurate consumption of storage within the District's watershed. Where ponds are excavated on individual lots to supply the fill for house pads and related improvements,

the consumption of available storage is not as severe because the pond serves as a compensating factor.

These factors are regularly discussed by the Board of Supervisors and District staff at the monthly meetings, with individual landowners, in forums and meetings within the District, and in the District's newsletter and other publications distributed throughout the District. The District's Board of Supervisors and staff work to assure that the surface water management system functions to the extent of its permitted capacity while recognizing the regulatory requirements imposed on the District by other agencies. All of the District work must be implemented within the adopted budget and utilization of existing manpower, equipment and any other resources available to accomplish the tasks.

## General Comments

SIRWCD has an obligation to its landowners and to the surrounding area due to its strategic location within naturally sensitive conservation areas. Clearly, SIRWCD is no longer an entity that can just look within its boundaries with regard to its authorized activities. To the contrary, a major portion of SIRWCD's activities require participation in activities that look at infrastructure needs and ecosystem management for the overall area and region. The District and its landowners will have to share in the continued responsibility of being good stewards in maintaining compatibility with these natural systems.

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The goals and objectives of SIRWCD are consistent with those for the Northern Palm Beach County Comprehensive Water Management Plan, the Loxahatchee Basin Ecosystem Management Area, and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The District will continue to work with South Florida Water Management District and other agencies in developing and implementing compatible plans for the District and the Loxahatchee River Basin to serve its landowners and its surrounding community.

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



*Culvert and embankment improvements at Canal 7 and Alexander Run*

AECOM has appreciated the opportunity to continue serving as the South Indian

River Water Control District Engineer, and we look forward to working with the Board

of Supervisors, landowners, and staff in the coming year.

## SIRWCD AND REGULATORY AGENCIES

Each year, a summary of regulatory agencies affecting SIRWCD is listed in the Annual Report to help landowners be aware of the number of regulatory agencies and cooperative associations the District deals with and their potential impact on District capital improvements, operations, and maintenance:

- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- United States Fish and Wildlife Services
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Loxahatchee River Ecosystem Management Area Committee
- Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District
- Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District
- Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County (SWA)
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- South Florida Water Management District
- Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council
- Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
- City of Palm Beach Gardens
- Indian Trail Improvement District
- Numerous Citizen Interest Groups & Committees
- Jupiter Inlet District
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Palm Beach County
- Town of Jupiter
- Martin County
- City of West Palm Beach

## George McGarry Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary

Field Supervisor George McGarry was awarded a plaque commemorating 10 years of service to South Indian River Water Control District on October 29 at the District offices. Supervisors Stephen Hinkle, Tom Rice, Michael Danchuk and Michael Ryan were on hand to congratulate him and thank him for his work.

Manager of Operations Michael Dillon presented the plaque and said "George is one of our most valued employees. He is a dedicated worker who goes above and beyond what is expected of him." Michael Danchuk added that the District is fortunate to have employees like George who represent the District in the field.

Landowners may know George from the annual Landowners Family Day, as he often serves beverages to the hundreds of attendees.



*Manager of Operations Mike Dillon and Supervisors Steve Hinkle, Michael Danchuk, Michael Ryan and Tom Rice congratulate George McGarry on 10 years of exceptional service to the District*

# 24th Annual Landowners Family Day - March 14, 2015

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for South Indian River Water Control District's 24th Annual Landowners Family Day to be held on Saturday, March 14, 2015. Jupiter Farms own Tom Jackson will be back to provide live entertainment and there'll be free barbeque, drinks and a petting zoo, pony rides and face painting for the kids!

Community organizations and state and local agencies will be on hand with free give-a-ways and information, and the Sheriff's Office and Palm Beach County Fire Rescue will feature their trucks, engines, rescues and other vehicles for your inspection. Meet the Board of Supervisors, District staff and your neighbors at a fun day for all! See you there!



*Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays  
from the Board of Supervisors and District Staff!*



Supervisors Mike Ryan as Santa and Tom Rice as Rudolph with District staffers Mike Dillon as the Abominable Snowman, Matt Wood as an elf and C.J. Wilbur as Yukon Cornelius at Jupiter Farms' Christmas Parade



Arie Raz, the Abominable Snow Man, C.J. Wilbur and Matt Wood with Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer - the District won two first-place awards at this year's parade!

# Board Of Supervisors Remove Six Roadways From Upcoming Referenda

At the November 20, 2014 South Indian River Water Control District Board of Supervisors monthly meeting, District Engineer Amy Eason reported that she had received and verified the following petitions in 2013 and 2014 for construction of asphalt roadways in Palm Beach Country Estates totaling approximately 8.2 miles:

- 64th Way N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 67th Trail N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 68th Drive N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 71st Drive N between 155th Place N and 160th Street N
- 74th Avenue N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 75th Way N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 76th Trail N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 76th Trail N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 77th Trail N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 78th Drive N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 78th Drive N between 155th Place N and 159th Court North
- 81st Terrace N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 85th Avenue N between Canal C and Canal D
- 85th Way N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 88th Trail N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 149th Place between 69th Drive N and 64th Way N
- 154th Court N between 75th Avenue N to C-18 Canal
- 159th Court N between 75th Avenue N to East End
- 163rd Court N between 75th Avenue N and 79th Terrace N
- 163rd Court N between 75th Avenue N and East End

The following roadway in Jupiter Farms has petitioned for the application of open-graded emulsified mix (OGEM) and is approximately .5 miles:

- 164th Court N between Mellen Lane and Alexander Run

Mrs. Eason noted that the Board had previously directed staff to proceed with the Palm Beach Country Estates referenda and not to proceed to referendum on the Jupiter Farms OGEM roadway petition due to the small size of that project. In addition, she stated that the Board had removed the petition for 88th Trail N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N from the proposed referenda at their October 16 monthly meeting due to a majority of residents on the roadway submitting a request to keep their dirt road and would not vote for the roadway improvement.

