

District Notes & News



Established 1923

December 2009

SUPERVISORS

Thomas H. Powell

President

Tom Rice

Vice-President

David Beane

Robert Berman

Michael Danchuk

STAFF

Gale English

General Manager

Michael Dillon

Operations Superintendent

Greta Rayman

Office Administrator

DISTRICT OFFICE

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

www.sirwcd.org
sirwcd@sirwcd.org

Office Hours:

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

*The Board of Supervisors meets
the third Thursday of each
month at Jupiter High School
at 7:30 p.m.
Contact the District Office
for an agenda.*

General Manager's Annual Report *(October 2008-September 2009)*

This year witnessed closure for the District's larger projects that have consumed many personnel hours to ensure their successful conclusion. The potable water system in Palm Beach Country Estates is fully functioning and the drainage restoration and repair project with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) grants throughout Palm Beach Country Estates and Jupiter Farms has been completed. Additionally, there remains an on-going project to install paving material on individual roads as requests are made by the landowners for road surface improvements.

Although some landowners did not take advantage of the District's meter installation financing program, many did. The District's program for financing was time limited by the agreement terms with the lending agency, however, this does not preclude private financing with another agency if a landowner wishes to do so. The trunk lines and connection are owned by the Town of Jupiter and all requests for repairs or service should be directed to their water department. The meters, valve boxes, and lids located on road shoulders do pose maintenance problems for District equipment. It would be an enormous help to our equipment operators if each landowner would keep debris and grass from concealing the installation.



Restoration of canal banks funded by NRCS

The Town of Jupiter water department has completed construction of a three-million gallon water storage tank for Palm Beach Country Estates. The facility is located at the west end of 165th Street N between 79th Drive N and the C-18 canal and will provide an uninterrupted water supply for Palm Beach Country Estates customers during natural disaster disruptions.



Gale English

Turning attention to the District's stormwater removal system, the NRCS, Palm Beach County, Town of Jupiter, and FEMA grants to assist in repairs and restoration of the District's hurricane damaged facilities have been concluded. With final payment of a Palm Beach County grant of \$257,505.42, the Jeanne, Frances, and Wilma hurricane grants totaled approximately six million dollars.

The District continues to apply regulated and permitted herbicides in the canal and outfall systems for the control of aquatic weeds. The 60 miles of canal banks and work platforms are mowed regularly to ensure safe access for pedestrian and equestrian traffic. Routine maintenance of culverts includes installation of more permanent headwall structures on any new installation or replacement. Landowner driveway culverts are required to be headwalled as well, and certificate of occupancy will not be issued by Palm Beach County until headwalls are properly installed and approved by the District.

In response to landowner's requests, the Board of Supervisors continues to assist in providing paving for interested residents. A basin-wide effort to

(continued pg. 2)

General Manager's Report

(continued from pg. 1)

provide paving for the entire Palm Beach Country Estates roadway system was voted down this year. However, the opportunity to receive the paving installation is still available on a road-by-road basis. Several road sections have already petitioned the Board for that service this year. The existing open-graded emulsified mix (OGEM) treated roads are on a schedule to receive long-term maintenance service of fogging and overlay material. This service does not require special assessments to implement.

The Environmental Protection Agency's mandated replacement of underground fuel tanks in Florida came due in 2009. The District complied by replacing our existing tanks with double-walled tanks as required, at a cost of \$168,000. The new tanks are equipped with telemetry monitoring devices to ensure leakage detection and product accountability. The replacement of the tanks also qualified the District for a \$1,689.53 refund from Zurich, the District's insurance carrier.

The District continues to be involved on a broader scale with the extended community of municipal, county and state government and agencies, as well as support groups and committees that serve their interests. These agencies have the potential for major impact on District landowners and our participation remains vital to ensure that the District's best interests are considered.



Fuel tanks at the District Office were replaced per EPA and Florida mandates

Our equipment inventory continues to be renewed and replaced in an annual program designed to maximize a favorable benefit/cost ratio in cooperation with the Board's emphasis on low annual maintenance assessments. This year we purchased:

- A Ford Edge replacing the Explorer
- A Z737 commercial mower
- A 6430 JD tractor replacing the 6310 tractor

The District continues to be concerned with the illegal and reckless use of ATVs and dirt bikes on roadways and public right-of-ways, such as canals and other restricted areas. Several injuries, property damage, and even fatalities have occurred as a result of this behavior. These machines are illegal on public roadways and canal berms and are subject to Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office citations and confiscation.

Landscape debris that is deposited on roadsides must be correctly cut before the Solid Waste Authority will remove it. If the debris is not removed in a reasonable time, Palm Beach County Code Enforcement will tag the pile as illegal dumping and the homeowner may be cited. Also, they will not transport tree stumps. Please be advised that debris deposited within the traveled portion of the road right-of-ways is subject to a citation as well.

In each of these issues, office personnel have demonstrated their usual high degree of professionalism and efficiency. Their outstanding contribution ensures accurate record keeping and courteous landowner interaction. This year's Board of Supervisors election has been unusually demanding, but was well-managed by office manager Greta Rayman and her staff.

In previous years I've commented on the beautiful area we live in and its on-going improvement. However, there are still wild and potentially dangerous creatures living here as well. Respect them and keep your distance to avoid unpleasant reactions from them when they feel threatened. As more and more of their natural habitat is impacted by encroaching development, it is to be expected that their survival instincts will to some degree overlap yours. Alligators are particularly bothersome during drought conditions and migrate from pond to pond and from canal to canal searching for deeper water. Caution is urged around any water body such as backyard ponds or drainage ditches. Whatever you do, DO NOT FEED THE 'GATORS! And, if alligators are not enough, we must now contend with pythons being caught within five miles of the District in the Corbett Wildlife area. Try not to step on one!



Asphalt overlay on Haynie Lane in Jupiter Farms

For the benefit of new landowners in the District, the following is a brief overview of our function as a special taxing district. The District provides both water control and road maintenance functions for landowners and operates under limitations imposed by Chapter 298 of the Florida Statutes. Assessments are levied in the amount necessary to provide those services and are closely monitored with monthly reports and annual audits to ensure accountability of available funds.

Within the 12,000 acre service area of the District, there are 60 miles of primary drainage canals and 185 miles of roadways that are maintained on a regular basis. Of the 185 miles of roads, 29 miles are currently paved to Department of Transportation standards and approximately 40 miles are surfaced with OGEM material, placing most resident within one-half mile of a paved road.

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 let us know of any problem with which we can assist you within the scope of our responsibility and authority.



General Manager Gale English at the Annual Landowners Family Day



District Engineer's Annual Report (October 2008-September 2009)

Lennart J. Lindahl, P.E.

For the last year, engineering activities in support of South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD), can be categorized into three

primary areas of interest:

1. Existing and future water management issues that have a direct or indirect effect on works of the District and/or their operations.
2. The investigation and/or initiation of capital improvements involving District roadways.
3. Providing engineering support to District operations and maintenance.

Since SIRWCD is positioned as a strategic entity in the planning and management of water resources to the surrounding area, the District is involved in activities external to its boundary. As plans are being developed and implemented, the geographic location of the District is a strategic element in any water management plan for the Loxahatchee River Basin. The potential impacts from development, particularly from a water quantity and quality standpoint, are being monitored by agencies and/or individuals that have a focused interest on maintaining a healthy ecosystem within the Loxahatchee River Basin and, specifically, the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River.

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

The District examines the need to implement capital improvement projects that could enhance the works of the District. Roadways improvements are 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 periodically and are analyzed by Staff on a regular basis.

From an operation and maintenance standpoint, the District continues to work with landowners at improving conditions affecting water management and roadways. District staff also continues to assist the Board of Supervisors with operation and maintenance involving site-specific drainage improvements that impact landowners, canal and culvert maintenance, and restoration to facilities that affect the works of the District. The District's operation and maintenance is always thoroughly discussed at the Annual Landowners' meeting with the goal of informing residents about how and why the water management system and roadways are operated and maintained. Discussions include the level of service and performance standards represented by the existing system, which are to a large extent, regulated by local, regional, state, and federal agencies.

Each year it is appropriately restated and recognized in the engineering report that the SIRWCD Board of Supervisors, through its policies and procedures, are 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 of Supervisors establishes policy and provides direction to Staff concerning budget, priorities, relationship with other public entities, and landowner issues. Staff is responsible for implementing Board policy and 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 General

Manager in resolving various landowner issues. The relationship between the Board of Supervisors and District Staff has been extremely effective in both the delivery of services to 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 and belief, the District is in compliance with all regulatory requirements that affect works of the District and their operation, and the works of the District continue to be operated and maintained in a manner that achieves the available level of service.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS Fifteenth Plan of Improvements

Based on a landowner initiative, SIRWCD was petitioned to implement the application of OGEM on their roadway surfaces as a roadway improvement project. These roads total approximately 2.1 miles of new OGEM surface within the District and are listed as follows:

Unit of Development RI-15C (1.1 miles)

- 152nd Street N. between 111th Terrace N and 115th Avenue N
- 158th Street N. between 133rd Terrace N and Canal 13 (East Perimeter Canal)
- 187th Place N. between 126th Terrace N and 129th Terrace N and 129th Terrace N between 186th Court N and 187th Place N*

**Note: Please see page 8 for an update on this project.*

Unit of Development RI-15D (1.0 miles)

- Rocky Pines Road from Indiantown Road south to the end, including 172nd Place N.

The *Fifteenth Plan of Improvements* has received all necessary approvals. South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Staff has found no issues with the proposed plan. SIRWCD Staff is currently in the process of selecting a contractor and preparing the contract documents.



Pine Glades Natural Area to the west of SIRWCD

(continued pg. 4)

(continued from pg. 3)

Pending Capital Improvement Projects

Palm Beach Country Estates Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvement Project

The Board of Supervisors directed staff in October 2008 to prepare a referendum for the Palm Beach Country Estates Roadway Improvement Project. This proposed project consists of the construction of roadway improvements to approximately 34 miles of unimproved roadway in Palm Beach Country Estates to Palm Beach County standards.

An informational meeting for the Property Owners Association was held on February 3, 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to provide further detail and clarification concerning the referendum information that had been previously distributed to the landowners in Palm Beach Country Estates.

The referendum was due on March 1, 2009. The certified results from the Supervisor of Elections were 351 in favor of the project and 488 against the project. As a result, the referendum for the Palm Beach Country Estates Road Improvements did not pass.

2009 Landowner Initiated Roadway OGEM Program

Based on a landowner initiative, SIRWCD has been petitioned for the application of OGEM to roadway surfaces as a roadway improvement project. The following roadway petitions have met the minimum requirements to move forward with the process to implement the roadway improvements:

- 92nd Way N between 150th Court N and 154th Road N
- 151st Lane N between 133rd Terrace N and Canal 13
- 98th Trail N between 150th Court N and 154th Road N
- 101st Terrace N between 150th Court N and 154th Road N

Currently, this project consists of approximately 1.5 miles. If this capital improvement is implemented, the existing dirt roadways listed above will be surfaced with OGEM.

Resource Regulations

- 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 November 18, 2002. 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 meetings as a Steering Committee Board member. This past year the meetings included discussions on the Year 5 Permit Assessment Report from FDEP, completion of the 6th Year Annual Report and the Joint Report, the Third Term Permit, education sub-committee reports, and viewing of two training videos for NPDES "credit".

The co-permittees continue to wait on the draft Third Term Permit to be issued by FDEP. At that time, new Interlocal Agreements will be executed. FDEP has been considering modifications to the water quality monitoring program requirements and Permit Monitoring Conditions.

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 special district resides. Special Districts are required to submit this report by March 1st of each year and, at a minimum, 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 will be modified during the next year as required by Chapter 189.415, Florida Statutes. The modification will include the *Fifteenth Plan of Improvements* and proposed capital improvements for next year. In accordance



The District has over 60 miles of primary drainage canals

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.

Legislative Amendments

Jupiter RV Resort Property Annexation

A 17.2 acre property, located approximately one mile west of Jupiter Farms Road on the north side of Indiantown Road, requested to directly discharge their surface water under Indiantown Road into SIRWCD's system. The proposed project will convert an existing nursery and residence into the Jupiter RV Resort. The property owner requested annexation of the property into SIRWCD's boundary which was supported by Palm Beach County.

An amendment to the District's Special Act was required to accommodate the requested annexation. The Bill filed by Representative Domino is H.B.743. House Bill No. 743 was approved by the Governor on June 11, 2009.

Intergovernmental Coordination

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

The FDEP, starting in the summer of 2008, has been in the process of revising Florida Statutes Chapter 62-550: Drinking Water Standards, Monitoring, and Reporting, and Chapter 62-555:

(continued pg. 5)

(continued from pg. 4)

Permitting, Construction, Operation, and Maintenance of Public Water Systems as they relate to the requirements for backflow prevention and cross-connection control.

The issue arose during the Palm Beach County Health Department certification process of Milestone 3 of the *Thirteenth Plan of Improvements* for the Palm Beach Country Estates Water Main Improvements Project. The FDEP in conjunction with the Palm Beach County Health Department, began requiring that all homes serviced by a water utility that also have an auxiliary water source present on the property, such as a well for irrigation (which applies to the properties in Palm Beach Country Estates), have an approved backflow prevention device installed.

For a period of approximately three months, from July 2008 through the end of September 2008, any resident residing in Palm Beach Country Estates that wished to hook up to the Town of Jupiter water system was required by the Health Department and the FDEP to install a backflow assembly device in order to meet the proposed new requirements of the rule. At the beginning of October 2008, the Town of Jupiter suspended the requirement for the backflow assembly installations under the advisement of the FDEP. This suspension of enforcement was to allow for the evaluation of information prior to a recommendation by the FDEP for final rule determination. On December 23, 2008, the FDEP issued a memorandum regarding the proposed revisions to the Backflow Protection Requirements at Residential Premises with an Auxiliary Water System. This applied to the homes in Palm Beach Country Estates that were hooked up to or were planning to hook up to the Town

of Jupiter water system and keep their existing well for irrigation purposes.

The proposed rule amendments in the memorandum allowed one of the following three options for the homes of Palm Beach Country Estates:

1. Install a Reduced Pressure Principal Assembly (RP), which costs approximately \$600 and must be tested annually at \$50.00-\$100.00 per year.
2. Install a Double Check Valve Assembly (DC), which costs approximately \$400 and must be tested annually at \$50.00-\$100.00 per year.
3. Install a Dual Check Device, which costs approximately \$100.00 and does not have to be checked annually, but must also be combined with one of the following:
 - a. Well water testing on an annual basis for E. Coli, and every five years for nitrates/nitrites.
 - b. Have the property inspected for potential cross-connections at maximum every five years.
 - c. Have meters that can detect a backflow event and provide notification of the event, or records the backflow event and is viewed on at least a monthly basis.
 - d. The Utility (in this case the Town of Jupiter) and customer sign an agreement that prohibits the customer from cross-connecting the customer's auxiliary or reclaimed water system to the customer's potable water system. This agreement shall stipulate penalties for a discovered cross-connection (such as monetary fines, discontinuation of service, and/or a requirement for installation of a more protective backflow preventer, such as an RP or a DC).

In February and July of 2009, the FDEP hosted workshops to discuss and receive feedback on the proposed rule amendments. As of the July workshop,

the requirements listed above are still reflected in the proposed revised rules. It is anticipated that the rule revisions will be finalized by the end of 2009, with the new rule changes going into effect in 2010. Should the proposed rule revisions with the options listed above remain the same, the Town of Jupiter will make the determination of what options to utilize for backflow prevention and cross-connection control requirements.

■ SIRWCD continues to participate as an active member of the **Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council**. The Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River is the primary stormwater outfall for the entire portion of SIRWCD lying west of the SFWMD C-18 Canal. SIRWCD and the Coordinating Council also have several mutual issues and interests. In the last year, the meetings have emphasized the following topics of importance to SIRWCD:

- North Palm Beach County Part 1 CERP Project
- Jupiter RV Resort
- Water Quality Monitoring

■ A Project Management Plan (PMP) was completed and approved in June 2005. The PMP focuses on the development of the Project Implementation Report (PIR) for the North Palm Beach County **Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan** (CERP) Project - Part 1 components. The PIR will determine the appropriate quantity, timing, and distribution of water dedicated and managed for the natural system, as well as comply with water quality permitting requirements. SFWMD continues to work on the Watershed Modeling.

Components of the Northern Palm Beach County Comprehensive Water Management Plan (NPBCCWMP) have moved forward this year. The intent is to

(continued on pg. 6)

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 Community Affairs
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
- Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District
- Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District
- Seacoast Utility Authority
- Seminole Improvement District
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Department of Transportation
- South Florida Water Management District
- City of West Palm Beach
- City of Palm Beach Gardens
- Indian Trail Improvement District
- Loxahatchee River Ecosystem Management Area Committee
- Numerous Citizen Interest Groups and Committees
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Palm Beach County
- Town of Jupiter
- Jupiter Inlet District
- Martin County

(continued from pg. 5)

bring about improvements to storage and water conveyance infrastructure that will capture water currently lost to tide in the wet season, provide supplemental supplies in the dry season to meet environmental needs and the projected 2020 urban and agricultural demands.

The G-161 Structure is complete and will convey water under Northlake Boulevard (west of the Beeline Highway) to provide a connection for water deliveries from the Grassy Waters Preserve north to the Loxahatchee Slough, the C-18 Canal, and the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. It is anticipated the structure would mainly be utilized for dry season water deliveries. A study by SFWMD is near completion for development of an operation plan. There is currently an interim operation plan and the structure has been operated for testing purposes and a report has been completed describing the results.

Activities on other components located outside the Loxahatchee Basin that are integral to the NPCCWMP include:

- The L-8 Reservoir currently has approximately 16,000 acre-feet of useable storage available with interim flow (about 600 cubic feet per second (cfs)) and discharge (75 cfs) capability. The design of a permanent inflow facility and discharge pump station is expected to begin in March 2010. All storage cells have been connected and after a 28-day seepage test in February 2009, the reservoir was determined to be in compliance.
- SFWMD is continuing to work with the City of West Palm Beach regarding the future design and construction of a new Control No. 2 pump station. Currently they are awaiting the results of the modeling efforts with regard to the design criteria for the pump station capacity.
- Phase 2 of the widening of the M-Canal by the City of West Palm Beach is on hold pending resolution of property rights issues. The City bid and awarded the project this past year, however, never issued a Notice to Proceed.
- The construction of a new G-92 structure is currently underway. The new structure will have the same design capacity (400 cfs) as the existing structure, which will remain operational while the new structure is being constructed.

Operational agreements among SFWMD, the City of West Palm Beach, Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District and SIRWCD will need to be developed for operation of the various facilities.

■ SIRWCD's Board of Supervisors and staff continue to participate in the **Florida Association of Special Districts**. The association acts as a watchdog for codes, ordinances, rules and legislation that might affect the activities of Special Districts. Regular meetings are held throughout the year, where information is shared with regard to policies, procedures, and operation and maintenance issues.

■ In January 2004, SFWMD completed construction of the **G-160** in the east leg of the C-18 Canal, immediately south of the C-18's confluence with the west leg. The structure provides for restoration of a more natural hydro-period for wetland areas located upstream, while maintaining flood protection for adjacent developed areas. It also provides base flow augmentation to help restore freshwater flows in the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. An interlocal agreement executed in August 2005 between SIRWCD, City of Palm Beach Gardens, and Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District (NPBCID), 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. In accordance with the agreement, a study has been initiated by the SFWMD and NPBCID to determine any potential mitigation measure requirements. In February of 2009, FDEP issued a letter to SFWMD requiring permit compliance by incremental increases in control elevation, with monitoring to begin by June 1, 2009. SIRWCD is working with the other entities to establish a monitoring plan to determine the influence of the increased levels on affected communities.

■ SIRWCD continues to work with Palm Beach County to implement a mitigation plan to restore the **Pines Glades Natural Area**, located immediately west of SIRWCD's western boundary. In order to restore the property to more natural conditions, an appropriate level of water management is needed to maintain environmental goals. Palm Beach County has requested to discharge water into SIRWCD to manage the water levels within the restoration area. District staff continues to work with the County to determine if a design can be developed that would allow for the release of water into the District during off-peak times without negatively impacting flood protection.

■ On September 24, 2007, SIRWCD received a copy of Palm Beach County's agenda back-up concerning the purchase of the **Hatcher/Halpryn property** by Palm

Beach County. SIRWCD staff has had various meetings with Palm Beach County concerning the District's facilities and the county's plans for the property. Palm Beach County purchased the property in February 2008. On May 15, 2008, the County presented their plan for the property to the SIRWCD Board of Supervisors. The County would like to expand the existing lake and rehydrate the existing slough and include a park on the property. A permit application has been submitted to SFWMD and staff is in the process of coordinating with the county and reviewing the permit application.

Operation and Maintenance

■ 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 ongoing effort and the District has continued to work to maintain and achieve the desired goals.

The Board has authorized an on-going swale maintenance program which allows the District Engineer and General Manager to identify areas within SIRWCD that could be improved for conveyance and storage. 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 any landowner.

■ In the past year, SIRWCD has completed maintenance on approximately 12 miles of OGEM roadways within the District and 3.4 miles of asphalt overlay on the original OGEM pilot roads.

■ The District continues its efforts to control aquatic weeds within the primary canal system. In the future, more emphasis may be needed for this program to comply with NPDES water quality programs, the Ecosystem Management Area Plan, and other intergovernmental activities.

(continued on pg. 7)

(continued from pg. 6)

Water Quality Monitoring

Due to the many ecological and regulatory pressures being exerted over the Loxahatchee River Basin area, it is recommended that the District continues to sample and monitor water quality within and adjacent to its boundaries. The Board of Supervisors has authorized the District Engineer to implement a water quality and surface water gauging plan. The SIRWCD area has historically taken samples from seven surface water locations and one groundwater monitoring well. The tests 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 the District to better manage the system for flood protection

and environmental benefits. Likewise, the water quality monitoring program is being revised to complement the recording stations constructed in association with the *9th Plan of Improvements*. We have been revising the water quality monitoring program and expect an updated plan to be implemented in 2010.

Rainfall Totals

Total rainfall, as measured at the District's office for the 12-month period from September 2008 through August 2009 amounted to 53.31 inches. This is lower than the historical average of 66.09 for the same time period.

General Comments

SIRWCD is not an entity that can look solely within its boundaries with regard to its authorized activities. The District has an obligation to its landowners

and the surrounding area to consider both internal and external activities due to its strategic location within naturally sensitive conservation areas. A major portion of SIRWCD's activities require participation in activities that look at infrastructure needs and ecosystem management for the overall region. The District and its landowners share in the continued responsibility of being good stewards in maintaining compatibility with these natural systems. The policies and procedures for management of our water resources from a quantity and quality standpoint will continue to evolve and the District will continue to work with SFWMD and other agencies in developing and implementing plans for the District and the Loxahatchee River Basin.

AECOM has appreciated the opportunity to continue serving as the SIRWCD Engineer, and we look forward to working with the Board of Supervisors, landowners, and staff in the coming year.

Dave Beane & Tom Rice Reelected to SIRWCD Board of Supervisors

David Beane and Tom Rice have been reelected to three-year terms on the South Indian River Water Control District's Board of Supervisors. Both Beane and Rice have served on the board since 1989. Certified totals from the Supervisor of Elections office show that Beane received 1,947 votes, while Rice received 1,342 votes. Kevin Baker and Michael Ryan, who were running for the board for the first time, received 276 and 426 votes respectively. In addition, there were 29 miscellaneous write-in votes, 129 under votes and 316 over votes.

The board accepted the certified election results at their Nov. 19 meeting and also moved to keep the current slate of officers – Tom Powell as president, Tom Rice as vice-president, and Jane Woodward as Secretary. In addition, committee heads are also to keep their positions – Tom Powell, budgeting; Tom Rice, communications; Bob Berman, parks, recreation and water; and Dave Beane, policies and procedures.

Florida Stormwater Education Corner Protecting Florida's Water

The state of Florida is being required by the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt numeric water quality standards. The FDEP is in the process of developing rules to establish water quality standards for all of Florida's lakes and flowing waters, which are scheduled to become effective next year.

With new standards, such as total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), which will set pollutant maximums for receiving waters, as well as an increased focus on stormwater volume reductions by the EPA on the horizon, the District must work with other local agencies to ensure requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit are met.

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

Even though water covers 70% of the earth, less than .007% of that water is available to drink, so protecting water quality is of utmost importance.

In Florida, much of the water used is for irrigation of crops and residential lawns. Inefficient irrigation wastes water, and the overuse of pesticides and fertilizers increase pollutants in water that runs off into water bodies. Landowners should limit the use of pesticides and fertilizers and ensure that irrigation systems are properly maintained and are watering vegetated areas efficiently.



BOARD APPROVES 2009/2010 BUDGET

The Board of Directors of South Indian River Water Control District approved the 2009/2010 budget at a special meeting on Thursday, September 10. The required public hearing on the budget was held prior to the board meeting. The board approved a resolution adopting the budget and the levying of special assessments for 2009 on all lands within the District, pursuant to Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes.

District Treasurer Charles Haas reported that the annual budget will decrease from \$5,162,000 in 2008/2009 to \$5,092,000 in the 2009/2010 budget year, resulting in a decrease in assessments. Haas also stated that the District is fiscally sound and has received 99% of assessments for the current budget year.



15600 Jupiter Farms Road
Jupiter, FL 33478

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

*Season's Greetings
and
Best Wishes for a
Happy New Year
to all!*

Visit www.sirwcd.org
for news updates!

Board Actions at November 19 Meeting

At their November 19 monthly board meeting, the Board of Supervisors, after taking landowner comments and discussion by the board, unanimously voted to rescind a previous motion to request the state legislature for authority, under the District's Special Act, to provide potable water and fire hydrants in Jupiter Farms should the landowners petition for such improvements.

In addition, after hearing concerns by affected landowners in Jupiter Farms regarding the petition process used to approve the project for applying OGEM surfacing to 187th Place N between 126th Terrace N and 129th Terrace N and 129th Terrace N between 186th Court N and 187th Place N, the Board voted to issue another referendum for these roadways. Though the petition process used by landowners on the roadways to approve the project was legal, it was determined that all landowners on the affected roads should have the opportunity to re-vote. The referendum was sent out on Dec. 17 and must be returned by Jan. 22.

Proposed Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvement Project

District Engineer Lennart J. Lindahl, PE, reports that the District has received petitions to apply asphalt to the following roads in Palm Beach Country Estates that have demonstrated 25 percent requirement for the project:

- 72nd Drive N between 150th Place N and 154th Road N
- 73rd Terrace N between 155th Drive N and 159th Court N
- 75th Avenue N between 165th Street N and 169th Street N
- 82nd Terrace N between 150th Place N and 154th Court N
- 82nd Terrace N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 83rd Way N between 150th Place N and 154th Court N
- 154th Road N between 69th Drive N and 75th Avenue N
- 154th Road N between 69th Drive N and 89th Avenue N
- 165th Street N between 75th Avenue N and 79th Terrace N

Lindahl noted that the 154th Road N petitions overlap each other. The project consists of approximately 4.8 miles of roadway.

Also, he said that the District has received petitions to apply open-graded emulsified mix (OGEM) on roadways in Jupiter Farms that have demonstrated the 25 percent requirement for the project:

- 84th Avenue N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 92nd Way N between 150th Court N and 154th Road N
- 98th Trail N between 150th Court N and 154th Road N
- 101st Terrace N between 150th Court N and 154th Road N
- 151st Lane N between 133rd Terrace N and Canal 13

These roadways equate to approximately 1.5 miles of roadway improvements.

A cut-off date of December 31, 2009 had previously been set by the Board of Supervisors for receiving petitions for the 2010 Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvement Project. Look for more information on this project after the first of the year.