Mrs. Eason said she has received five additional requests since the October board meeting from landowners who have indicated they wished to keep their dirt roads and would not vote for the proposed improvements for the following roadways:

- 76th Trail N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 76th Trail N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 85th Avenue N between Canal C and Canal D
- 85th Way N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 154th Court N between 75th Avenue N to C-18 Canal

After careful consideration of the requests, the Board determined there was a majority of landowners who wanted to keep their dirt roads and rural lifestyle and would not vote for the proposed improvements. The Board voted three to one to remove 85th Way N and voted unanimously to remove the remaining four roadways from the upcoming referenda.

Supervisors also discussed 71st Drive N between 155th Place N and 160th Street N and voted unanimously to end the roadway segment at 159th Court instead of 160th Street N. Supervisor Stephen Hinkle made a motion to notify the residents on 66th Trail N that several roadways around them are proceeding to referendum for roadway improvements and should they also be interested, it would be the time to petition for improvement as well. The motion passed three to one.

The Board also had previously directed District staff to prepare a poll for all landowners to gauge interest in amending current voting policies for capital improvements. Public Information Officer Donna DeNinno, District Engineer Amy Eason, and District Attorney William Capko presented information for the Board's consideration. After further discussion, the Board directed staff to make revisions to the poll and distribute it to the Board for review and approval prior to sending it out to all District landowners as a separate mailing. A copy of the poll will also be added to the District's website.

District Treasurer Charles Haas, presented four amendments to the 2013/14 District budget after a final review in closing the books and recommended Board approval, which was unanimous.



Tom Powell (second from right) with Supervisors Michael Danchuk and Stephen Hinkle and District Treasurer Chuck Haas, was reelected to a three-year term

## Board of Supervisors Election Results and Election of Officers

Thomas Powell was sworn in at the monthly board meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD) Board of Supervisors on Oct. 16. The board accepted the certified results from the Supervisor of Elections office with Mr. Powell receiving 810 votes, John Meyer receiving 612 votes and Rick Lee receiving 324 votes. Mr. Powell has served on the board since 1981.

Michael Danchuk was elected President, Tom Rice as Vice-President, and Jane Woodward as Secretary. In addition, the following committee heads remain in their positions – Tom Powell - Budgeting; Tom Rice - Communications; Michael Ryan - Parks, Recreation and Water; and Stephen Hinkle - Policies and Procedures.



## South Indian River Water Control District™

15600 Jupiter Farms Road  
Jupiter, FL 33478

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PAID  
WEST PALM BCH FL  
PERMIT # 611

### In this Issue...

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

**Road Improvement  
Referenda Update**

**Election Results**

**George McGarry  
10-Year Anniversary**

**Budget Approved**

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

## Florida Stormwater Education Protecting Florida's Water



The South Indian River Water Control District will be launching an entirely new website in January, which will include many new features regarding stormwater education and protecting our water resources.

In addition to new Stormwater Management and Resource Regulation pages, we will be featuring links for your reference should you be interested in learning more about stormwater and its impact on public health and safety and the environment. Information from local and regional agencies such as South Florida Water Management District and Palm Beach County, as well as state and federal agencies such as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, NPDES and the Environmental Protection agency is included.

We also have incorporated tips and guidance on what you can do to help manage stormwater runoff with Florida-friendly landscaping, watering and best management practices.

### ILLICIT DISCHARGE

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

## Board of Supervisors Approves District Budget for 2014/2015

At the August 21, 2014 South Indian River Water Control District Board of Supervisors meeting and Annual Budget Public Hearing District Treasurer Charles Haas reported that the total assessments from ongoing programs will increase just .2% from \$5,179,200 in 2013/2014 to \$5,187,000 in the 2014/2015 budget year. Mr. Haas also stated that the District is fiscally sound and has received a total of \$5,078,447 in assessment receipts through June 30, representing 98% of the budgeted assessments.

For most of the landowners in Palm Beach Country Estates the proposed assessments will increase by about \$12.00 per parcel or 1.00% and for most landowners in Jupiter Farms, the proposed increase in assessments will be about \$3.00 per parcel or 1.05%, while those not receiving road maintenance will have their assessments reduced by 6.4%.

Assessments for landowners in Egret Landing are proposed to remain the same as last year.

After his presentation, Mr. Haas recommended the Board adopt the budget for the fiscal year 2014/2015. After a discussion, the Board approved a resolution adopting the budget and the levying of special assessments for 2014 on all lands within the District, pursuant to Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes.